



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
First Sunday of Lent
26 February 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Kyrie Eleison

Jean Langlais

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Leader:

The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

People:

The journey begins in the wilderness.

Leader:

We follow the way of Jesus,
who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

People:

Like Jesus, we are not alone.

The Holy Spirit is with us. God's word is on our lips.

Leader:

Our call is to trust God and every word that comes
from God's mouth for we shall not live by bread alone.

People:

Thanks be to God!

***Lenten Candle Service**

As we extinguish the first Lenten candle and begin our journey into the wilderness with Christ, we remember the loving presence of God's spirit and the words given to Christ in a time of temptation. May God give us that same strength and grace when we face temptation to be less than our best self. Let us pray:

Holy and loving God, in you we live and move and have our being. Everything we have comes from you, every breath, every moment, every relationship, every provision. May your Word sustain us and nourish us along our way. Amen.

***Processional Hymn 166** Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days *St. Flavian*

***Prayer of Confession** Loving God, forgive us when we fail to trust in you, when we are swayed by false words or when we speak false words. Holy God, forgive us when we pray for easy lives rather than for your powers to equal the tasks before us. Forgive us when we fall short of living our best lives. 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 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 and Grades 6-7 will go to Confirmation following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Pew Bible, OT page 2

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Pew Bible, NT page 3

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

Sermon

Subversive Serpents

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden' Genesis 3:1

Anthem

Out of the Depths

David L. Mitchell

Out of the depths I cry unto thee, O Lord. Lord God, hear my voice! Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my crying. If thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee that thou may be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word do I hope; My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for morning. Hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love. With God is full redemption. God will redeem us from all our sins.

Psalm 130

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Brief Statement of Faith (Part I)

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil,

delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

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.*

*Prayer of Dedication

**Holy and loving God, give us the wisdom to discern the
subversive voices along the way that we may know
your voice and discover our own. Accept these gifts
given in gratitude for who you are and who you call us to
become. Amen.**

Offertory

Sonata II: Adagio

Felix Mendelssohn

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

*Hymn 440

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Aberystwyth

*Charge and Benediction

*Closing Response

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Melchior Vulpius

Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion.
Let your spirit now endow me for meditation.
Grant the I in love and faith may the image cherish
Of your suffering, pain, and death, that I may not perish.

*Voluntary

Kyrie! Lord God of Eternity

Johann Sebastian Bach

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel flowers** are given in loving memory and with deep gratitude for the life of Heather Anne Huitt by Robert, Julie, Brian, and Sarah Blythe.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** The Rev. Christian Choi
- **Lenten Candle Service:** Kristianna Eastvold and Julie McDonough from Board of Deacons
- **Acolytes:** Taryn Barnett and Kate Bryans
- **Greeters:** Diane Rutledge
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Eleanor VanDeventer, Soprano, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher) Kristianna Eastvold, Keith Hamilton, Chris Hickman, Richard Leary, Camille Massey, Jim Rigney, Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** Rich Canady
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Congregational Care Committee (Pastor’s Study)**
- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week: “Jesus the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11-18) *Caregivers: Leigh Milward, 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 “Knowledge Wanted.” (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7) *Teachers: Karen Sherrick and Julie Robbs*
 - **6th & 7th Grade Confirmation (Conference Room)** The lesson is “New Promise” from the *Echo the Story* curriculum. *Teachers: Mary Ray and Joe Fierstos*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **8th Grade Confirmation (Conference Room)** Lesson: “Will You Devote Yourself to the Prayers?” *Led by Rev. Christian K. Choi*
 - **Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** presents “Reflections on Historic Sanctuaries and Holy Places.” Dale Rogers will lead us on an exploration of Early Christian Churches. This is the first in a series of six presentations in which we will rediscover historic sanctuaries.
- **1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The National Federation of Music Clubs, Inc. Piano Festival (Church-wide)** Westminster has hosted this festival for many years.
- **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth (Youth Room)** Senior High Youth will gather for dinner, a lesson on discipleship. There will also be a discussion on the 2023 mission trip and paperwork will be available for participants to complete *Led by Rev. Choi, Mary Ray, Susan Day, and Michael Morthland. Dinner will be provided by Julie Barton.*

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.

WI-FI HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM is available in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with instructions. Please return the lanyards and hearing amplifier packets at the end of worship. For assistance, ask an usher.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS - Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, March 12 and 19, 8:45 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on Palm Sunday, April 5, following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

ADULT ED FORUM introduces a new class today: "Reflections on Historic Sanctuaries and Holy Places" This adult forum meets Sundays, February 26–April 2, 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon in Parish Hall. Each week we will rediscover historic sanctuaries, beginning with Early Christian Churches, Churches in Germany, Spain, Scotland, England, and Churches designed by Ralph Adams Cram. Dale Rogers introduces this 6-week series this morning with an exploration of Early Christian Churches.

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.

REV. JIMMIE HAWKINS' BOOK UNBOWED AND UNBROKEN is available this morning in the Church Office for those who ordered a signed copy. Please write your \$30 check to Rev. Hawkins and place in the envelope next to the books on the table.

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.

THE 2023 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT BUILD The Kickoff will be Tuesday, March 21, 5:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. The Blitz Week is on track for March 27–April 1. **Those who would like to participate as ministry partners must register at habitatsangamon.volunteerhub.com and attend one Training Session** either on Tuesday, March 7, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Habitat for Humanity (2744 S. 6th St.) or Sunday, March 12, 8:45 – 9:45 p.m. in Parish Hall. Those who would like to financially support this endeavor are invited to write a check to Habitat for Humanity. Habitat's address is 2744 S. 6th Street, 62703. You can also donate on their website at <https://www.habitatsangamon.com/donate>. Please designate the donation to the 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build. The Kick-Off program will acknowledge and thank those who contribute.



LENTEN JOURNEY AT WESTMINSTER

Lenten Candle Service

Westminster's Sunday worship service begins 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.

Daily Lenten Devotional

A word and a prayer is being 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.

Lenten Giving

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** denominational offering collected during Lent provides relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and empowerment 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.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 2

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach. During the 10:00 a.m. worship service, Sunday school children and youth will lead us in the processional with palms and their One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes. The center aisle pews will be lined with donated coats. The Westminster Children's Choir and Choristers will sing and the Westminster Choir will sing "O Divine Redeemer" of Gounod and "Let the Same Mind Be in You" by Thomas Pavlechka.

The Passion of Christ 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 during 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 "He Never Said a Mumbling Word," 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.

WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, February 27

9:30 AM King's Daughters Board Meeting (Off-site)

Tuesday, February 28

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters

Wednesday, March 1

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Library)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
12:30 PM Reporter (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Bridges (Kitchen)
4:15 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Pastor's Study)
5:00 PM Choristers (Music Room)
5:30 PM Mission & Community Service (3rd Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM Ruth & Naomi Circle (Off-site)

Thursday, March 2

2:00 PM Memory Loss Graduate Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:30 PM Westminster Choir (Music Room)

Friday, March 3

11:00 AM PW Board Meeting (Conference Room)
12:00 PM PW Luncheon (Parish Hall)

Saturday, March 4

11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)
11:00 AM International Women's Day Event (Parish Hall)

Sunday, March 5

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)
2:00 PM International Women's India Presentation
(Parish Hall)

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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