



SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION
BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
JANUARY 7, 2024

SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION
BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Tribute Andrew Fletcher

***Ringing of the Bell** *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

***Call to Worship**

Leader: In the beginning, at creation,
the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep

**People: In the waters of the flood,
God cleansed the earth and humankind.**

Leader: God caused the waters to part
so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

People: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

Leader: Come, let us sing glory to the Name of God
and rejoice in new beginnings.

***Processional Hymn 484** Out of Deep Unordered Waters *Rustington*

***Prayer of Confession** God, older than we can imagine, yet ever new;
you have come into the world
and yet we have not recognized you.
Forgive us for our lack of vision and insight,
and open our eyes to see you here and now,
that we may receive your grace
through Jesus our Christ.
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

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

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

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

Pew Bible, OT pages 1

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 1:4-11

Pew Bible, NT page 34-35

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

Sermon

The Embrace of Water

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan." Mark 1:5

Anthem **Walk in the Light** Traditional Spiritual
Walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy
shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night:
Jesus, the Light of the World.

***Reaffirmation of the
Baptismal Covenant**

Pastor: Holy and loving God, we give you thanks for nourishing and
sustaining all living things by the gift of water. In the beginning
of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth
order and life.

People: **Through the waters of the sea you led your people Israel out of
bondage, into freedom in the land of your promise.**

Pastor: You sent Jesus your Son, who for us was baptized in the waters
of the Jordan and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit.

People: **Through the baptism of his death and resurrection you set us free
from the bondage of sin and death; and give us cleansing and
rebirth.**

Pastor: We rejoice that in our baptism, you have called us into being,
given each of us a name, claimed us as your own, and that by
your grace we are born anew.

People: **By your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to
welcome and nourish the children in this faith community.**

Pastor: Now God journeys with us, in us, before us, from the place of
our baptisms and into the world. Amen.

Let us remember our baptism and be thankful. In the name of
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Remain standing and remember your baptism.)

***Anthem** **Baptized in Water** *Gaelic Melody*

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise -
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children -
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

The Presentation of Our Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Aria

Joseph Jongen

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

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

*Ordination and Installation of Officers

Pastor: There are varieties of gifts,
People: but it is the same Spirit who gives them.
Pastor: There are different ways of serving God,
People: but it is the same Lord who is served.
Pastor: God works through each person in a unique way,
People: but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
Pastor: To each is given a gift by the Spirit,
People: to be used for the common good.
Pastor: Together we are the body of Christ,
People: and individually members of it.

The Presentation of Elected Church Officers

*Session: John Cross, Tara Fritsch, Rachael Hickman, David Jenkins,
Dr. Vena Long, Julie Robbs, Greg Swanson,
Brinton Wilkey, **Youth Elder** – Kristianna Eastvold*

*Board of Deacons: Julie Barton, Greg Boutelle, Kyle Duffy, Deb Fritsch,
Joyce King, Dr. Todd Lafrenz, Kate Morthland,
Bernie Wiseman, **Class of 2025** - Bill Schlosser*

Constitutional Questions

The pastors shall ask the constitutional questions to the elders and deacons.

***Questions to the Congregation**

Pastor: Do you, as members of the church, accept these individuals as Elders and Deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

People: **We do.**

Pastor: Do you agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the church?

People: **We do.**

***Laying on of Hands**

The candidates for ordination kneel. Ordained elders are invited to come forward for the laying on of hands.

***Ordination Prayer**

***Declaration of Ordination and Installation**

***Hymn 69**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am

***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**

New Era

Nigel Ogden

(*) The congregation is invited to stand

SESSION

Class of 2024

Jay Kennerly
Tim Kluge
Dave Leonatti
Michael Morthland
Christy Pound
Karen Sherrick
Eleanor VanDeventer
Sarah Zerfas

Class of 2025

Dr. Scott Day
Jim Dolan
Gregg Humphrey
Dr. Judy Knox
Amanda Kurmann
Pat McNutt
Dr. Mike Nenaber
Jeanne Van Gieson

Class of 2026

John Cross
Tara Fritsch
Rachael Hickman
David Jenkins
Dr. Vena Long
Julie Robbs
Greg Swanson
Brinton Wilkey
Youth – Kristianna Eastvold

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2024

Mervice Alah Abung
George Botanga
Sophia Choi
Melanie Green
Camille Massey
Jim Parker
Susan Shaw

Class of 2025

Chris Hickman
Sabrina Holmes
Melanie Humphrey
Kathy Kenyon
John McNutt
Coleman Moore
Bill Schlosser
Erin Winn

Class of 2026

Julie Barton
Greg Boutelle
Kyle Duffy
Deb Fritsch
Joyce King
Dr. Todd Lafrenz
Kate Morthland
Bernie Wiseman

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Worship Leader:** Aerwyna Eastvold
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte and William Affrunti
- **Greeters:** Melanie and Bud Green
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Jim Parker (Head Usher) Sophia Choi, Erin Ekstedt, Kathy Kenyon, Bill Schlosser, Susan Shaw, Bob Stuart, Jess Weitzel
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Bill Deemer, Bob Leffler

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 – 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. Today's Bible Story: "God is Our Creator" *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Maria Lafrenz, Sara Eldridge*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Sunday School (Third Floor Chapel)** Children Kindergarten – Grade 5 begin in worship with their families & leave during the Congregational Response. Today's Lesson: "Awesome" (Genesis 1:1-5). *Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
 - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children's Sermon for Lesson Ten: "Promised Land" of the Echo Curriculum. *Teachers: Cara Barnett and Meridith Bryans*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Parish Nurse Ministry (Church Office)** Blood Pressure Checks by Ellen Carpenter
 - **Confirmation (Conference Room)** Grade 8 meet for Lesson Eight: "Martin Luther Protests" from Church History, Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and Mary Ray
- **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Youth Group (Parish Hall/Youth Room)** will meet to enjoy games, dinner, and plan for the Adult Education Presentation on the 2023 Mission Trip to Selma, AL. The meal will be prepared by Katie and Jonathan 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 of books for checkout from both of our libraries in the West Narthex containing philosophy, psychology, and other research books and a wide variety of Christmas books. Please plan to stop and 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. The next New Member Class will meet on Sundays, March 3 and 10 with new members received on Sunday, March 17. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) supports Racial/Ethnic leadership development, schools and colleges, and supply financial assistance to active and retired ministers having special circumstances of need. Thank you to all who gave to the **\$2,365** received to date.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH continue to meet two Sunday evenings each month. Eighth graders (especially those attending the 2024 mission trip) are invited to participate as we build community in preparation for our mission adventure. **On Sunday, January 7, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.** youth will meet to enjoy games, dinner, and plan for the Adult Education Presentation on the 2023 Mission Trip to Selma, AL. The meal will be prepared by Katie and Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets **Monday, January 8** at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Mary King will lead Lesson 5 “A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION & FELLOWSHIP gathers every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters resume **January 9** with a brown bag lunch.

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP will meet **Wednesday, January 10**. Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Tower Classroom. This year’s theme is “Created in God’s Image.”

CHILDREN’S CHOIR will rehearse on **Wednesday, January 10** at 5:00 p.m. in the Music Room.

MEN’S BREAKFAST meets **Thursday, January 11** at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Harl Ray, Senior Project Manager for the Secretary of State’s Department of Physical Services, will present a program on the ongoing construction at the Illinois State Capitol. Bud Green will provide breakfast. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

DR. KIEFFER’S BIBLE STUDY resumes on **Thursday, January 11, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.** We will begin the Short-term Disciple Studies: Invitation to John. New Members are welcome!

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR rehearsals resume on **Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m.** Assistance is needed to clear out last semester’s music in the choir folders, load music for the spring and put the music away on Wednesday, January 10 at 1:00 p.m. If you can help, let Dale know.

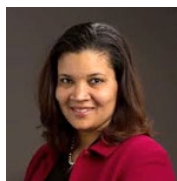
CHURCH MICE will begin its new year on **Saturday, January 13** at 11:00 a.m. This is our musical experience for infants through age four led by Mr. Rogers.

NURSERY GUILD MINISTRY PARTNER will meet on **Sunday, January 14** at 9:00 a.m. for orientation to new and returning Nursery Guild members and to provide an opportunity for ministry partners to sign-up on a schedule of Sundays through winter and spring.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: Road to Selma on **Sunday, January 14** at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall, our youth will report on their 2023 Mission Trip to Selma, Alabama.

HOME COMMUNION will be **Sunday, January 14**. If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office.

THE 49TH ANNUAL MLK BREAKFAST will be held Monday, January 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Wyndam Hotel. Westminster will be a Gold Sponsor, donating \$1,500 (\$1,000 from the Endowment Scholarship Fund and \$500 from the Peace and Global Witness collection for local ministry.) If you would like to join the pastors and attend, please contact Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org.



Dr. Wendi Wills El-Amin, the Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, will be the keynote speaker at the breakfast. She earned her medical degree at Georgetown University School of Medicine and a bachelor’s degree in biology at Hampton University. Dr. El-Amin is a faculty member in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and provides care at the Center for Family Medicine in Springfield. She also serves on the boards of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois, Springfield YMCA and the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets on **Tuesday, January 16** at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library. in the Ziegler Library. Sandy Bellatti will host and lead Lesson 4 “Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EXPANDS IN JANUARY Westminster has been blessed this year with very strong attendance in our children’s Sunday School classes each week. So strong, in fact, that we are hoping to divide our current class into two smaller groups starting January 28! Our younger children, from Grades Kindergarten through Grade 2 will continue to meet in the Sunday School classroom with Meleah Berkowitz and ministry partners, while children Grades 3 through 5 will meet with Aaron Berkowitz and ministry partners in the Third Floor Tower room. Because of this expansion, we are looking for more ministry partners who are interested in helping to teach Sunday School. If you are interested, please contact Meleah or Aaron at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY PARTNER MEETING on **Sunday January 21 at 9:00 a.m.** to help prepare for the new expanded Sunday School classes, to provide orientation to new and returning Sunday School teachers, and to provide an opportunity for ministry partners to sign-up on a schedule of Sundays, we will have a special Sunday School Ministry Partner meeting on Sunday, January 21 in the Parish Hall. New Sunday School teachers are welcome!

YOUTH CO-HOST CAP SORTING PARTY on **Sunday, January 21, 5:00–7:00 p.m.** Senior High Youth will collaborate with the Earth Care Team and host a Cap Sorting Party. Will Hovey will lead the effort to recycle 300 lbs. of bottle caps left over from his Eagle Scout Project. Upon receipt of the caps, Green Tree Plastics will provide a bench made from recycled materials through the ABC Promise Partnership Program. All are encouraged to join us in the fun of sorting followed by a delicious meal prepared by Nichole Magalis.

APOSTLES’ READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets **Tuesday, January 23 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library to discuss Nine Black Robes: Inside the Supreme Court’s Drive to the Right and Historic Consequences by Joan Biskupic. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

THE SAFETY TEAM will meet **Sunday, January 28 at 9:15 a.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The Safety Team was introduced in May of 2018 under the leadership of retired FBI agent, John Stafford. We are grateful for the team which serves faithfully and hope to add new members in 2024. Those who are interested are invited to contact John Stafford (217 299-5627) and attend the meeting.

EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER - All youth attending the 2024 Mission Trip are expected to work the sixth annual Egg-tastic breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, January 28. **Plan to arrive by 8:15 a.m. and work through the morning!** The Mission participants will assist in serving a delicious Egg-tastic Breakfast prepared by Pat Hymans before worship at 10:00 a.m. Special thank you to Mary Jo and David Jenkins for their donation to offset the cost of the sausage for this year’s Egg-tastic breakfast.



CHURCH LIFE APP AVAILABLE Westminster uses church management software called ACS. The office maintains financial and member record information in this cloud-based software. Since it is web-based, church members can download a smart phone app called Church Life to see church member contact and calendar information. By following setup instructions, you will be able to set a password for yourself and view church information on your smart phone. Those who are interested in this helpful tool may contact Communications Coordinator, Krista Steller, at (ksteller@wpcspi.org). She will assist in setting up your account.

HUNGER MINISTRIES

Thank you to the Swansons and Bryans for preparing the final meal at the old Helping Hands location on December 8 and to Pat Hymans, Mary King, Judy Prillaman, Sue Scaife, Krista Steller, Jeanne and Shelby VanGieson for preparing the final Salvation Army meal on December 27.

BEGINNING IN 2024

Westminster will prepare one meal on the fourth Wednesday of each month for Helping Hands at their new location (2200 Shale Avenue) which is the old Juvenile Justice Facility off Dirksen Parkway.

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY: Thank you to all who stock Westminster's Little Pantry at Graham School. Please sign up on SignUp Genius. (<https://bit.ly/3C4s0vS>)

GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH JANUARY MENU Canned Spaghetti and meatballs, Canned Veggies and Fruit in 100% juice/water, instant pudding or jello. High-Demand Items: personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, diapers & wipes size 3 & up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.

MISSION SUNDAY - On Sunday, February 4, mission will be highlighted. Thanks to all in the WPC members who contribute time, effort, donations, and expertise to the church's mission. A comprehensive list of the 2023 mission supported by Westminster will be presented on Sunday, February 4.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

ANNUAL MEETING

8:30 – 9:45 A.M. EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Members are invited to an egg-tastic breakfast that will be served by youth attending the 2024 Youth Mission Trip. Come support the Mission and be well-nourished for the work of the church at the annual meeting following worship!

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

11:00 – 11:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORTS from the Session and Deacon Committee chairs are **due Thursday, January 11, 2024 by noon**. Please submit your reports to Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcpi.org. They will be included in the 2023 Annual Report.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, January 8

1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (2nd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, January 9

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Conference Room)

12:00 PM KDO Willing Circle (Youth Room)

12:00 PM Knitters' Lunch (2nd Floor Classroom)

1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)

3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids

Wednesday, January 10

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)

10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)

1:30 PM Load Choir Folders (Music Room)

4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)

4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group
(Conference Room)

4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)

5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)

5:30 PM Board of Deacons (2nd Floor Classroom)

5:30 PM Session Coordinating (Pastor's Study)

Thursday, January 11

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)

5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)

7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, January 12

Saturday, January 13

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

Sunday, January 14

Communion Sunday

9:00AM Nursery Guild Meeting (Parish Hall)

10:00AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Sanctuary)

11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)

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
Director for Youth

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

Millie McNutt, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Staff

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl**
Part-time Custodians