



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sacrament of Communion
12 July 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Gerre Hancock

***Ringing of the Bell** *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

***Call to Worship** Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.
*They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.*
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
*in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.*
Come, let us be gathered in
and worship with reverence and joy!

***Hymn 401** Gather Us In

Here in this place new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
we are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history;
Called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;
Here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters;
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well and teach us to fashion;
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

***Prayer of Confession** We confess, Loving God, that it is so easy to blame others for the scarcity of our harvest. We say we got in with the wrong crowd –the thistles around us. We blame it on the poor example of our parents – the ground beneath us. We attribute it to the circumstances within our lives – the sun above us. Help us, God of holiness, to take full responsibility for our own actions, and then to take positive initiation within our lives to be better than we are. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

***Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading Psalm 119:105-112
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.
I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.
I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.
The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.
Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.
I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end. Amen.

Music All Good Gifts Stephen Schwartz
We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land
But it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand.
God sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.
All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all God’s love.
We thank you, then, creator, for all things bright and good:
The seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,
But that which you desire now: our humble, thankful hearts.

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they

did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears^[a] listen!”

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.^[a] ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Opportunities in Growth

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: Let anyone with ears listen!” Matthew 13:9

Introduction to the Offering

*Offertory Response

Doxology

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Let us lift our hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God.

Let us pray. It is our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.... Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine....

Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Words of Institution

Music at the Communion Love Ye the Lord George Frederick Handel

Love ye the Lord, for his great mercy and loving kindness to all the saints.
Call ye upon him, he will deliver your souls and give you peace.
God will deliver you from all doubt and from all fear and give you peace.

***Prayer after Communion** Holy and loving God, may we who have received this sacrament live productive and kind lives that abound and grow in your mercy. May the seed of your Word find good soil in each of us who has ears to listen. Accept the gifts of our lives and our labors as we seek to sow the wonders, the truth, and the love of your kingdom in our world today. These things we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

***Hymn 36** For the Fruit of All Creation *Ar Hyd y Nos*

For the fruit(s) of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** March for St. Cecilia's Day George Frederick Handel

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts
Diane Dietz, Soprano Lyle VanDeventer, Bass
Bob Fox, Videographer Elsie Fox, Director
Ted Babcock, Virginia Dolan, and Mike Nenaber, Ushers
Mary Ray, Safety Team