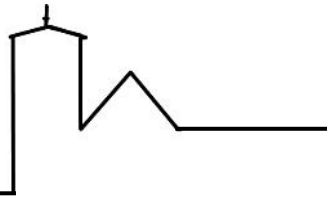


THE SEASON OF EASTER

Westminster Presbyterian Church

5/5/2024 · 10:30AM



GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PREPARATION

Liebster Jesu, Wir sind Hier, BWV 731

J.S. Bach

Blessed Jesus, We are Here

Ubi Caritas

Gerald Near

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather today to give thanks for older adults.

All: They are gifts from God.

One: We admire those who are older than we are. They have lifelong wisdom, experience, and knowledge.

All: We strive to also grow in wisdom, experience, and knowledge.

One: We remember many who have gone before us and taught us to be faithful before God.

All: We admire our older adults not just for what they do but for who they are as loving guides.

One: We see their witness in the courage to overcome fear, the ability to see good in all people, what it means to forgive deep hurt, and the patience to wait on the Lord.

All: We hope to become like them one day. We give thanks for the opportunity to learn from the Master's teachers, those who have mastered life.

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN 343

Called to Partners in Christ's Service

Beecher

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

O Lord, you have created all of us, but sometimes we want to look only to youth and ignore our elders. Sometimes, we act as though only the oldest, the longest-standing members have anything to offer. Remind us, O God, we are all your called-out people. Forgive us when we forget that and ignore one group by age, race, gender, or ethnic origin. Help us to see you in each person. Restore us all by your grace into one family.

Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayers.

TIME FOR SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION

KYRIE HYMNAL 565

John Weaver

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA HYMNAL 566

John Weaver

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Leviticus 19:32-37

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

***PSALM 71**

God, My help and Hiding Place

Tokyo

God, my help and hiding place, rescue me from shame. Be my strength as I grow old; come and clear my name. False accusers, seek my life, thinking you have left, leaving me with no defense, helpless and bereft.

From my youth I praised your name, trusting you to save. Now that I am turning gray; lift me from the grave. God, my refuge and my rock, hide me now. Make haste! Deal with those who wish me harm; may they be disgraced.

Let me live to teach the young what your love can do, so may people yet to come place their trust in you. Show once more that you are God; raise me from despair! Then my soul will sing your name, praise your steadfast care.

EPISTLE: I Peter 5:1-5

GOSPEL: John 15:15-17

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

SERMON:

"Aged To Perfection"

Rev. Tim Mitchell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)** *(United Church of Canada)*

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.**

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia. O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honour of His name, make His praise to be glorious. With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia, Alleluia. Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.



SEALING THE WORD

COMMUNION *(See Insert)*

sung to the tune

***HYMN**

When Memory Fades

Finlandia/text

Mary Bringle

Verse 1. (sung by Choir) When memory fades and recognition falters, when eyes we love grow dim, and minds, confused, speak to our souls of love that never alters; speak to our hearts by pain and fear abused. O God of life and healing peace, empower us with patient courage, by your grace infused.

Verse 2. (All) As frailness grows and youthful strengths diminish in weary arms that worked their earnest fill, your aging servants labor now to finish their earthly tasks, as fits your mystery's will. We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing, your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.

Verse 3. (All) Within your Spirit, goodness lives unfading. The past and future mingle into one. All joys remain, unshadowed light pervading, No valued deed will ever be undone. Your mind enfolds all finite acts and offerings. Held in your heart, our deathless life is won!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G Major, BWV 550

J.S. Bach

Leading in worship today:

The Rev. Tim Mitchell

Polly Brecht, Organist-Choirmaster

Alyson MacQuarrie, soprano · Kate Kortemeier, alto

J. Douglas McQueen, tenor · David Kortemeier, baritone

Amira Siddique, soprano · Joseph Strauss, soprano



Open Minds Open Hands Open Heart

Westminster Presbyterian Church · 1420 W. Moss Ave., Peoria, IL 61606

This morning's service is live-streamed through YouTube. Ref. - Permission to perform and broadcast the music in this service is licensed by One License #A726060, Chicago, IL. Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P., used with permission.

Some of our worship elements originate from the Iona Community. Here's some information from the community's website.

Iona's Story

Our Community was founded in Glasgow, Scotland in 1938 by Rev George MacLeod.

A visionary and a social reformer, MacLeod was driven by a belief that faith is grounded in action. In rebuilding the ruined accommodation at Iona Abbey, on the island of Iona, trainee ministers and unemployed workers from Glasgow lived, worked and worshipped together.

This physical rebuilding became, and remains, a sign of hope for rebuilding individual lives and communities in Scotland and beyond. The community and living spaces of Iona Abbey were reopened in 2021 after extensive renovation. The MacLeod Centre on Iona is a space where our commitment to young people finds its expression. Our adventure Centre at Camas on Mull offers a space for young people to thrive and experience community through immersion in Scotland's wilderness. We are glad still to be part of the life and economy of Iona and Mull. These are beautiful islands where thriving local communities are layered with a deep spiritual tradition and inspiring landscape and wildlife.

We are known globally as a community dedicated to prayer in action. We are honoured to work with a visionary team of resource workers in the Wild Goose Resource Group who continue to renew and shape the worship of local congregations, world church networks, and all kinds of believers and doubters.