

Westminster Weekly Window

March 17, 2024

Today's Message

"We Wish to See Jesus"

Lectionary Readings

Today:

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 24, 2024

Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Passion: Isa. 50:4-9a and Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Serving This Morning

Usher – Alice Nash
Greeter – Dick Helfrich
Coffee Hour – Janet Baker

Serving Next Sunday - March 24

Usher – Laura Van Riper
Greeter – Dick Helfrich
Coffee Hour – Laura Van Riper

Happening This Week - March 17-March 24, 2024

Men's Coffee Group at Panera's at Westlake at 7:30a on Wednesday of every week

March 17 - Sunday Worship 10a – Coffee Fellowship 11a

March 18 - WM Food Pantry Open 9-11a

March 19 – Polling Place – Parish Hall, 5a – 7p

March 21 - Choir Rehearsal 6p

March 23 - WICC will be accepting item drop-offs for the WICC/Moss Avenue Day Sale on Saturday from 9 to noon.

March 24 - Sunday Worship 10a

Looking Ahead

We will celebrate "Holy Humor Sunday" on April 7th. You are invited to wear silly clothes, socks, and hats to help folks join in the laughter.

To place your Easter Lily order, please call either the church office at (309) 673-8501 or Dan Callahan at (309) 673-7348

One Great Hour of Sharing - Sunday, March 31, 2024

WICC Sale and Drop Off – March 23 and April 27 drop off 9a-12p; WICC Sale Saturday, June 8 from 8a-3p, Parish Hall

Maundy Thursday Service, March 28 @ 7p - a Lenten service of readings and music here at Westminster

Good Friday Service, We have been invited to worship with First Federated March 29 @ 6 PM

Iben Series Concert – Claire Happel Ashe, Harpist – Sunday, April 28, 2024, at 4 PM

March Birthdays

12 Jeff Putnam
31 Norma Helfrich

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Phone 309-673-8501

1420 W. Moss Avenue - Peoria, Illinois 61606

Website westminsterpeoria.org

Fax 309-673-6708

Office Hours

YouTube [WPC Channel](#)

Email wpc@westminsterpeoria.org

Monday - Thursday, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Facebook [WPC Page](#)

Seeing Christ Everywhere

We need to look at Jesus until we can see the world with his eyes. In Jesus Christ, God's own broad, deep, and all-inclusive worldview is made available to us.

Too often, we have substituted the messenger for the message. As a result, we spent a great deal of time worshipping the messenger and trying to get other people to do the same. Too often this obsession became a pious substitute for actually *following* what Jesus taught—he did ask us numerous times to follow him (for example, Matthew 4:19; Mark 10:21; John 1:43), and never once to worship him.

If you pay attention to the text, you'll see that the Apostle John offers a very evolutionary notion of the Christ message. Note the active verb that is used here: "The true light that enlightens every person *was coming (erxomenon)* into the world" (John 1:9). In other words, we're talking not about a one-time Big Bang in nature or a one-time Incarnation in Jesus, but an ongoing, progressive movement continuing in the ever-unfolding creation. The incarnation did not just happen two thousand years ago. It has been working throughout the entire arc of time and will continue. This is expressed in the common phrase, the "Second Coming of Christ." Unfortunately, this was often heard as a threat ("Wait till your Dad gets home!"). It could more accurately be spoken of as the "Forever Coming of Christ," the *ongoing promise of eternal resurrection* and the evolution of consciousness into the mind of Christ.

Christ is the light that allows people to see things in their fullness. The precise and intended effect of such a light is to see Christ everywhere else. In fact, that is my only definition of a true Christian. *A mature Christian sees Christ in everything and everyone else.* That is a definition that will never fail you, always demand more of you, and give you no reasons to fight, exclude, or reject anyone.

The point of the Christian life is not to distinguish oneself from the ungodly but to stand in radical solidarity with everyone and everything else. This is the intended effect of the Incarnation—symbolized by the cross, *God's great act of solidarity instead of judgment.* Without a doubt, Jesus perfectly exemplified this seeing and thus passed it on to the rest of history. This is how we are to imitate Jesus, the good Jewish man who saw and called forth the divine in Gentiles like the Syro-Phoenician woman and the Roman centurions; in Jewish tax collectors who collaborated with the Empire; in zealots who opposed it; in sinners of all stripes; in eunuchs, astrologers, and all those "outside the law." Jesus had no trouble whatsoever with *otherness*. In fact, these "lost sheep" found out they were not lost to him at all and tended to become his best followers.

Reference:

Adapted from Richard Rohr, [*The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe*](#) (Convergent Books: 2019), 32-33.

April Adventures

Please remember that our worship time will change to 10:30 AM on April 7. We will kick off our summer with a sermon series on four goals: 1. Create stability in the number of people in worship. 2. Maintain and grow social justice initiatives. 3. Financial stability, and 4. Develop a community for empty nesters and older adults.

Coinciding with our April Adventures and the service time change, the committee is hosting a series of free luncheons following the service to promote community among us. The "Lunch Bunch" will be catered and hosted by committee members. Each of the four weeks in April will be around a theme and feature brief comments about the theme. The April 7th theme is "Westminster Missions." We hope you can stay and enjoy one another's friendship around a bit of food. No reservations are allowed.

We want future generations to join us in making Westminster their spiritual home.

Westminster Elders

Peggy Bragg, Christian Education, Class of 2026
John Jackson, Properties, Class of 2024
James Burnham, Clerk of Session, Class of 2024

Kim Mitchell, Member Care, Class of 2025
Larry Hicks, Finance & Personnel, Class of 2025
Elizabeth Richmond, Missions & Outreach, Class of 2026

Westminster Deacons

Janet Baker, Class of 2024
Susan Leighty, Class of 2024
Alice Nash, Class of 2025
Edna Nugent, Class of 2025
Sue Burnham, Moderator, Class of 2025

Phyllis Rafferty, Class of 2026
Abbie Alexander, Class of 2026
Wendy Bowles, Class of 2026
Jean Schlesinger, Class of 2026