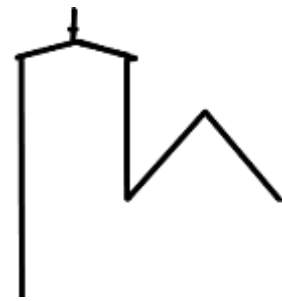


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue

Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

13 August 2023

Ten O'clock

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

PREPARATION

Praeludium in C, BuxWV 137

Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: *Blessed are those who have not seen*

All: **and yet have come to believe.**

One: *O give thanks to the Lord,*

All: **for the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: *By God's great mercy we have been born anew,*

All: **We have a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

*THE HYMN 148

At the Name of Jesus

King's Weston

1. At the name of Jesus
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess Him
King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.

2. Humbled for a season,
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners,
Unto whom he came,
Faithfully he bore it
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death he passed.

3. Bore it up triumphant,
With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures,
To the central height,
To the throne of Godhead,
To the Father's breast;
Filled it with the glory
Of that perfect rest.

4. Christians, this Lord Jesus
Shall return again,
With his Father's glory
O'er the earth to reign;
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing. He who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O Lord, have mercy on us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are truly sorry for their sins according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant O merciful God, that we may live in Christ's grace and grow more and more in his likeness and image; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, the light of the world. 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**

***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 *(praying together)*

Jesus said: Ask and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. God abounds in love and mercy and welcomes our return, for in Christ, God came to us that we might have abundant life.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 45:1-15

Peggy Bragg, *liturgist*

¹Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there: since there are five more years of famine to come — so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

***THE PSALTER**

(Text and music on last page of leaflet.)

Psalm 105

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

... ²⁹for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

¹⁰Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Word of the Lord ...

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***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 heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now 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.**

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

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Ave verum corpus
Shane Strauss, Soprano soloist

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

SEALING THE WORD

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL 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 361

How Firm A Foundation

Foundation

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
4. "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
5. "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no, never forsake."

Text: Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916
Music: Charles Henry Purday, 1860

*SENDING FORTH

- One:** *Help us all, O God, to do your will in each of our homes and lives.*
- All:** **Enrich us with your grace so that, supporting one another, we may serve in need.**
- One:** *As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness and patience*
- All:** **Forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you.**
- One:** *Crown all these things with love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.*

***PASTOR'S BLESSING ...**

RESPONSE: Amen! *(all)

***POSTLUDE**

Rigaudon

André Campra

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun, *Guest Preacher*

Dr. Polly Brecht, *Organist-Choirmaster*

Peggy Bragg, *Liturgist*

Shane Strauss, *Soprano Soloist*

Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*

WE WELCOME THOSE VISITING WESTMINSTER TODAY and trust this service will be a blessing. We invite you to coffee hour which follows in the Church Parlor. You will notice that there is much lay leadership involved at this time. Our pastor of nine years, the Rev. Denise Clark-Jones retired in June. We are grateful for her devoted service to this congregation for nearly a decade ... her caring touch in times of personal difficulties ... her sure leadership and inspired preaching. We carry on, as do all congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA) realizing we are but stewards of our given time and when we move on, God will provide new leadership that we need if we are but open to the Spirit. Pray for our congregation at this time, and for Pastor Denise as she begins a new chapter in her journey. The Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun in our Worship Leader and Preacher this morning. Dr. Philabaun is a retired Minister of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We welcome her to our pulpit again this morning.

WE ALSO WELCOME Shane Strauss. Shane is a graduate of Illinois State University, majoring in Arts Technology. Shane has been singing with Westminster for a couple years now and also sings for Congregation Anshai Emeth and at St. Sharbel Church, in addition to the Bradley Community Chorus.

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Service leaflet preparation, tcj.

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS

59 The Steadfast Love of the Lord

(Psalm 105)

Capo 1: (D) (D/F#) (G) (A7sus) (A)
 Eb Eb/G Ab Bb7sus Bb

Refrain

The stead - fast love of the Lord nev - er ceas - es; God's
 mer - cies nev - er come to an end. They are
 new ev - ery morn - ing, new ev - ery morn - ing; great is your
 faith - ful - ness, O Lord, great is your faith - ful - ness.

PSALM 105

Refrain

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Give thanks to the LORD
and call upon God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD
among the peoples.</p> <p>2 Sing to the LORD, sing praises,
and speak of all God's
marvelous works.</p> <p>3 Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those
who seek the LORD rejoice.</p> <p>4 Search for the LORD
and the strength of the LORD;
continually seek the face of God.</p> <p>5 Remember the marvels God has done,
the wonders and the judgments
of God's mouth,</p> <p>6 O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,
O children of Jacob, God's chosen.
<i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>7 The LORD is our God,
whose judgments prevail
in all the world.</p> <p>8 The LORD has always been mindful
of the covenant,
the promise made
for a thousand generations:</p> <p>9 The covenant made with Abraham,
the oath sworn to Isaac,
10 which God established
as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel.</p> <p>42 For God remembered
the holy promise
and Abraham, chosen to serve.</p> <p>43 So God led forth the people
with gladness,
the chosen ones with shouts of joy.
<i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|---|

This psalm refrain quotes (with a few modifications) Lamentations 3:22-23, and the double singing of the final two phrases accentuates a sense of wonder. Finding ways to put Scripture, especially psalms, to music has long been a characteristic of the Reformed tradition.