

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

THE LORD'S DAY OF WORSHIP — 14 January 2024

## 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 (John 3:22-36)

*After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized (for John had not yet been put in prison).*

*Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease."*

*He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. ESV*

## Welcome + Announcements

### God Calls Us to Worship Him (Psalm 89:1-5)

#### Call to Worship:

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

People: For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;  
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

Leader: You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:

People: 'I will establish your offspring forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.'"

All: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

#### Prayer of Invocation + Adoration

#### Hymns of Praise + Adoration

#### Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Hymn #32)

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#### Mighty To Save (Songbook #108)

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# God Graciously Renews Us in Christ

## Corporate Confession of Sin:

Leader: *For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. (Psalm 96:5-6)*

Let us then confess our sins saying ...

People: God of love, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done, we have sinned in ignorance, we have sinned in weakness; we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us and renew our lives through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Silent Confession & Reflection

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

Leader: *Hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. He will redeem His people from all their iniquities. (Psalm 130:7-8).*

People: Amen!

## Hymn of Renewal

### Lord I Need You (Songbook#97)

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# God Calls Us to Make Offerings

## Tithes + Offerings:

The Offering of the Prayers of the People: Wade Coleman

Missionaries: Jim and Carin Fredere

Ministry: Muslims in New York City

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.

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## Offertory

## The Presentation of our Tithes + Offerings

## Prayer of Dedication

# God Gives Us His Word

## Morning Lesson

*Asking the Wrong Questions*

Luke 13:1-9

REV TREE TRIOLO

Hymn of Response:

Help My Unbelief (Songbook #59)

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God Feeds Us His Covenant Meal

The Lord's Supper:

Preparation for Communion

Words of Institution: I Corinthians 11:23-26

Invitation + Warning

Prayer + Setting Apart the Bread and Wine

Holy Communion

Distribution of Communion Elements

Communion Hymn:

Amazing Grace! (Hymn #460)

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Taking Together the Bread and Cup

## Confession of Faith

II Corinthians 5:14-17

*For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.*

*From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away behold, the new has come.*

God Blesses Us and Sends Us Forth

Benediction:

Ephesians 3:20-21

Leader: *Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.*

People: **AMEN!**

Praise to God the Father Sing (Songbook #44B)

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."