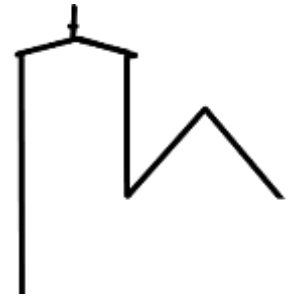


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

30 July 2023

Ten O'clock

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

PREPARATION

Prelude on *Slane*

Craig Phillips

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: *Our God has gathered us here, among the treasures of the Kingdom,
to rejoice in faith.*

All: **Our hearts are open to the life-giving possibilities faith can bring.**

One: *Let none of us be afraid. The harvest of faith belongs to God the Giver.*

All: **Thanks be to God. Our confidence is in the One who made heaven and earth!**

***THE HYMN 263**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

- 1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praisie.**
- 2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might,
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of good ness and live.**
- 3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**
- 4. Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight,
All praise we woud render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867
Music: Welsh folk melody

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

LORD, forgive the times when we choose not to look... Not to look out for those in need. Not to look for glimpses of Your glory. Not to look for opportunities to share Your good news with others. Forgive us, Lord.

***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.

from Service in E-flat, Thomas Clark-Jones
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HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 29:15-28

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" 16Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. 18Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." 19Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." 20So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. 21Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." 22So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. 23But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. 24(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) 25When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" 26Laban said, "This is not done in our country – giving the younger before the firstborn. 27Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." 28Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

***THE PSALTER**

Psalm 119

Wohl Denen

The text and music are on pg. 8 of this leaflet.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 8:26-39

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. 27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable:

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 51 "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." 52 And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

SERMON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN**

There Is A Longing

Longing

Music and text are found on pg. 8 in this leaflet

***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

The Call

Ralph Vaughan Williams

David Kortemeier, baritone

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death
Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength, Such a Light, as shows a feast: Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move: Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love

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 339**

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2. Riches I have no, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, name and always;
Thou and Thou only first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

3. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Ancient Irish Poem
Music: Irish ballad

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Fugue in c minor, BWV 537

Johann Sebastian Bach

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Chip Roland, *Guest Preacher*
Dr. Polly Brecht, *Organist-Choirmaster*
David Kortemeier, *Baritone Soloist*
Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*

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

OUR SPECIAL THANKS to David Kortemeier for being our soloist this morning. David is a regular member of our choir, and it is always a pleasure to welcome him as soloist.

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS

64 I Long for Your Commandments

(Psalm 119)

1 I long for your com - mand - ments; your judg - ments all are
 2 With - out your lamp to guide me I wan - der from the
 3 O God, I love your knowl - edge, more pre - cious than pure

just. With - in your words is wis - dom, your teach - ings
 way. With - out your laws and pre - cepts I stum - ble
 gold. It sat - is - fies like hon - ey, a sweet - ness

un - der - stood are com - fort to my spir - it's need and
 in the dark. Your un - der - stand - ings are my hope that
 on my tongue. It leads me to sal - va - tion's door where

in the night my so - lace. Your stat - utes are my song.
 I may run in free - dom. Your ways are my re - lease.
 you have spread your ta - ble. O, lead me to your home.

Although this paraphrase is based on only a small part of Psalm 119, it incorporates many of the synonyms that weave through this extended acrostic psalm celebrating God's Law: commandments, judgments, words, teachings, wisdom, statutes, laws, precepts, understandings, ways.

PRAYER

470 There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

Refrain

Dm All *Gm* *C* *F*

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for

Bb *Gm7* *A* *A7*

you to re-veal your-self to us.

Dm *Gm* *C* *F*

There is a long-ing in our hearts for love we

Bb *Gm7* *A7* *Dm* (*hold last time*) *Fine*

on-ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All

Dm *Gm* *C7* *F* *Bb* *Gm*

1 For jus-tice, for free-dom, for mer-cy:
 2 For wis-dom, for cour-age, for com-fort:
 3 For heal-ing, for whole-ness, for new life:
 4 Lord save us, take pit-y, Light in our

A *A7* *Dm* *Gm7* *C7* *F*

hear our prayer. In sor-row, in grief:
 hear our prayer. In weak-ness, in fear:
 hear our prayer. In sick-ness, in death:
 dark-ness, We call you; we wait:

Bb *Gm7* *A* *Dm to Refrain*

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

The refrain that frames this sung prayer describes why we pray, and the stanzas indicate what we pray for. These requests are not for possessions but for qualities and conditions we hope for in the world around us, and they emerge from the changing circumstances of our lives.