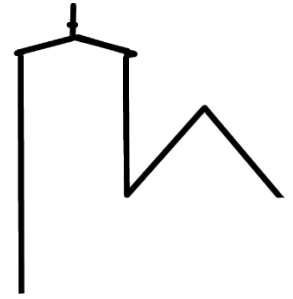


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

14 May 2023

Ten O'clock

GREAT AND LOVING GOD, your will for us in Jesus is the peace which the world cannot give; your abiding gift is the Advocate he promised. Calm all troubled hearts, dispel every fear. Keep us steadfast in love and faithful to your word, that we may always be your dwelling place. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

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

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

PREPARATION

Pastorale

Darius Milhaud

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

A WORD FROM THE WESTMINSTER FORWARD COMMITTEE

Dr. Matthew Winkler

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Clark-Jones

One: *Make a joyful noise to God all the earth!*

All: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

One: *Sing the glory of God's name, give to God glorious praise!*

All: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***THE HYMN 111**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

**1. Love Divine, all loves excelling
Joy of heaven to earth come down.
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart.**

**2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.**

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
 Let us all thy life receive;
 Suddenly return and never,
 Nevermore thy temples leave.
 Thee we would be always blessing,
 Serve thee as thy hosts above;
 Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
 Glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
 Pure and spotless let us be;
 Let us see thy great salvation
 Perfectly restored in thee;
 Changed from glory into glory,
 Till in heaven we take our place,
 Till we cast our crowns before thee,
 Lost in wonder, love and praise.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

ALMIGHTY GOD, we confess that we do not always live as resurrected people. We are quick to criticize, quick to judge, quick to blame. We fail to offer others the same grace we receive from you. We hold ourselves up as superior and fail to address the patterns of dominance we perpetuate. Forgive us. Help us seek understanding and compassion. Help us accept the love you offer us and share your love with others. Amen.

***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 AND 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 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹ Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

***THE PSALTER**

Psalm 66

St. Anne

1. Be joyful, all you lands, in God,
Sing honor, glory, praise;
Let all together say to God,
"How awesome are your ways.

2. Because of your great strength, O God,
Your enemies bow down;
Before you all the earth bows down
And sings your great renown."

3. Come now and see the works of God,
How wonderful his hand;
He led his people through the sea
Rejoicing on dry land.

4. Bless God, you peoples, make his praise
To be heard joyfully;
He guides our feet and holds our souls
In life and liberty.

Text: *A New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber
© 1986, The Church Hymnal Corp., New York,
(used and reprinted with permission)
Music: William Croft, 1708

EPISTLE: I Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear,¹ and do not be intimidated,¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?”

The Word of the Lord ...

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Chip Roland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. O for a world where everyone
Respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done
With justice and with praise.

2. O for a world where goods are shared
And misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared,
Equality achieved.

3. We welcome one world family
And struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity
And gives our vision voice.

4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
The foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; Outcasts belong,
Who perishes will rise.

5. O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more,
And all but love will cease.

Text: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987
Music: Carol Gottself Gläser, 1828

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*affirming together*)

from Romans 8

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to 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

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

As truly as God is our Father

William Mathias

As truly as God is our Father, so just as truly is he our Mother. In our Father, God Almighty we have our being. In our merciful Mother we are remade and restored, Our fragmented lives are knit together. And by giving and yielding ourselves, through grace, to the Holy Spirit, we are made whole. It is I, the strength and goodness of Fatherhood. It is I the wisdom of Motherhood. It is I, the light and grace of holy love. It is I, the Trinity, it is I, the unity. I am the sovereign goodness in all things, It is I who teach you to love. It is I who teach you to desire. It is I who am the reward of all true desiring. All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well. Amen

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 485

To God Be the Glory

Crosby

1. To God be the glory great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life and atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in. *Refrain ...*

2. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *Refrain ...*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice;
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done!*

Text: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875
Music: William Howard Doane, 1875

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

If Ye Love Me
Laurel Cramer, soprano

Philip Wilby

If ye love me, Keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, That he may abide with you forever; E'en the spirit of truth. And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you, I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Chip Roland, *Guest Preacher*
Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist-Choirmaster*
The Westminster Choir
Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA and this celebration of the sixth 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.

WE WELCOME to our pulpit this morning, the Rev. Chip Roland, who is leading worship and preaching today in the absence of Pastor Clark-Jones. Be sure to welcome Chip to our fellowship.

ALSO, following worship, we have an informal coffee hour ... a time to visit and catch up with church friends after the morning worship. Come and join us in the Parlor, one level down from the Narthex. Also, if you can host a coffee hour by bringing some goodies to share on a Sunday, see Bonnie Jackson who coordinates that effort.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR is funded, in part, by a generous grant from the Gretchen R. Iben Trust for the Arts.

A REMINDER ... the Peoria Bach Festival begins on Monday, June 5, right here at Westminster Church. In this twentieth season of the Festival, we are pleased to announce Westminster as the new home for the event. It is led by Dr. John Jost, retired director of choral activities at Bradley University and a dear friend of Westminster Church. In the Narthex you can find brochures with the full schedule of events for the week. We encourage you to particularly set aside Tuesday evening, June 6 at seven-thirty for a grand organ recital of the music of J.S. Bach by Peoria native, Dr. Jonathan Wessler. Dr. Wessler was educated at Oberlin Conservatory, Notre Dame University and the Eastman School of Music. He is currently the Kantor and Organist of First Lutheran Church in Boston, Massachusetts where he leads a program rich in the historic music of the Lutheran communion, including Bach among many others. Come and support Westminster night at the Festival!

THE GIFT OF MUSIC which now takes the place of the traditional Offering in the service has been warmly received. It was a way to be mindful of the precautions needed during the Covid pandemic. It seemed best not to pass a plate. This does not mean we don't need your offerings and tithes and other gifts for the continuation of this ministry. It just means you need to put your offering in the plate as you depart on Sunday morning, or send your check to the office, or even e-tithe over the net. Whatever ... the world still runs on money, and we need your generous support to carry on our ministries in the name of Christ our Lord.



SUNDAY, 14 MAY 2023

THE SIXTH 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

THE WESTMINSTER FORWARD COMMITTEE

Over the next few months, Westminster Presbyterian Church will be engaging on a journey of story-sharing, visioning and discerning. Based on our experiences of what God has done and is currently doing, Sarah Tunall will guide us through a season of listening to what God wants to do in the future.

Sarah Tunall is an ordained PC(USA) teaching elder who has served a variety of church & para-church contexts over the last 20 years. Passionate about relationship and story, Sarah has created a process of helping congregations embrace where God is leading by listening and basing direction on the story of God's faithfulness through the congregational experience.

Who is Sarah? She is a foster mom of two amazing girls, a doggy mom of a giant, loving black lab, an outdoor enthusiast, passionate preacher who loves Jesus and truly believes God is faithful - always.

Be on the lookout for opportunities to sign up and share your experience and story of Westminster with Sarah!

... Matthew Winkler

Some photos of Sarah so you will know her when she is here with us ...

