



*THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT*

*19 MARCH 2023*

*WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA*

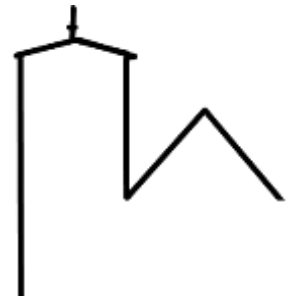
*A Presbyterian Church, USA in the Presbytery of the Great Rivers*

*1420 West Moss Avenue + + + Peoria, Illinois 61606*

*[www.westminsterpeoria.org](http://www.westminsterpeoria.org)*

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue  
Peoria, Illinois 61606



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

19 March 2023

Ten O'clock

**EVERLASTING GOD, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keeps us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*... Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church, USA)*

### GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

**THE PREPARATION**

**Prelude on the Kyrie**

*Jean Langlais*

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Pastor Clark-Jones**

**One:** *When the world is dark and full of hate and fear, when we cannot see God*

**All:** **we will turn on the light.**

**One:** *When we cannot find our way back to love and peace*

**All:** **we will turn on the light.**

**One:** *When our vision dims due to the darkness within*

**All:** **we will turn on the light.**

**One:** *Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.*

**All:** **The light of the world is Jesus Christ.**

**One:** *Come and worship the one who brings sight to the blind.*

**\*THE HYMN 380**

**O Christ, the Healer**

*Erhalt uns, Herr*

**1. O Christ, the healer, we have come  
To pray for health, to plead for friends,  
How can we fail to be restored,  
When reached by love that never ends?**

**2. From every ailment flesh endures,  
Our bodies clamor to be freed,  
Yet in our hearts we would confess  
That wholeness is our deepest need.**

3. How strong, O Lord, are our desires,  
How weak our knowledge of ourselves  
Release in us those healing truths  
Unconscious pride resists or shelves.

4. In conflicts that destroy our health  
We recognize the world's disease;  
Our common life declares our ills:  
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

5. Grant that we all, made one in faith,  
In your community may find  
The wholeness that, enriching us,  
Shall reach the whole of humankind!

*Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1969*  
*Music: Klug's Geisteliche Leider, 1543*

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*praying together*)

GOD OF WHOLENESS, we confess that we are fractured and scattered. We think we see in the mirror fully, but we still see through the glass darkly. We perceive others as less than ourselves. We look down on those whom we think do not work hard enough, and we compare others to ourselves. We do not see our neighbors as our brothers and sisters. Forgive us for not viewing others the way You view all of us, as Your children. Call us again to the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, and call us to seek their well-being and to see their full value.

**\*TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**\*KYRIE**

John Merbecke



Lord, have mercy up-on us. Christ, have mercy up-on us. Lord, have mercy up-on us.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*LENTEN RESPONSE** (*singing together*)

*Westminster Abbey*

To this temple where we call thee, Come O Lord of Hosts today,  
With thy wonted loving kindness, Hear thy servants as they pray,  
And thy fullest benediction, Shed within these walls away.

*HEARING THE WORD*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

## **OLD TESTAMENT: I Samuel 16:1-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup> He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. <sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*The Word of the Lord ... Thanks be to God*

### **\*PSALTER**

### **Psalm 23**

*Crimond*

1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want,  
He makes me down to lie,  
In pastures green, He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.

3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear none ill;  
For thou art with me; and thy rod,  
And staff they comfort still.

2. My soul he doth restore again  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for his own name's sake.

4. My table thou has furnished  
In presence of my foes;  
My head thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life; Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house, forevermore, My dwelling place shall be.

Text: *Scottish Psalter, 1650*  
Music: *Jessie Seymour Irvine, 1872*  
*Found in the Presbyterian Hymnal, Nr. 170*

**EPISTLE:** Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light<sup>al</sup> is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

**GOSPEL:** John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup> He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup> They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because

they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

*The word of the Lord ... Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

The Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN 387

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

Bradbury

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us  
Much we need thy tender care;  
In thy pleasant pastures feed us  
For our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, thine we are,  
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

2. Thou hast promised to receive us,  
Poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
Grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,  
Early let us turn to thee.  
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,  
Early let us turn to thee.

3. Early let us seek thy favor,  
Early let us do thy will.  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
With thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

*Text: Thrupp's Hymns for the Young, 1836*  
*Music: William Batchelder Bradbu, 1859*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*affirming together*)

*from Philippians 2*

**CHRIST JESUS, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*The peace of Christ be with you*    **And also with you.**

**THE GIFT OF MUSIC**

**Psalm 23 (from Requiem)**

*John Rutter*

**The Westminster Choir; Matthew Winkler, Saxophone**

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS**

*In your mercy ... Lord hear our prayer*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** [*praying together*]

**OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN 81

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*St. Flavian*

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days  
For us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins,  
And close by thee to stay.

2. As thou with Satan didst contend,  
And didst the victory win,  
O give us strength to thee to fight,  
In thee to conquer sin.

3. And through these days of penitence  
And through thy Passiontide;  
Yea, evermore, in life and death,  
O Lord, with us abide.

4. Abide with us that so this life  
Of suffering over – past,  
An Easter of unending joy  
We may attain at last.

*Text: Charles F. J. Hernaman, 1873*

*Music: Day's Psalter, 1562*

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

A Gaelic Blessing

*John Rutter*

\*POSTLUDE

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**The Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones**, *Pastor of Westminster*

**The Choir of Westminster Church**

**Thomas Clark-Jones**, *Organist-Choirmaster*

**Matthew Winkler**, *Saxophone soloist*

**Elder Larry Hicks**, *Video Production*

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OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS





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*Christ of St. John of the Cross (1951)  
Salvador Dali (1904 - 1989)*

*This monumental painting of the Surrealist, Salvador Dali stands more than eight feet tall by four feet wide.*

*From the Cross, Jesus looks down on the world he came to save.*

*It is a great statement of faith from a great artist.*

*Note, there are no nails and no blood on the corpus.*

*The Savior looks down on the sea and the fishermen he knew, in love.*

*(Original painting is at the Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow, Scotland)*