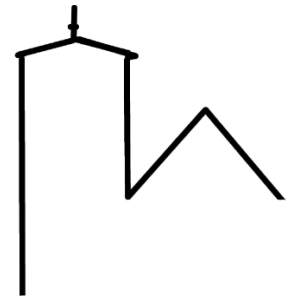


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

16 April 2023

Ten O'clock

LIVING GOD, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked, draw us beyond our doubts, till we see your Christ and touch his wounds where they bleed in others. This we ask through Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

From the Book of Common Worship, PC(USA).

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

PREPARATION

Selections from the Ferling Etudes

Franz Wilhelm Ferling

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Clark-Jones

One: *Rejoice, friends, for the Lord has called us here.*

All: **We come joyfully, for we have heard the good news of Jesus' resurrection.**

One: *Open your spirits to receive all God's blessings.*

All: **May God shower blessings upon us so that we may in turn bless
God by our service.**

One: *Alleluia!*

All: **Alleluia!**

*THE HYMN 113

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Llanfair

Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia!

All creation join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high: Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739
-Music: Robert Williams, 1817

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

ALMIGHTY GOD, we confess that we do not always live as resurrected people. We live within the fears and cares of this world, that we don't have enough, that we are not good enough. Forgive us for not seeing Your image in us. Forgive us for not seeking Your life in us. Help us to see we are made in Your love, Your image, Your peace. Give us hope in times of unbelief. Give us peace in times of struggle. Give us hope in times of doubt. Continue to guide us when we find ourselves bogged down, and lead us out of darkness into light.

***TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION**

***KYRIE**

Tom Clark-Jones

Lord have mer - cy up - on us. Christ have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI**

Tom Clark-Jones

Glo - ry be to the Fa - - ther,
and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now, and ev - er shall be. world with - out
end. A - men. A - - - - men.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 2:1-4a; 22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

22 'You that are Israelites,* listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth,* a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death,* because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

29 'Fellow Israelites,* I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David* spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah,* saying,

"He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption."
³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

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

***THE PSALTER**

(may be found at Hymnal Nr. 165)

Psalm 16

St. Flavian

1. When in the night I meditate
On mercies multiplied,
My grateful heart inspires my tongue
To bless the Lord, my guide.

2. Forever in my thought the Lord
Before my face shall stand;
Secure, unmoved I shall remain,
With God at my right hand.

3. My inmost being thrills with joy
And gladness fills my breast;
Because on God my trust is stayed,
My flesh in hope shall rest.

4. I know that I shall not be left
Forgotten in the grave,
And from corruption, Thou, O Lord
Thy holy one wilt save.

5. The path of life thou showest me;
Of joy a boundless store
Is ever found at thy right hand
And pleasures evermore.

Text: The Psalter, 1912
Music: Day's Psalter, 1562

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: I Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.⁸ Although you have not seen^[b] him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Word of the Lord ...

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 321

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

Song 12

1. Holy Spirit, truth divine,
Dawn upon this soul of mine:
Word of God, and inward light,
Wake my spirit, clear my sight.

2. Holy Spirit, love divine
Glow within this heart of mine;
Kindle every high desire:
Perish self in thy pure fire.

3. Holy Spirit, power divine,
Fill and nerve this will of mine;
By thee may I strongly live,
Bravely bear, and nobly strive.

4. Holy Spirit, right divine,
Make my conscience wholly thine:
Be my law, and I shall be
Firmly bound, forever free.

Text: Samuel Longfellow, 1864
Music: Orlando Gibbons, 1623

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*affirming together*)

from *A Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)*

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God; preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed... We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

We trust in God, the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SEALING THE WORD

INTERCESSIONS AND SUPPLICATIONS

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER *[we pray 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 495

We Know That Christ Is Raised

Engelberg

**1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more
Embraced by death He broke its fearful hold,
And our despair He turned to blazing joy.
Alleluia!**

**2. We share by water in His saving death.
Reborn we share with Him an Easter life
As living members of a living Christ.
Alleluia!**

**3. The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the church of God
Baptized we live with God the Three in One.
Alleluia!**

**4. A new creation comes to life and grows
As Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood
The universe, restored and whole, will sing
Alleluia!**

Text: John Brownlow Geyer, 1969
Music: Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones, *Pastor*
Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist-Choirmaster*
Matthew Winkler, *Saxophone soloist*
Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA and this celebration of the second Sunday of Easter. We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray this service will be a blessing to all who participate. We are also live-streamed on the world wide web at www.westminsterpeoria.org. The webcast is covered by permissions granted by One License A 726060 for the use of musical portions of the service as well as to broadcast all music in the service with permission of the various publishers.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR is on leave this morning ... a well deserved rest after the activities of the Lent, Holy Week and Easter. They will be back with us next Sunday.

THE IBEN SERIES final concert of the 2022-2023 season is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, April 29 at three o'clock. Dr. Chee Hyeon Choi, pianist from Bradley University and several of her friends from Universities across the state of Illinois will join together in a program of the music of Johannes Brahms. Brahms' music is some of the most beautiful of the romantic era, and the brilliant piano writing is inspiring and thrilling. Dr. Choi has been a close friend of the Iben Series in the last decade, appearing in both solo recitals and joint efforts with other musicians. Please put this date on your calendar now and plan to join us for this great music. Admission is free with the offering plate available at the door a you depart.

ALMIGHTY GOD, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them:

Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come, life everlasting. Amen.

... A Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS



SUNDAY, 16 APRIL 2023

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER

WESTMINSTER CHURCH

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

1420 West Moss Avenue + Peoria Illinois 61606

www.westminsterpeoria.org