



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday of Lent
19 March 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Chanson

Edward Elgar

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God does not see as mortals see.

People: **We look on the outward appearance.
God looks on the heart.**

Leader: Jesus, Light of the World,
Give us eyes to see as you see!

People: **Once we lived in darkness, but now as children of light,
we are called to what is good and right and true.**

Leader: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

***Lenten Candle Service**

As we extinguish the fourth Lenten candle and continue our walk toward Holy Week, we are reminded that we too often are short-sighted, lacking the vision and compassion of our Lord and Savior. Let us pray:

As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord, to participate in what is good and right and true. May we look to live in ways that reflect your mercy and goodness, may we be a visible sign of your steadfast strength, and may the light of your love shine into every corner of our homes, community, and world. Amen.

***Processional Hymn 315**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

New Dimensions

***Prayer of Confession** Eye-opening God, whose compassion reaches out to all who walk in darkness, help us to recognize the blind spots in our lives. We want to walk as children of light and to be instruments of healing, Keep us from aimless wandering, from narrow judgments, from meaningless works, and underhanded methods. Hear now our silent prayers of confession. Amen.

***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 I Samuel 16:7-13 Pew Bible, OT page 259-260

Second Scripture Reading John 9 (Selected verses) Pew Bible, NT page 103

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

Sermon God's Eyes Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Text: God does not see as mortals see... 1 Samuel 16:7b

Anthem Bless This House May H. Brahe
Bless this house, O Lord, we pray. Make it safe by night and day.
Bless these walls, so firm and stout, keeping want and trouble out.
Bless the roof and chimneys tall. Let thy peace lie over all.
Bless this door that it may prove ever open to joy and love.
Bless these windows shining bright, letting in God's heavenly light.
Bless the heart a-blazing there, with smoke ascending like a prayer.
Bless the folk who dwell within. Keep them pure and free from sin.
Bless us all that we may be fit, O Lord, to dwell with thee.
Bless us all that one day we may dwell, O Lord, with thee.

***Affirmation of Faith** *Ephesians 5:8-14a*

**For once you were darkness,
but now in the Lord you are light.
Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light
is found in all that is good and right and true.
Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.
Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness;
rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention
what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by
the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes
visible is light. 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.*

Offertory

My Heart is Filled with Longing

Johannes Brahms

***Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy and loving God, we want to walk as children of light, to be instruments of healing, to recognize your activity among us. Accept these gifts, illuminate and enlighten us, that your church may express faith in Christ through all we say and do. Amen.

***Hymn 377**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Housto7

***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**

Fugue in g-minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

IN MEMORIAM

Alice Joanne Roderick 12/21/1932 – 03/10/2023
United with Westminster 02/03/2002

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** The Rev. Christian Choi
- **Lenten Candle Service:** Coleman Moore and Tom Owen from Steadfast Neighbor Build
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte Affrunti and William Affrunti
- **Greeter:** Elaine Hoff
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Melanie Green (Head Usher) Mervice Alah Abung, Terry Haynor, Melanie Humphrey, Mary King, Julie McDonough, John McNutt, Bruce Strom
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. New Members Class (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 Thinks Children are Important” (Mark 10:13-16) *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 “One More Son.” (1 Samuel 16:1-13) *Teachers: Karen Sherrick and Andrew Sherrick*
 - **6th & 7th Grade Confirmation (Conference Room)** The lesson is “Signs and Wonder” from the *Echo the Story* curriculum. *Teacher: Mary Ray*
- **11:00 a.m. Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)** Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, tea, olive oil, nuts and other items will be sold to support just, environmentally sound products and small producers. Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson oversee this ministry.
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** “Reflections on Historic Sanctuaries and Holy Places.” Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer will 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.

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 will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on Palm Sunday, April 2, following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

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. The Easter Music and Decoration Funds provide resources for seasonal guest musicians, the palms and lilies used during Holy Week, and Easter decorations. A list of donors and those whom they honor are printed in the Easter bulletin. Make checks payable to WPC or by credit card on our website with the wording for the bulletin by Palm Sunday, April 2.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, March 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library. Pat Hymans will be the hostess and Carolyn Beatty will lead Lesson Seven: Sabbath and Self-Care.



STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT BUILD

We are embarking on a new Steadfast Neighbor adventure as Westminster sponsors a Habitat for Humanity Build at 626 S. Glenwood, on the block south of the church. Thank you to the following members who will participate:

Site Supervisors:
Coleman Moore
Tom Owen

Site Host:
Todd Knox

Ministry Partners:
Brownie Anderson
Aaron Berkowitz
Edgar G. Caupert
Ann Collins
Susan Day
Bill Deemer

Jim Dolan
Melanie Green
Bud Green
Richard Leary
Bob Leffler
Valerie Leonatti
Mal Hildebrand
Robyn Hovey
Georgina Hudspeth
Gregg Humphrey
Pat Hymans
Al Hymans
Jay Kennerly
Peter Kieffer

Mary King
Charlie King
Priscilla Kluge
Tim Kluge
Judy Knox
Jim McDonough
Mike Nenaber
Jim Parker
Mary Peura
Mary Ray
Jim Rigney
Diane Rutledge
Krista Steller

Brad Steller
Mike Sundquist
Jeanne VanGieson
Peter VanGieson
Eleanor VanDeventer
Lyle VanDeventer

Staff:
Rev. Choi
Rev. Dr. Kieffer
Dale Rogers
Gary Warnick

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 your donation to the 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build. The Kick-Off program will acknowledge and thank those who contribute.

KICK-OFF CEREMONY - TUESDAY, MARCH 21 AT 5:00 P.M. IN PARISH HALL

The congregation is invited to join the Capler Family, Habitat staff, and members of the community as we officially kick-off our Steadfast Neighbor build. Enjoy a simple service and light refreshments following the introductions and celebration.

THE BLITZ WEEK: MARCH 27–APRIL 1 AT 626 S. GLENWOOD,



BILL STEIN ORGAN RECITAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

On Sunday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m. Bill Stein will present an Organ Recital in the Sanctuary featuring organ music of four young women composers in addition to music 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.

APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets Tuesday, March 28 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

10:00 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach. 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 and will sing.

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 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

The Reverend Christian K. Choi will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing 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 Rev. 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.**

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** Each year, Westminster members support our youth at the Trivia Night Mission Trip Fundraiser. This year Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell will return as Co-MC's. Sign-up yourself or your team online at our website or at <https://bit.ly/3IxTdYv>.

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! Save the Date!

WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, March 20

6:30 PM DAR Chapter Sergeant Caleb Hopkins Meeting
(2nd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, March 21

9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
12:00 PM Staff Lunch (Off site)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids (Youth Room)
5:00 PM Steadfast neighbor Habitat Build Kickoff
(Parish Hall)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Music Room)

Wednesday, March 22

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Library)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
4:00 PM Property (Pastor's Study)
5:00 PM Membership (Pastor's Study)
6:00 PM Adult Ed (Pastor's Study)

Thursday, March 23

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

Friday, March 24

Saturday, March 25

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

Sunday, March 26

8:45 AM Congregational Care (Pastor's Study)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Chapel)
10:15 AM Confirmation for 6 & 7th Grades (Conference Room)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
4:00 PM Organ Recite Bill Stein (Sanctuary)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut St.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465
<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
Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians