

Job and Intimacy

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.

— Song of Solomon 8:6

Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Chandler Stokes

Opening Voluntary

(A musical prayer offered on behalf of the people of God.)

“How Fair and Pleasant art Thou”

Marcel Dupré

Song of Solomon 7:6

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

++ Call to Worship

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: This is our ancient story:

All: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God.

One: In him was life and the life was the light of all people.

All: Remove all coldness from our hearts.

One: He rose to rule this world with love.

All: So, may our every act, thought, and word be love.

One: God goes with us, and she is with us now.

All: O Love, how gracious is thy way!

++ Hymn 703

“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

St. Catherine

Call to Confession

(Trusting that God is love, we express our lament, our brokenness, and our failings to God.)

Prayer of Confession (unison)

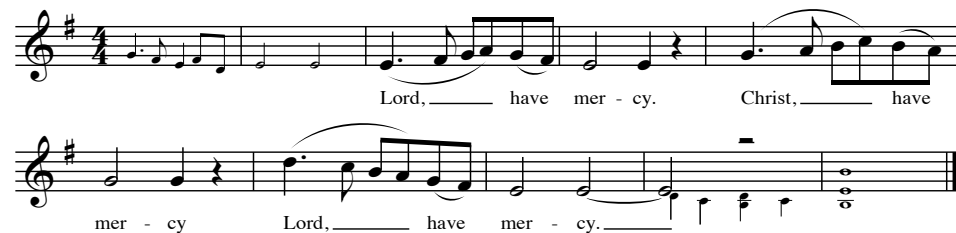
Holy God, you raised Christ from death to rule this world with love. You offer us resurrection hope and new life. And sometimes we would prefer answers. You offer us grace upon grace. And yet we regularly want something, something less. We live as if we were not loved. We live as if you were not God, and we fall prey to fear and hopelessness. Holy God, hold us close in our anxiety and pain, and set us free to love and serve you, in the joy of your resurrection. In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

“Lord, Have Mercy”

John Weaver



The Assurance of God's Grace

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Therefore, no failure lies beyond the healing of God's grace; no pattern of living beyond the reach of change.

All: God's love is perfect, and it is the power of new life.

One: God has the power to change us, to transform us into who we were called to be.

All: In the power of God's love we are forgiven, we are accepted, and everything is made new. Amen.

++ Response Hymn 232 (stanza 4)

Easter Hymn

Sing we to our God above—Alleluia! Praise eternal as God's love—Alleluia! Praise our God, ye heavenly host—Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—Alleluia!

++ The Summary of the Law and the Passing of the Peace

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

One: Our Lord Jesus said:

All: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

One: This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:

All: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.”

One: And to empower you in this way, may the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

“Siyahamba”

African Zulu Song

We are Marching in the light of God! Kees Duncan, Percussion Cantus Choir

Blessings with Younger Disciples

(Children three years old through second grade may finish their time of worship in the Worship Centers. Children's worship leaders will shepherd them from the Sanctuary to their rooms. Parents may pick them up in their worship rooms following the service.)

In the pews: May the Lord be with each of you as you worship together.

Children: And may the Lord be with you as you worship here.

In the pews: Go in peace!

THE WORD

Introduction to the Scripture

Prayer for Illumination

Kathy Speeter

(We pray that the words of Scripture may be encountered as God's Word.)

Scripture Reading

Song of Solomon 8:6-7 Job 41:1-4, 42:1-3

Old Testament p. 627 Old Testament p. 487-488

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Job and Intimacy

Rev. Chandler Stokes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The Meaning of Membership Questions to the New Members Questions to the Congregation Prayer with Unison Prayer

Rev. Jen Porter

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Gracious God, by water and the Spirit, you claimed us all as your own, freeing us from the past, and giving us new life. You made us members of your body, the Church, calling us to be your servants in this world. Thank you for choosing to add to our body this day, these sisters and brothers. Renew in each of them the covenant you made in their baptism. Continue the good work you have begun in them. Send us all, by the power of your Spirit, to love and serve you with joy, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. In the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; 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 OFFERING

Receiving the Offering - Signing of the Friendship Register

(Please sign the friendship pad and pass it down the pew. Thank you!)

Offertory

“Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal”

arr. Alice Parker

Hark I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore. As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the lamb! Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Glory to the great I AM! And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the lamb! Hallelujah, Hallelujah, glory to the great I AM! Souls have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest; and I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the lamb! Hallelujah, Hallelujah, glory to the great I AM! Sanctuary Choir

++ Doxology (means “words of glory”—they are a traditional expression of praise to God.)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

++ Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Holy God, you are no longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but you are alive, saving and healing, here and now. You do not always give us answers to our questions, but you are ever-present and ever-attentive to our hearts. You have conquered death and made all things new. We dedicate ourselves again to following you. We vow to live confidently in your life-giving power. As you have given yourself to us, we offer ourselves to one another in affection and attention. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++ Hymn 246

“Christ is Alive!”

Truro

++ Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary (A musical prayer offered on behalf of the people of God.)

“Prelude in G Major”

J. S. Bach

from Eight Little Preludes and Fugues

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

8:30a & 11:00a

EASTERTIDE WORSHIP

May 6—The Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Length and Height and Depth

Rev. Jen Porter preaching

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Music: Maria Schoon and Lauren Fuller, Sopranos at 8:30a
Chapel Ringers, Kirk Singer Seniors, and Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a

May 13—The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Can These Bones Live?

Rev. Jeremy Bork preaching

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Music: Helen Hofmeister, Harpsichord at 8:30a
Sanctuary Choir and Harpsichord at 11:00a

COMING UP IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 6, 9:40 -10:40 A.M.

IN THE CHAPEL: Panel Discussion with our Standing Together Interfaith Partners

Join us in welcoming our friends from Temple Emanuel, Masjid At-Tawheed, and Trinity Lutheran Church as they share their personal experience within their faith tradition—answering questions on faith, community, holidays, food, and TV shows. After the discussion, our partners have graciously offered to greet our members at the beginning of the 11:00a service.

IN THE FOOD PANTRY (DOWNSTAIRS): LECTIO DIVINA

We will continue offering the opportunity to experience the practice of *Lectio Divina* through the end of the program year. Now is your chance to join us in the ancient, participatory practice of reading, reflecting, and responding to Holy Scripture, praying as if in a conversation with God.

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Betty & Mike Epperly Martha Sorenson &
Malorie & Scott Ninemeier Brent Velting
Marika & Nathan Patterson Susan Williams
Jan & Lew Schoon

There will be a receiving line for our new members in the Gathering Place following today's 11:00a service.

Welcome to Westminster

If you are new to Westminster, this information may help you get oriented.

First of all, if you have any questions, please feel free to talk to any of the ushers or greeters or staff members. It's a pretty big church and not always easy to find your way around.

- Worship bags (younger children) and worship folders (older children) are available on the bookshelf in the narthex, and contain age-appropriate materials to help children engage with what they're seeing and doing.
- LARGE print bulletins—much easier on the eyes.
- Hearing devices are also available, as well as:
- T-loop hearing assistance: set your hearing aid to "T"
- More about **children**: We intend to be welcoming to all children. *Please let us know how we are doing.* Contact Nancy Greidanus—nancyg@wpcgr.org.
 - o All children are welcome to stay throughout the entire worship service. OR:
 - o **Nursery rooms** are located down the hall to the right of the Parlor, which is in the northeast corner of the Gathering Place. Nursery care is available from 8:15a - 12:30p (or 15 minutes after the conclusion of worship).
 - o **Nurturing Centers**: Children ages 3 and 4 may leave the service after the time of Blessings for stories, songs, and free play.
 - o **Worship Centers**: Children 4 years through second grade may also leave at the time of the Blessings to complete their worship in an interactive setting.
- **Coffee Hour**: Absolutely everyone is welcome, even if coffee is not your cup of tea!

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher..... Rev. Chandler Stokes, Senior Pastor Head of Staff
Liturgists Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership
..... Kathy Speeter, Elder for Membership Growth & Development
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Assoc. Pastor for Faith Formation & Pastoral Care

Chapel Host..... Suzan Bylsma

Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister

Music for Worship

8:30a - Josh Leckrone, Baritone
11:00a - Cantus Choir
Kees Duncan, Percussion
Cara Hyink, Cantus Choir Director
Sanctuary Choir
Janlee Richter, Accompanist

USHERS - Team A

8:30 am: Mary Dirkse, Michael Van Til, Lou Vander Have, Chuck Wylie
11:00 am: Bill Baguley, Rick and Susan Bylsma, Matt Bylsma, Philip Gibson,
Tom Kormos, Jeanne Marshall, Michael Marshall, Peter Persons,
Bill and Carole Warren

GREETERS

8:30 am: Atrium..... Cheryl and Steve Wonch
Narthex Sue and John Porter

11:00 am: Atrium..... Leza Moerland
E. Narthex..... Cheryl Bremer
W. Narthex Betty Webber

NURSERY

8:30 & 11:00 am: Staff
11:00 am: Volunteer..... Dan Prince

WORSHIP CENTER

8:30 am: - Parable

Leader Jane French

Center 1 - 11:00 am: - (5-year olds & Kndg.) - Parable

Leader Katie Prince

Greeter Nadia Schoon

Center 2 - 11:00 am: - (1st & 2nd graders) - Parable

Leader Jen Kotchenruther

Greeter Karsten Kotchenruther

NURTURING CENTER - 11:00am: - A Prayer for Peter

Leader Carla Fortuna

Greeter Jennifer Baguley

Please remember in your prayers this week...

Congratulations to the Heinonen family! Berkleigh Mauve was born on April 19 to parents Jeremy and McKensay. She is also little sister to Geonna, Graison, and Xaidon. Blessings to all!

Prayers of gratitude for our new members that are joining Westminster this morning. Welcome and we offer our support and presence as they continue to find ways to connect and grow in their faith.

Prayers for strength and healing for Kathy and Bernie Smith as Kathy recovers at home post surgery.

DEVOTION FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 29-

Creator God, at the start of this New Year, when thoughts turn again to beginnings, starting afresh, new leaves and turning skeletons free from cupboards, be with us as we gaze into the distance of fresh mission grounds, of hopes and dreams, opportunities for service, challenges and uncertainties. Take our fears and turn them into strengths. Take our lack of faith and empower us, through the Spirit who breathes life into this world, whose presence is reflected in the icy chill of winter's breath, as well as the comforting warmth of a summer breeze. Walk with us into this New Year of opportunity.

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WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SEASON OF EASTER

THE GREAT STORM IS OVER



Job and Intimacy

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

APRIL 29, 2018
11:00 A.M.