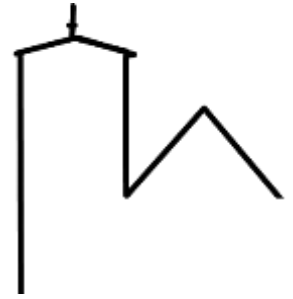


# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue

Peoria, Illinois 61606



## THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9 July 2023

Ten O'clock

### GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

#### PREPARATION

**Sonata in F, HWV 369, Op. 1, Nr. 11**

*George Fredrich Handel*

1. Grave, 2. Allegro, 3. Siciliana, 4. Allegro

#### WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

**One:** *The Spirit is here among us*

**Many:** **within us, around us, between us.**

**One:** *The Spirit is here to strengthen us*

**Many:** **bringing courage, bringing conviction.**

**One:** *The Spirit is here to move us,*

**Many:** **making us sing and praise.**

**One:** *The Spirit is here.*

**Many:** **May we feel the Spirit as we gather.**

#### \*THE HYMN 150

**Come, Christians, Join to Sing**

*Madrid*

**1. Come, Christians, join to sing**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Loud praise to Christ our King;**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Let all with heart and voice,**

**Before his throne rejoice;**

**Praise is his gracious choice;**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**2. Come, lift your hearts on high;**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Let praises fill the sky;**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**He is our guide and friend;**

**To us he'll condescend;**

**His love shall never end;**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**3. Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!**

**Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!**

**On heaven's blissful shore**

**His goodness we'll adore,**

**Singing forevermore, Alleluia! Amen!**

**Text: Henry Bateman**

**Music: Benjamin Carr**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

**MOST MERCIFUL GOD, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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.  
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

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** Genesis 24:34-38; 42-49; 58-67

So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. <sup>35</sup>The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup>And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. <sup>37</sup>My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; <sup>38</sup>but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

<sup>42</sup> 'I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! <sup>43</sup>I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' <sup>44</sup>and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also' –let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son."

<sup>45</sup> 'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." <sup>46</sup>She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. <sup>47</sup>Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. <sup>48</sup>Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. <sup>49</sup>Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.' <sup>58</sup>And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' <sup>59</sup>So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. <sup>60</sup>And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

'May you, our sister, become  
thousands of myriads;  
may your offspring gain possession  
of the gates of their foes.'

<sup>61</sup>Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. <sup>62</sup> Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. <sup>63</sup>Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. <sup>64</sup>And Rebekah

looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, <sup>65</sup>and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. <sup>66</sup>And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. <sup>67</sup>Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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

**\*THE PSALTER**

Psalm 45

*See music and text on p. 7*

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 7:15-25a**

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God <sup>[a]</sup> through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19; 25-30**

But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

<sup>18</sup> "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father,

and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

**SERMON**

**Elder Alan Willadsen**

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**\*HYMN 408**

**Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

*Germany*

1. Where cross the crowded ways of life  
Where sound the cried of race and clan,  
Above the noise of selfish strife,  
We hear thy voice, O Son of Man.

2. In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
On shadowed thresholds fraught with fears  
From paths where hide the lures of greed  
We catch the vision of thy tears.

3. From tender childhood's helplessness  
From human grief and burdened toil  
From famished souls, from sorrow's stress,  
Thy heart has never known recoil.

4. The cup of water given for thee  
Still holds the freshness of thy grace;  
Yet, long these multitudes to see  
The sweet compassion of thy face.

5. O Master, from the mountainside,  
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
Among these restless throngs abide,  
O tread the city's streets again;

6. Till all the world shall learn thy love  
And follow where thy feet have trod;  
Till glorious from thy heaven above  
Shall come the city of our God

Text: Frank Mason North, 1905  
Music: attr. Ludwig van Beethoven, 1815

**\*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**

**Aria**

*Flor Peeters*

## 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 192

### God Our Help and Constant Refuge

*Michael*

1. God our help and constant refuge  
Ever present in our need!  
Though the earth be ever changing  
Though it fall into the sea,  
Rock secure, Ever sure  
Through all tumult you endure.

3. God, the Lord of Hosts is with us  
Come behold these mighty deeds,  
Wars are ended, spears are broken,  
At this voice the world takes heed.  
Come, O Lord, Break the sword.  
Bring us peace as your reward.

2. Holy river of God's city,  
Healing flows within your streams  
Giving strength within our crises  
Firm and steady like a beam,  
Nations rage, Wars to wage.  
God will still protect this age.

4. Living Lord of Hosts, be with us.  
Come and fill us with your power,  
You, the hope of all the nations  
Be exalted in this hour.  
God most high, Lest we die,  
Give us hope and hear our cry.

Text: Fred R. Anderson, 1986  
Music: Herbert Howells, 1964

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

### Fugue in G, BWV 577 (Jig)

*J.S. Bach*

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

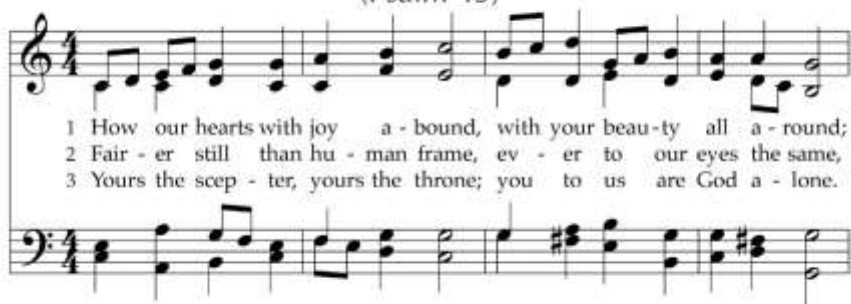
Elder Alan Willadsen, *Guest Preacher*  
Dr. Polly Brecht, *Organist-Choirmaster*  
Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA and this celebration of the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. 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](http://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.

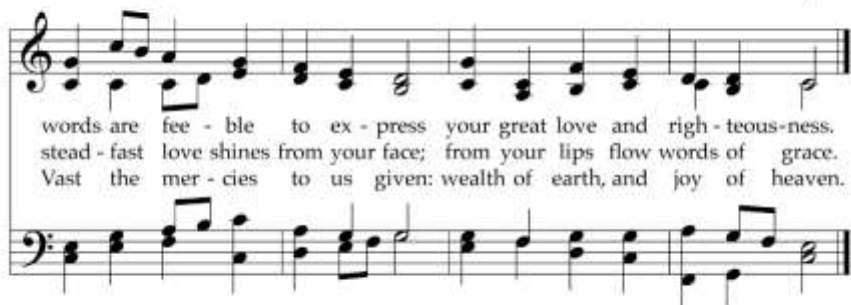
THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

## 333 How Our Hearts with Joy Abound

(Psalm 45)



1 How our hearts with joy a - bound, with your beau - ty all a - round;  
2 Fair - er still than hu - man frame, ev - er to our eyes the same,  
3 Yours the scep - ter, yours the throne; you to us are God a - lone.



words are fee - ble to ex - press your great love and righ - teous - ness.  
stead - fast love shines from your face; from your lips flow words of grace.  
Vast the mer - cies to us given: wealth of earth, and joy of heaven.

Though it may have originated as a royal marriage ode, Psalm 45 has come to be understood in both Jewish and Christian traditions as having messianic overtones, and it is quoted that way in Hebrews 1:8-9. This 20th-century paraphrase skillfully maintains that double application.

TEXT: Michael Morgan, 1995

MUSIC: Freylinghausen's Geistreiches Gesangbuch, 1704, alt.

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GOTT SEI DANK DURCH ALLE WELT

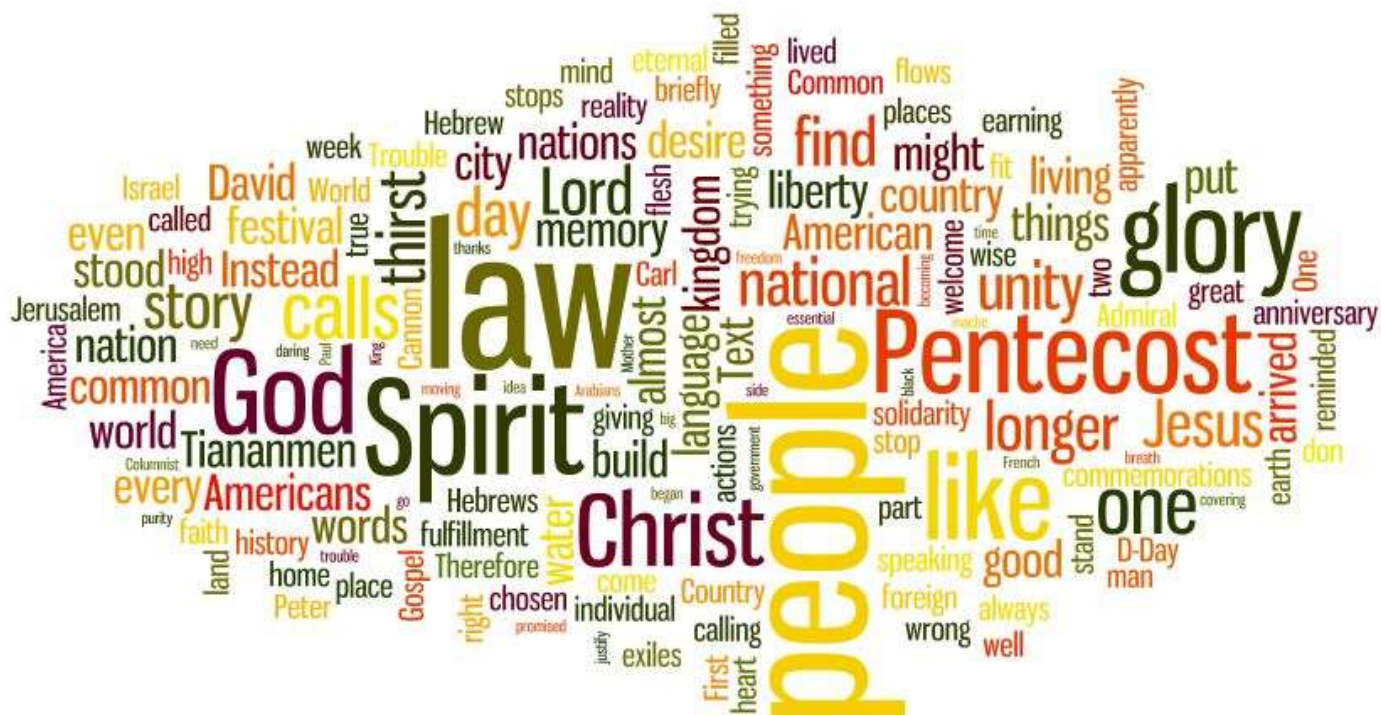
7.7.7.7

WE WELCOME this morning our guest musician is Dr. Kyle Dzapu, Professor of Music at Bradley University. Kyle teaches Music History and Flute. She has appeared at events in the Iben Series on numerous occasions, and we are pleased to have her share her superb musicianship with us this morning.

Elder Alan Willadsen is filling our pulpit this morning. As always, it is a pleasure to hear the Word from our friend and Elder. Alan is a certified lay pastor in the PC(USA).

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OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS



SUNDAY,  
9 JULY 2023

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WESTMINSTER CHURCH

A PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA  
IN THE PRESBYTERY OF THE GREAT RIVERS

1420 WEST MOSS AVENUE + PEORIA ILLINOIS 61606  
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