



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Transfiguration of the Lord
19 February 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Matins

Healey Willan

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Leader:

The glory of God transfigures the everyday.

People:

The light of God transfigures familiar faces.

Leader:

At the heights of our worship, may God's presence shine through the commonplace

People:

At the depths of our struggle, may God's presence give us courage and peace.

Leader:

May God's light, shining in the face of Christ, illumine all our days.

***Processional Hymn 190**

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

Geneva

***Prayer of Confession**

Through clouds of wonderment, of uncertainty, of anxiety, still we hear your voice, O God, proclaiming the presence of Christ in our lives. We confess that we have not always opened our hearts to receive the gift of your presence or to seek out the thin places. We hold tightly to ways and perspectives that are familiar. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

***Response of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, Back Cover

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
**I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Houston

Students in preschool – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school class and Grades 6-7 will go to Confirmation following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading

Exodus 24:12-18

Pew Bible, OT page 70

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

Pew Bible, NT page 18-19

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Thin Places

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" Matthew 17:5

Anthem

The Radiant Light of God

Dale Thomas Rogers

Almighty God, you are great indeed, clothed in majesty and splendor, wrapped in light as a glistening robe. In the solitude of a mountain height, you revealed your glory, Jesus Christ; even as he faced his crucifixion. For this glimpse of the mystery of our redemption we praise you. Transfigure us by your spirit; Let your love shine in all that we do and say, that all may see the radiant light of God.

***Affirmation of Faith**

2 Peter 1:16-20

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For Jesus received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with Jesus on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. Amen.

The Church at Prayer

Choir:

Surely the presence of our God is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's 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

Preamble

Louis Vierne

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

*Prayer of Dedication

God of mountaintops and valleys, thank you for meeting us in the thin places. We faithfully add our gifts to those being given all around us. Bless these offerings that they may be transfigured into your presence in the world. Amen.

*Hymn 192

Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining

Shine, Jesus, Shine

*Closing Response

Day by Day

Harold Friedell

Day by day, dear Lord, three things I pray: to see thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day.

*Charge and Benediction

*Voluntary

With Trumpets, Drums, and Cymbals

Sigfried Karg-Elert

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Worship Leader:** Braden Barton
- **Acolytes:** Juliet Boutelle and Juliana Eastvold
- **Greeters:** Sara and David Eldridge
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher) Chris Hickman, Mary King, Richard Leary, Camille Massey, Coleman Moore, Jim Rigney, Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney and Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Habitat for Humanity Orientation and Training (Parish Hall)**
- **9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Earth Care Team (Library)**
- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week: “Jesus Feeds a Crowd” *Caregivers: Meg Kontio, 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 “Listen.” Teachers: Kate Morthland and Sophia Choi
 - **6th & 7th Grade Confirmation (Third Floor Tower Room)** The lesson is “Rising Tension” of the *Echo the Story* curriculum. Teachers: Cara Barnett and Meridith Bryans
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **8th Grade Confirmation (Conference Room)** Lesson: Who is Your Savior and PCUSA. Led by Rev. Christian K. Choi
 - **Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** presents “**Unraveling Roe: A complicated Rise and Fall** The third of three sessions on the topic, the forum will explain the legal, political, and societal foundations of the rise and fall of Roe vs. Wade. Led by Kate and Michael Morthland

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE has prepared a cart including books on Black History 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. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - The youth raised **\$652** which will be distributed between Kumler Outreach Ministries and Grace Lutheran Church food pantries.

2022 PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE - Those members who had their photo taken or submitted a photo may pick up their free copy of the Pictorial Director after the service today at the designated table in the West Narthex. The cost of submitting a photo is \$15 for those who have not yet paid. Those who are not photographed may purchase a directory for \$15.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets **Tuesday, February 21 at 9:30 a.m.** in Ziegler Library. Sharon Turner will be the hostess and Betsy Ruklick will lead Lesson Six: Sabbath and Hospitality.

HUNGER ACTION TEAM prepares a meal on Wednesday for the Salvation Army Warming Center.

WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA Members & friends of Westminster will gather Thursday, February 23 with the Pastors and the Director of Music and the Arts. Communion is at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 12 noon.

THE APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets Tuesday, February 28 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss January's book, Sonorous Desert: What Deep Listening Taught Early Christian Monks - and What it Can Teach Us by Kim Haines-Eitzen. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Marilyn Rigney's home (3801 Indian Lands Ln, 62711). Kathy Germeraad will lead Lesson Six: Sabbath and Hospitality.

PW LUNCHEON will be Friday, March 3 at 12 noon. The program will be presented by the Westminster Archivists, Sue Cull and Carol Bloemer. Ann Collins will be the kitchen chair. Nancy Scott is the chair of the day. Please R.S.V.P. on our website or by calling the church office.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP for Children and Youth meets **Wednesday, March 8, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.** at Grace United Methodist Church (1612 E. Capitol Ave). Our theme is "The Earth We Share." Parents and children are welcome to drive directly if your child needs transportation, please email Karen Sherrick at ksherrick@wpcspi.org.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS - Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, March 12 and 19, 11:15 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 26, following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.



THE 2023 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT BUILD -The Kickoff will be Tuesday, March 21, 5:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. The Blitz Week is tentatively scheduled for March 27–April 1. Those who would like to participate as ministry partners must register at habitatsangamon.volunteerhub.com and attend **one session** of Orientation and Training. Please sign up and plan to attend!

Habitat (2744 S. 6th Street) will host sessions:
Tuesday, February 21 – 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 7 – 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

THEME: THE EMPTY POT

5:45 p.m. Chicken Alfredo and Caesar Salad Dinner in Parish Hall

6:30 p.m. Communion Worship Service in Sanctuary

We begin our Lenten Journey with dinner followed by a family centered worship service including:

Liturgy:

Bridges Children

Special Music:

Children's Choir and Choristers

Meditation:

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Imposition of Ashes

Holy Communion by Intinction

Each person will receive the gift of a small clay pot.

This year's meditation will include the children's book **The Empty Pot** and a small clay pot will be given to worshippers as a reminder of our humanity.

Daily Lenten Devotional

A word and a prayer will be emailed each morning during Lent.

The book, 40 Days, 40 Words, 40 Prayers: Lenten Reflections for Everyday Life written by former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, will be highlighted on our journey.

Family Lenten Devotional Bags

Additionally, each Westminster family received a Lenten Devotional Bag which includes a word for each day. Families are invited to discuss the meaning of each word before meals or as a part of bedtime prayers.

Lenten Candle Service

Westminster's Sunday worship service will begin with a Lenten Candle Service woven into the Call to Worship. Rather than light a candle each Sunday as we do in Advent, a candle will be extinguished each Sunday of Lent to commemorate Christ's journey toward the cross. The symbolism of these liturgies will add meaning to our worship as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

Lenten Giving:

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** denominational offering will be received to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and empower the poor and oppressed.

The **Lenten Coat Drive Box** is located in the West Narthex for our annual collection of new or gently-used coats. These coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday, April 2 and then be donated to Contact Ministries.

WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, February 20

Church Office Closed for President's Day

Tuesday, February 21

- 9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
- 3:00 PM Compass for Kids
- 4:45 PM I.T. Committee (Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM Family Ministry Committee (Conference Room)
- 7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters Rehearsal (Off-site)

Wednesday, February 22

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Library)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM Warming Center Meal (Kitchen)
- 4:00 PM Property Meeting (Second Floor Classroom)
- 4:45 PM Choristers (Music Room)
- 5:45 PM Ash Wednesday Dinner (Parish Hall)
- 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Worship (Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 23

- 11:30 AM Concordia Worship & Luncheon (Concordia)
- 5:00 PM Children of Abraham Leadership (Off-Site)
- 7:30 PM Choir (Parish Hall)

Friday, February 24

Saturday, February 25

- 9:00 AM Presbytery Meeting
(First Presbyterian in Normal, IL)
- 11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 6:00 PM Preschool Trivia Night (Off-Site)

Sunday, February 26

- 8:45 AM Congregational Care Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Chapel)
- 10:15 AM Confirmation for 6-7th Grade (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Confirmation for 8th Grade (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
- 1:00 PM Piano Festival
- 5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Youth Room)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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<http://www.wpcspi.org>

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
Eddie Hubbard, Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians