



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sacrament of Baptism
Second Sunday of Lent
05 March 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Cantilena

Joseph Rheinberger

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 121

Leader:

We lift up our eyes to the hills –
from where will our help come?

People:

**Our help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Leader:

The Lord is our keeper;
the Lord is our shade at our right hand.

People:

**The Lord will keep our going out and our coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

Leader:

Come, let us worship God together.

Lenten Candle Service

As we extinguish the second Lenten candle and continue our journey toward Holy Week, we remember with grateful hearts Christ's journey to the cross as the pioneer of our faith. We seek that same strength on the paths of the journeys we travel. Let us pray:

Holy and loving Christ, thank you for refusing to give up on us and on the world. You gave up your very life for our sake, pouring yourself out completely so that even the cross could be transformed into a means of life and grace. Sustain and empower us to run our race of faith with the same spirit and resilience that we may be part of the great cloud of witnesses. Amen

***Processional Hymn 49**

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, forgive us when we doubt, when we lose hope in your promises. Holy God, remind us of your steadfast presence in our baptismal journey as well as times of rescue when we prayed for help in our low valleys. Help us to grow in trusting you in every circumstance and lean on your everlasting love. 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

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptismal Response

Waterlife

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
When you hear the wonder of the Word,
I'll be there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.
I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.

During the response 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 12:1-4a Pew Bible, OT page 10

Second Scripture Reading John 3:1-17 Pew Bible, NT page 93-94
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon God Will Come and Save Rev. Christian K. Choi
Jesus answers, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."
John 3:5

Anthem O, My God, Bestow Thy Tender Mercy Giovanni Pergolesi
O, my God, bestow thy tender mercy. Blot out my transgressions: cleanse my sin. O God, bestow thy tender love. Restore me, forgive me, uphold me from all my sins. Hide thy face from my sin. Hear thou my prayer. Cast me not away. Take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Open thou my lips, my mouth shall show forth thy praise. Psalm 51

***Affirmation of Faith** The Westminster Confession of Faith, 6.079
By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God speaking therein; and acteth differently, upon that which each particular passage thereof containeth; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are, accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

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

Voluntary in c-minor

Maurice Greene

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, along with these gifts, we dedicate
ourselves in deep gratitude – for rescuing us from our
humanity, for your call in our lives, and your continual
guidance. Use us and our gifts for your blessings to be
shared with all. Amen.

*Hymn 684

Faith Begins by Letting Go

Lux Prima

*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

Concerto in b-minor

Johann Walther

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in memory of Bill Schnirring's birthday with love from his family.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
- **Lenten Candle Service:** Emily Brower and Krista Steller who are representing the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee
- **Acolytes:** Maria DeJong and Maria Lafrenz
- **Greeters:** Judy and Harvey Stephens
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Mervice Alah Abung, Terry Haynor, Melanie Humphrey, Mary King, Julie McDonough, John McNutt, Bruce Strom
- **Safety Team:** Jim Dolan and Brad Steller
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **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 “God calls Abram and Sarai” (Genesis 12:1-4a) *Teachers: Sophia Choi and Cathy Brower*
 - **6th & 7th Grade Confirmation (Conference Room)** The lesson is “Death to Life” from the *Echo the Story* curriculum. *Teachers: Meridith Bryans and Cara Barnett*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **8th Grade Confirmation (Conference Room)** Lesson: “Church History?” *Led by Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer and Dr. Peter Kieffer*
 - **Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** presents “Reflections on Historic Sanctuaries and Holy Places” Rev. Choi will lead us on an exploration of churches in Germany. This is the second in a series of six presentations in which we will rediscover historic sanctuaries.
- **2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Together Women Rise (Parish Hall)** presented in honor of International Women’s Day by Mary Caroline Mitchell and Sandy Bellatti.

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.

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.

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM is celebrated today as Maggie and Joshua Pinke present their son Arthur James. *The assisting elder is Dr. Scott Day and representing our children is Diana Choi.*

REFLECTIONS ON HISTORIC SANCTUARIES AND HOLY PLACES – Today's adult ed forum features the St. Thomas Church (Thomaskirche) of Leipzig and All Saints' Church (Scholsskirche) of Wittenberg in Germany and is presented by Christian Choi. Future presentations include:

March 12: Blythe and Peter Kieffer present La Sagrada Familia Cathedral in Barcelona and Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba, Spain. March 19: Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer present St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Dunfermline Abbey and St. Andrews Cathedral in Fife, Old High St. Stephens Presbyterian Church in Inverness, and Iona Abbey in Isle of Iona, Scotland. March 26: Katie and Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold present Lindisfarne and Wells Cathedrals in England. April 2: Dale Rogers presents a series of churches designed by Ralph Adams Cram.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - Today at 2:00 p.m. Sandy Bellatti and Mary Caroline Mitchell present a program on their recent trip to northern India with members of the organization, Together Women Rise. They will highlight the four organizations they visited that empower women and girls as well as show photos of some of the cultural attractions that they visited. Westminster member Millie McNutt, a native of Jaipur, India will join them. Chai and Girl Scout Cookies will be served, and Westminster Scout Macklin Metzger will be selling cookies. All are welcome.

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.

TEACH THE
CHILDREN
SO IT WILL
NOT BE
NECESSARY
TO TEACH
THE ADULTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST Members will gather on **Thursday, March 9** at 8:00 a.m. in 3rd Floor Classroom. John Stremsterfer, President and CEO of Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln will be the speaker. Mike Shaw will provide breakfast and Scott Day will give devotions. RSVP with the weekly email link, on our website, or by calling the church office.



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. You can donate on their website at <https://www.habitatsangamon.com/donate>, designating the donation to the 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build. The Kick-Off program will acknowledge and thank those who contribute.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets **Monday, March 13** at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Lynn McMenamin will lead devotions and Mary King will lead Lesson Seven: Sabbath and Self-Care.

BILL STEIN, ORGANIST will present a recital at Westminster on **Sunday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m.** His program will feature organ music by four young women composers in addition to works of Bach, Creston, Peeters, and Locklair. Bill is the Director of Music Ministries at the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, Missouri and a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan and Northwestern Universities.

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, March 6

9:00 AM Garden Club Meeting (Off-site)

Tuesday, March 7

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids

Wednesday, March 8

8:00 AM King's Daughters Board Meeting (Parish Hall)
10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Library)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
4:15 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:30 PM Board of Deacons (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:15 PM Session Coordinating (Pastor's Study)

Thursday, March 9

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:30 PM Westminster Choir (Music Room)

Friday, March 10

5:00 PM Meal Delivered to Helping Hands Shelter

Saturday, March 11

11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, March 12

HOLY COMMUNION

8:45 AM New Members Class (Pastor's Study)
8:45 AM Habitat Training Session
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 (Church-wide)
5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Parish Hall)

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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