

Westminster Presbyterian Church

THE LORD'S DAY OF WORSHIP — 23 January 2022

The Sanctuary: A House of Prayer and Preparation

Welcome to Westminster! We offer a short time for meditation at 9:40, before the service starts. Join us to prepare your heart for worship, and we will begin our time of announcements and the call to worship at 9:45.

Offering Stones

If you give financially to Westminster online or by mail, please take a stone as you enter the sanctuary. You may place your stone in the offering plate as it comes your way during the offertory as a physical token of your offering to the LORD. (This is also a great way to teach children and others about sacrificial giving.)

Meditation: Preparing our Hearts for Worship (Isaiah 40:1-5)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

*Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her*

that her warfare is ended,

*that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.*

A voice cries:

*"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.*

*And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

Welcome + Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Leader: Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
His understanding is unsearchable.

People: He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might He increases strength.

Leader: Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

All: but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31

Prayer of Invocation + Adoration

Hymns of Praise + Adoration

Holy, Holy, Holy! (Hymn #100)

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In Christ Alone (Songbook #74)

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God Graciously Renews Us in Christ

Corporate Confession of Sin:

Leader: *Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. (Psalm 85: 9-11)* Therefore, let us confess our sins saying...

People: Lord, we have sinned, without considering how much You love us. You see our sins more clearly than we can ourselves. Lord, You know when we are indifferent to Your Word, the Bible; how often we forget to pray; the times we come unwillingly to worship; and yet we turn to You when we are in trouble. Lord, You know when we are untruthful and when we think evil of others. You see our anger and unfairness to our friends. You know how hard it is for us to forgive. Forgive us and make us clean, so that we can obey Your call to take up Your cross and follow You. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Silent Confession & Reflection

The Words of the Gospel for those who repent and believe:

Leader: *Comfort, comfort my people, says Your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. (Isaiah 40: 1-2)*

People: Amen!

Hymn of Renewal:

His Mercy Is More (Songbook #61)

Words and Music by Matt Boswell | Matt Papa; © 2016 Getty Music Hymns and Songs (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.), Getty Music Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.), Love Your Enemies Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.), Messenger Hymns (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); CCLI License # 1148879

Recognition of Elder Glenn Dowling & Deacon Andy Crane

God Calls Us to Make Offerings

Tithes + Offerings:

The Offering of the Prayers of the People: Titus Bagby

Missionaries: Joshua Coleman ~ RUF International Intern @ Texas A & M University
Elder-Aid

People: 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.

The Collection of our Tithes + Offerings

While there are many ways to contribute financially to God's Kingdom, the church is the primary means by which that kingdom is established on earth. Thus, God calls us first and foremost to be faithful in the regular, ongoing support of one's local church body through tithes and offerings. If you haven't made tithing a practice, please consider adopting tithing or generous giving as a spiritual practice—that you might grow in faith and that together we might increase Westminster's capacity to be the body of Christ in Bryan & College Station for the world.

If you give to Westminster online or by mail, please take a stone as you enter the sanctuary. You may place your stone in the offering plate as it comes your way as a physical token of your offering to the LORD. (This is also a great way to teach children and others about sacrificial giving.) If you would like to participate with your giving in real time, visit our website to give online, under the Giving + Membership tab. Or, set up text giving: text the number of an amount to 979-200-4600 and then enter your credit card information.

Offertory: He Will Hold Me Fast

Solo: Elizabeth Krajca

The Presentation of our Tithes + Offerings

Prayer of Dedication: Kevin Ayers

Hymn of Preparation:

Beneath the Cross of Jesus (Songbook #24) (vv 1-2)

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God Gives Us His Word

Morning Lesson

Paving the Way

Luke 3:1-22

REV WADE COLEMAN

Hymn of Response:

Beneath the Cross of Jesus (Songbook #24) (v3)

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God Feeds Us His Covenant Meal

The Lord's Supper:

A Word about Communion at Westminster

This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or The Eucharist, which means 'thanksgiving') is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat bread and drink wine. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to an evangelical church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ. We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from partaking until doing so.

Preparation for Communion

Words of Institution: I Corinthians 11:23-26

Invitation + Warning

Prayer + Setting Apart the Bread and Wine

Holy Communion

Westminster uses wine and grape juice in serving the Lord's Supper. You will find pre-packaged cups of grape juice marked "J" on the outer row of each tray and pre-packaged wine marked "W" in the inner rows of the tray. Each person may take the element according to his or her conscience.

We offer an alternate bread wafer for those with gluten and dairy allergies (also soy and egg free). These cups are marked gluten free in the service trays.

Prayers for Those Not Communing:

Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who You are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of You that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that You promise. Amen. **Prayer of Searching for Truth**

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that You have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive You as my savior. Amen. **Prayer of Believing on Jesus**

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in You the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on You, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me and run with perseverance the race that You have set before me, looking only to You, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen. **Prayer of Struggling Against Sin**

Distribution of Communion Elements

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder (Songbook #93)

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Taking Together the Bread and Cup

God Blesses Us and Sends Us Forth

Benediction: Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

People: Amen!

At the Name of Jesus

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Passing of the Peace

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

GREET ONE ANOTHER WITH A SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP SUCH AS:
"THE PEACE OF CHRIST BE WITH YOU" & "AND ALSO WITH YOU."