



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

2 April 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Fanfare

Arthur Bliss

*Ringing of the Bell

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*Call to Worship

Leader:

Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

People:

Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!

Leader:

Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!

People:

Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!

Leader:

Blessed is Jesus Christ who did not turn backward.

All:

Hosanna! All glory, laud, and honor to the One who comes in God's name!

*Processional Hymn 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

*Lenten Candle Service

We begin Holy Week with our children processing and waving palm leaves to commemorate the triumphant entry of Christ when he traveled the Via Dolorosa. As we extinguish the sixth Lenten candle, we remember Christ's resilience and courage on his journey home.

Let us pray: Holy and Gracious God, give each of us the courage to journey home with confidence and the grace to be generous with one another along the way. May we follow the path of our Savior and may our lives shout with glory, laud, and honor to our Redeemer King. Amen.

Anthems

Westminster Children's Choir and Choristers

Hosanna
Sing Hosanna
Little Donkey

Children's Sermon

*Congregational Response

Create in Me a Clean Heart

John Carter

**Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Students in preschool – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school class following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Pew Bible, NT page 23

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Pew Bible, NT page 23

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Branch Extended

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road."

Matthew 21:8

Anthem

Sanctus

Charles Gounod

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest!

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

*Prayer of Welcome

We, as a church of Jesus Christ, lovingly receive you to our communion. We welcome you to this fellowship with us, in the blessings of the gospel, and we promise to treat you with Christian affection, to watch over you with tenderness, and to offer our prayers on your behalf.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn**

We All Are One in Mission *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*

We are all one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

The Church at Prayer

Choir: Surely the presence of our God is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

**Prayers of the People
and The Lord's Prayer**

**The Presentation
of our Gifts**

*At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass
the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.*

Offertory

O, Divine Redeemer

Charles Gounod

Ah! Turn me not away, receive me, though unworthy.
Hear thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress.
Answer me from thy throne; haste thee, Lord, to mine aid.

Thy pity show in my deep anguish! Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, though righteous thin anger, O Lord. Shield me in danger, O regard me. On thee, Lord, alone will I call. O Divine Redeemer! I pray thee, grant me pardon and remember not my sin. Forgive me. Night gathers 'round my soul; fearful, I cry to thee! Come to mine aid, O Lord. Haste thee, Lord, haste to help me. Hear my cry! Save me, Lord, in thy mercy. Come and save me, O Lord. O Divine Redeemer. Have mercy. Help me, my Savior. Amen.

***Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

***One Great Hour
of Sharing Dedication**

Pastor:

O God, you have called us through One Great Hour of Sharing to go into all the world to proclaim the good news.

People:

Send us forth, O God, with your mercy and kindness.

Pastor:

May the branch extended in these gifts lead to great feasting for those who have no banquets set before them.

People:

Send us forth, O God, with your truth and steadfast love.

Pastor:

May the branch extended in these gifts build shelters and places of prayer for those who are homeless.

People:

Send us forth, O God, with your integrity.

Pastor:

May the branch extended in these gifts proclaim your desire that all your creation live in peace.

People:

Give us grateful hearts, O God.

***Hymn 93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response

Forth in Thy Name

Orlando Gibbons

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go.

My daily labor to pursue:

Thee, only thee, resolved to know,

In all I think, or speak, or do.

***Voluntary**

Maestoso

Enrico Bossi

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

IN MEMORIAM

David Coontz 06/24/1939– 03/28/2023
United with Westminster 10/11/2009

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Hazel “June” Flood 06/30/1921 –03/31/2023
United with Westminster 12/05/1954

HOLY WEEK ART DISPLAY

April 2-9 in Parish Hall

Artwork depicting the Passion of Christ will be displayed in Parish Hall. Through the eyes of renowned artists, we will witness Christ’s entry into Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week leading to His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Westminster’s Labyrinth will be displayed in Parish Hall beginning Wednesday of Holy Week for those who would like to practice this discipline of prayer.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, APRIL 6

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Christian K. Choi will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing “Lamb of God” by Twila Paris, and “They Crucified My Lord,” a spiritual with Michael Morthland, bassoon. This service will include the solemn stripping of the Chancel accompanied by the “Adagio for Strings” of Samuel Barber and the seven words of Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach, and the Westminster Choir will be joined by members of the Millikin Brass in Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” and “Alleluia! For Christ the Lord is Risen” of Bach and other festive music for Easter Day. The Chancel will be filled with the cross of lilies, a cherished tradition at Westminster.

Easter Egg Hunt in Parish Hall follows 10:00 a.m. Worship.



DEACONS BRING LILIES to members who are shut-in and who have lost loved ones since Christmas as we find comfort and strength in our Risen Lord.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Lenten Candle Service:** Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell representing the Youth Mission Trip Trivia Night Fundraiser
- **Greeters:** Judy and Harvey Stephens
- **Acolytes:** Tara Barnett and Kate Bryans
- **Fish Basket Carriers:** Aerwyna Eastvold and Braden Barton
- **Ushers:** Jim Parker (Head Usher), Sophia Choi, Kathy Kenyon, Erin Ekstedt, Keith Hamilton, Susan Shaw, Bob Stuart, Jess Weitzel
- **Music:** Westminster Children's Choir, Westminster Choristers, Westminster Choir, Adam Miller, tenor; Dale T. Rogers, organist
- **Safety Team:** Jim Dolan, John Stafford
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m. Special Session Meeting (Library)** Session will receive new members.
- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week: "We remember that Jesus Dies" *Caregivers: Leigh Milward and Caroline Haynor*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Children Kindergarten – Grade 7 begin in worship with their families & leave during the Congregational Response for:
 - **Sunday School (Third Floor Chapel)** Kindergarten – Grade 5 The story is "Heading to Easter." (Matthew 26:14-27:66) *Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Parish Nurse Ministry (Church Office)** Marilyn Rigney provides blood pressure checks.
 - **Confirmation Class (Conference Room)** Presbyterian History and Writing Statements of Faith and Confirmation *Teachers: Dr. Kieffer and Mary Ray*
 - **Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** "Reflections on Historic Sanctuaries and Holy Places." Dale Rogers will present churches designed by Ralph Adams Cram.
 - **Refugee Support Mission Subcommittee (Library)**

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE has prepared a cart including books on Women's History as well as books on Lent and Easter from both our Adult and Children's libraries in the West Narthex which are available for checkout. Please plan to stop by to peruse the books and resources.

WI-FI HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM is available in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with instructions to install the app for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids, lanyards, and hearing amplifier packets for those with regular hearing aids, hearing amplifier packets and disposable earbuds for those without hearing aids. Please return the lanyards and hearing amplifier packets at the end of worship. For assistance, ask an usher.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew.

NEW MEMBERS were received this morning at a Special Session meeting. We welcome:

***Kathryn Moore Black** by Reaffirmation of Faith. Her sponsor is Eleanor VanDeventer.*

***Joyce A. King** by Reaffirmation of faith. Her sponsor is Sandy Bellatti.*

***Mary Offutt Halley** by Reaffirmation of faith. Her sponsor is Mary Ray.*

***Melissa M. and Erik S. Hostetter** by Letter of Transfer from Laurel United Methodist Church. Their sponsors are Christie and Robyn Hovey.*

***Angela and Todd Lafrenz** by Letter of Transfer from Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church, Springfield. Their sponsors are Judy and Todd Knox.*

***Mary H. Maddox** by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Springfield. Her sponsor is Marci Irvine.*

***Joyce Ann Matthews** by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Witt, IL. Her sponsor is Marci Irvine.*

***The Rev. Frank Gready**, an ordained Presbyterian Minister and member of Wabash Valley Presbytery, is making Westminster his worshipping community.*

PALM SUNDAY IS THE CULMINATION OF THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING!

Our children and youth lead us in the Palm Sunday Procession during 10:00 a.m. worship and present their fish boxes. These gifts support hunger programs and disaster assistance administered by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Envelopes are in the pew pockets. The center pews are lined with some of the 81 coats donated for Contact Ministries. **THE EASTER MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS** donations and wording for the Easter bulletin are due today.

THE STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT BLITZ WEEK was a wonderful success. Following the Blitz Week, professionals will install roofing, siding, soffit, fascia, and mechanical during the first two weeks of April. Following the City Inspection on April 19, insulation will be installed by professionals. *The next scheduled work opportunity for ministry partners are April 21-22, 28-29, and May 5-6 to hang drywall on-site and paint exterior doors and baseboards at Habitat.*

EARTH AWARENESS FAIR is Saturday, April 22 at Henson Robinson Zoo. Westminster is collecting clean used T-shirts and socks until mid-April so children can repurpose them into dog toys and puppets at our "Toys from Trash" exhibit. Bin is near South Door in West Narthex.

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER on **Sunday, April 30** Doors open at **5:00 P.M.** Questions begin at 5:30 p.m. This year we are excited to welcome Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell who will create and present the questions. Sign-up yourself or your team online by scanning the QR code or using the link at <https://bit.ly/3lxTdYv>.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOOD TRUCK PARTY June 5-9 from 9 a.m. to noon, children age 4 to age 11 are invited to get on a roll with God as a parade of Food Trucks rolls into their neighborhood for the summer's biggest party! Youth in junior high and high school may sign up to serve on the leadership team. Register by scanning the QR Code or using the link <https://westminster.mycokesburyvbs.com/>



WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, April 3

Holy Week Art Display
9:00 AM Garden Club of Springfield (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, April 4

Holy Week Art Display
Election Day Voting (Parish Hall)
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Music Room)

Wednesday, April 5

Holy Week Art Display and Labyrinth
10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Library)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
4:00 PM Bridges Holy Week gathering with guests
5:30 PM Mission & Community Service (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:30 p.m. Session Coordinating Committee (Pastor's Study)

Thursday, April 6

Holy Week Art Display and Labyrinth
2:00 PM Memory Loss Graduate Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Personnel Committee (Pastor's Study)
6:30 PM Westminster Choir (Music Room)
7:00 PM Maundy Thursday (Sanctuary)

Friday, April 7

Holy Week Art Display and Labyrinth

Saturday, April 8

Holy Week Art Display and Labyrinth
9:30 AM Worship Music & Arts committee cleans Chancel
and arranges lilies (Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday
Holy Week Art Display and Labyrinth
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Chapel)
11:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt following Worship

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts

Mary Ray
Interim Director for Youth

Karen Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

Leigh Milward
Nursery Coordinator

Caroline Haynor
Nursery Worker

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Director

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert
Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians