



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sacrament of Communion
Sixth Sunday of Easter
14 May 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

Vacation Bible School

Eleanor VanDeventer

Voluntary

Pavanne

Gabriel Fauré

*Ringing of the Bell

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*Call to Worship

Acts 17

Leader:

Eternal God, in whom we live and move
and have our being;

People:

**we thank you for your presence among us
and in your whole creation**

Leader:

We delight in the beauty of the earth,
the wonder of each hour, and the gift of human love.

People:

**Fill us with your spirit, that through truthful words,
just actions, and shared life,**

Leader:

we may witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we gather.

*Processional Hymn 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

*Prayer of Confession

**We are joined together by Christ's spirit of truth and love,
and yet, we confess, that too often we limit your creative
presence within our lives and community. We continue to
live in ways which do not lead to peace and justice.
Forgive us, O God. Pour your Spirit of wisdom and grace
upon us, that we may live and move and have our being
in your loving presence. 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	Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name. (Repeat twice) <i>Students in preschool – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school class following the Congregational Response. Grades 6-7 remain in worship.</i>	Donald Fishel
First Scripture Reading	Acts 17:23-31	Pew Bible, NT pages 137-138
Second Scripture Reading	John 14:15-21 Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.	Pew Bible, NT pages 109
Meditation	God's Offspring <i>Text: Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. Acts 17:29</i>	Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Anthem	Cantique de Jean Racine Word of the Highest, our only hope, Eternal day of earth and the heavens, We break the silence of the peaceful night; Saviour Divine, cast your eyes upon us!	Gabriel Fauré

**The Presentation
and Dedication of our Gifts**

*At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass
the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.*

Offertory

Madrigal

Louis Vierne

***Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and
praise...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with
choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and
place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

The people sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty...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:

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: 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

Hymnal, page 35

Words of Institution

Communion Music

How Beautiful

Twila Paris

How beautiful the hands that served,
The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth
How beautiful the feet that walked,
The long dusty roads and the hill to the cross
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful Is the body of Christ
How beautiful the heart that bled
That took all my sin and bore it instead
How beautiful the tender eyes
That choose to forgive and never despise
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful Is the body of Christ.
And as he lay down his life. We offer this sacrifice
That we will live just as he died. Willing to pay the price,
Willing to pay the price
How beautiful the radiant bride,
Who waits for her groom with his light in her eyes
How beautiful when humble hearts give,
The fruit of pure lives so that others may live
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful, Is the body of Christ
How beautiful the feet that bring,
The sound of good news and the love of the King
How beautiful the hands that serve,
The wine and the bread and the sons of the Earth
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful, Is the body of Christ

Distribution of Elements

The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.

Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.

*Prayer after Communion

Holy Triune God, in whom we live and move and have our being, thank you for the nourishment we have received at your table. May we serve one another with humble hearts and so live in the beauty of the Body of Christ. Amen

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral 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.

***Voluntary** Fanfare Jacques Lemmens

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

IN MEMORIAM

Carrol L. Stahlman 03/14/1937 – 05/10/2023
United with Westminster 04/09/2000

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in memory of Mary Schnirring's birthday with love from her family.
- **West Narthex Flowers** are given in loving memory of Laurie Maddox on this Mother's Day from her family.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Worship Leader:** Matthew Scott
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte Affrunti and William Affrunti
- **Bible & Cross Carriers:** Braden Barton and Bryce Pound
- **Greeters:** Cathy and Emily Brower
- **Today's Communion Bread** is oatmeal wheat and was lovingly baked by Susan Day.
- **Communion Prep Team:** Mary Ray, Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Krista Steller
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Jim Kontio (Team Leader), Gregg Humphrey, Becky Huston, Tim Kluge, Dave Leonatti, Lynn McMenamin, Pat McNutt, Mike Nenaber, Mary Ray, Karen Sherrick, Brad Steller, Lyle VanDeventer
- **Home Communion Teams:** Marilyn and Jim Rigney, Mary Ray and Valerie Leonatti, Melanie and Bud Green, Dee Dee Duffy and Bruce Strom
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir; Eleanor VanDeventer, soprano, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Coleman Moore, Melanie Green, Chris Hickman, Richard Leary, Camille Massey, Jim Rigney, Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** Jim Dolan
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon Nursery (lower level)** Infants and toddlers begin in the Nursery. Preschoolers begin in worship with their families and leave during the Congregational Response. This week's Bible Story: "Jesus is Always With Us" (Matthew 28:16-20). Caregivers: *Leigh Milward and Caroline Haynor*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Sunday School (Third Floor Chapel)** Children Kindergarten – Grade 5 begin in worship with their families & leave during the Congregational Response. The story is "Creator God" (Acts 17:22-31). Teachers: *Julie Robbs and Karen Sherrick*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** presents "Jesus and John Wayne." This second session of the series traces how evangelicals have "replaced the Jesus of the Gospels with an idol of rugged masculinity and Christian nationalism." Leaders: Drs. Jonathan and Katie Carlson-Eastvold

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.

The Library Committee has prepared a cart in the West Narthex including books on ecology and family from our Adult and Children's libraries which are available for checkout. Please plan to stop by to peruse the books and resources.

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.

PW SPONSORS BLANKETS+ DURING MAY PW and Springfield's Church Women United sponsor Blankets+ (formerly Blanket Sunday) during May. Church World Services provides blankets, tents, and food in the wake of a disaster; tools and seeds for refugees returning home; wells for families in drought prone areas and gardens; literacy training and microcredit for women. During May, make checks payable to Westminster (memo: Blankets+) or donate online.



PENTECOST OFFERING - This is the fourth year Westminster will participate in the Pentecost denominational offering which unites the church by helping youth begin their life with a solid foundation of faith. **Forty percent of all gifts stay within Westminster and our portion will support the 2023 Youth Mission Trip.**

CHILDRENS BOOKS (K-Grade 5) are being collected to be placed in the Book Nook at Graham Elementary School next to our Little Pantry. The box is located in the West Narthex. Thank you to Will Hovey who is building the Book Nook for his Eagle Scout Project.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, May 16 at 9:30 a.m. will meet at the home of Nancy Canady for coffee. Please RSVP to Nancy.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT BUILD – The next scheduled work opportunity dates for ministry partners are May 19 and 20. Work will be back at 626 S. Glenwood with the painting of the walls. Lunch will be provided. Thank you to those who installed drywall on May 5-6. Sign up on the Habitat website. habitatsangamon.volunteerhub.com. The House Dedication has been moved to Thursday, June 22 at 5:00 p.m.

THE SPRINGFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY will perform “Psalms Across Time and Space” concert on Friday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. at Central Baptist Church (501 S. 4th St). Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at the door. Members of the Westminster Family Jennie Alt, Jim Kontio, Adam Miller, Dale Rogers, Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer sing in the Choral Society.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S GARDEN PARTY will be this Saturday, May 20 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Lynda Preckwinkle (5 Fair Oaks Drive). The Ruth and Naomi Circle are hosting this event. Please RSVP by Friday, May 19 to the church office.

FOUNDERS’ SUNDAY, MAY 21



Join us Founders’ Sunday, May 21 for worship at 10:00 a.m. and a picnic reception following in Parish Hall. We are delighted to welcome the Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee as our guest preacher. This year’s theme, Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build, provides an opportunity to reflect on the importance of a strong and solid foundation in building homes as well as building up the Body of Christ. Each year on Founders’ Sunday, the Endowment Committee thanks those who have given and invites others to join the Albert Hale Circle. **Those who donate or communicate their plans to make a testamentary gift by Wednesday, May 17 will be included in the Albert Hale Circle published in the bulletin on May 21 and in the June Reporter.**

OUR MEMORIAL GARDEN is a place of peace and repose for the ashes of those interred within its walls. Each Memorial Sunday, Westminster’s Memorial Garden is highlighted. The cost of an individual inurnment in the South wall is \$1,000 for a member or their immediate family and \$2,000 for friends of Westminster. Persons desiring to reserve space may complete an application form located in the West Narthex and on our website.

MILITARY PLAQUE Each Memorial Sunday, the Military Plaque in the East Narthex is highlighted. A slide show of the Military Plaque is posted on our website. We are grateful for the sacrifices and years of service to our country by each person listed. If you or a family member have served in the military and are not included, please contact Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org with name, rank, branch, and years of service.

THE APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets Tuesday, May 23 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss That Is Not Who We Are: Populism and Peoplehood by Dr. Rogers A. Smith. Dr. Smith grew up at Westminster and was our 2022 Bay Weekend Speaker. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY is June 4. All Westminster graduates (high school, college, and graduate school) will be listed in the June 4 bulletin and the June Reporter. Please contact Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org) with information or fill out the web form on the church website.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOOD TRUCK PARTY June 5-9 from 9:15 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! This street party helps children build on the practice of using daily prayer to turn to God for their needs - and also to serve as the hands of God for ensuring that the needs of others are met. Register by



scanning the QR Code or use the link <https://westminster.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK: We are beginning to recruit for this year’s neighborhood outreach the week of June 19 - 23. This year’s focus will be repairing and painting front porches. Please consider joining us for one or more days as we spread goodwill in the neighborhood! Sign-ups begin this month at wpcspi.org. **SNSW Team Meeting will be Tuesday, June 13, 5:30 p.m.**

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, May 15

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)

Tuesday, May 16

- 9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids
4:45 PM I.T. Committee (Conference Room)

Wednesday, May 17

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)
5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)

Thursday, May 18

- 3:00 PM Depression & Bi-Polar Support (Conference Room)
6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)

Friday, May 19

- 7:30 PM Springfield Choral Society Concert
(Central Baptist Church)

Saturday, May 20

- 10:00 AM Women's Garden Party (Off Site)

Sunday, May 21

- 10:00 AM Worship Service – Founders' Sunday (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Confirmation Class (Grades 6-7) (Conference Rm)
11:00 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)
11:15 AM Founders' Sunday Lunch Reception (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

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Staff

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

**James Capler, Terry Gietl,
Bill Hibbert, Steve Stapleton**
Part-time Custodians