



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sacrament of Communion
Third Sunday of Easter
14 April 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Andantino Denis Bédard

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

*** Call to Worship** Psalm 40:1-5

Leader: I waited patiently for the Lord;
God inclined to me and heard my cry.

People: **God drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock.**

Leader: God put a new song in my mouth,
A song of praise to our God.

People: **Many will see and put their trust in the Lord.**

Leader: Happy are those who make the Lord their trust,
Who do not turn to the proud.

People: **Your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;
none can compare with you.**

Leader: Let us worship and lift praises to our Risen Lord.

***Hymn 511** Come Behold the Feast of Heaven *LLanfair*

***Prayer of Confession** Renewer of life, you love us just as we are, even with our faults, failings, doubts, and disbelief. In thought, word, and deed, we have strayed from you. Forgive us for the times we have neglected to live as faithful disciples. Help us to see that we too have been risen with Christ to overcome our own battles and to share the hope of redeeming, restoring, and resurrecting the love of Christ with others. Help us to follow after you and your will. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon
and Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

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

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end, Amen, Amen.

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Donald Fishel

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

*Children (preschool – Grade 5) go to Sunday School following the
Congregational Response. Grades 6-7 remain for communion.*

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 6:1-9a

Pew Bible, OT pages 635-636

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36b-48

Pew Bible, NT pages 91

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

Beyond Doubt

Rev. Christian K. Choi

*Text: Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering,
and Jesus said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"*

Luke 24:41

Anthem

Tantum Ergo

Charles-Marie Widor

Praise and glory, in the highest, thine, O God forever be:

Thou art honor and salvation, might and awesome majesty:

Thine our thanks, thine our thanks, thou One in Three. Amen.

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 Prelude on a Welsh Hymn tune Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Offertory Response Doxology Hymnal, 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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

This Joyful Eastertide

Traditional Dutch Carol

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**

Risen Christ, your grace is enough. We find assurance beyond doubt through your visible signs in communion and daily miracles that are around us. May our faith be strengthened through this Table, and may we be covered in your unwavering love. Strengthen us and help us to share the joy of your gospel, so that we may feast with you for all eternity with those who are around us. Amen.

***Hymn 246**

Christ is Alive

Truro

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response

Day by Day

Harold Friedell

Voluntary

Allegro Maestoso

John Ireland

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
- **Acolytes:** Lucy Bassett and Lily Swanson
- **Bible & Cross Carriers:** Liam Kiszely and Sam Batterman
- **Worship Leader:** James Maeda
- **Greeters:** Mal Hildebrand and Doris Melvin
- **Today's Communion Bread** is white bread and was lovingly baked by Pat McNutt.
- **Communion Prep Team:** Mary Ray, Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Leigh Milward, Krista Steller
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Scott Day (Team Leader) John Cross, Jim Dolan, Kristianna Eastvold, Tara Fritsch, David Jenkins, Jay Kennerly, Tim Kluge, Vena Long, Christy Pound, Brinton Wilkey, Sarah Zerfas
- **Home Communion Teams:** Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer, Judy Knox and Mary Peura, Mary and Coleman Moore
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir; Lyle VanDeventer, bass, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Braden Barton, Sophia Choi, Todd Lafrenz, Jim Parker, Bill Schlosser, Susan Shaw, Bernie Wiseman
- **Safety Team:** Todd Knox and Alan Schuermann
- **Videographers:** Bob Fox and Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon** **Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "God Helps Us Be Brave" (Queen Esther) *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Maria Lafrenz, Leigh Milward*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Sunday School Children in Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "What a Surprise" (Luke 24:36b-48). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Julie Robbs*
 - **Sunday School Children in Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "What a Surprise" (Luke 24:36b-48). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Karen Sherrick*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Adult Education Forum presents *Journey Through the Psalms* (Second Floor Classroom)** This is the second session of a three-week series on the prayer-book of the synagogue and the church. *Led by Lyle VanDeventer*
 - **Refugee Journey Simulation (Parish Hall)** Join Jody May, Director for Education from Exodus World Service in Chicago to learn about refugees forced to flee their homeland and the tough decisions made along the way.
- **5:00 p.m. Trivia Night Mission Trip Fundraiser (Parish Hall) Doors open at 5:00 p.m.** Dinner is available for \$5.00 and prepared by Pat Hymans and her kitchen team. Participants are also welcome to bring snacks and non-alcoholic drinks. Questions begin at 5:30 p.m. Once again, we welcome Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell who will create and present the questions. Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased in the West Narthex today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website. 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.

H.E.A.L. FUND provides “helpful emergency assistance for living” to members of the Springfield community through Contact Ministries and within our church family as needed. Donations are welcome. This fund is highlighted on Communion Sundays.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OPPORTUNITY - Join in the renovation work of 518 S. Glenwood in preparation for its sale. Dates and times are available at SignUpGenius on the church home page.

REFUGEE MINISTRY will present a Refugee Journey Simulation today at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Those ministry partners providing resources for the Velasquez Alonso Family are invited to join Jody May, Director for Education from Exodus World Service in Chicago. In this interactive simulation, participants will gain a greater understanding of the roles of refugees forced to flee their homeland and the tough decisions made along the way.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE PSALMS TODAY This adult education forum meets today at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom for its third and final session. Join Lyle VanDeventer in an in-depth look at the book of Psalms —the prayer-book of the synagogue and the church. We are invited to approach God with the same honesty and intensity as the ancient Psalmists. The video presenter is Dr. Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Wesley Theological Seminary.

TRIVIA NIGHT TONIGHT Each year, members support our youth mission trip at the Trivia Night Mission Trip Fundraiser. Childcare is available in the nursery. Sign up at in the West Narthex today.

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 P.M. Dinner is available for \$5.00 and prepared by Pat Hymans and her kitchen team. Participants are also welcome to bring snacks and non-alcoholic drinks.

QUESTIONS BEGIN AT 5:30 P.M. Once again, we welcome Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell who will create and present the questions.

SEVEN ROUNDS OF SEVEN QUESTIONS with a bonus question each round. Tables who purchase a helium balloon for \$20 are invited to participate in the bonus question. The winning table will receive half of the funds raised through the purchase of the balloons.

TICKETS ARE \$20.00 and can be purchased on our website or at a table in the West Narthex.

RAFFLE TICKETS will be sold at the door. One for \$5 or three for \$10. Gift certificates to Springfield restaurants will be presented to winning tickets between rounds.

RED AND GREEN PADDLES can be purchased at the door for \$10. Between round four and five, those who purchased paddles will participate in a yes (green) – no (red) special trivia. The winner will receive half of the funds raised through the purchase of the paddles.

SPONSORSHIP IS \$100 - This year you or your business can sponsor a round. Your business will be featured on the screen between rounds.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR will rehearse **Wednesdays, April 17, April 24 and May 1** from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

CHURCH MICE meet Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom with Mr. Rogers.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP meets on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.



JOIN THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER IN DONATING LAYETTE ITEMS during April in the box in the West Narthex. Items will be donated to Kumler Outreach Ministries in early May. If you would like to shop online, you can have them shipped directly to the church.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets on **Tuesday, April 16** at 9:30 a.m. at the Presbyterian Home Unit 604 garage. Joyce Matthews will host and Nancy Scott will lead Lesson 7 “An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study [Sacred Encounters](#).

DMA (DON’T MENTION AGE) will meet **Friday, April 19** at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and a program called Muni Preview Night presented by Mary Beth Maloney at 6:15 p.m. RSVP with weekly email link, website, or by calling the church office.

SPRINGFIELD EARTH AWARENESS FAIR on **Saturday, April 20** The Earth Care team will host a table on Saturday, April 20 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with a theme of Water Conservation. The Fair will be held at Union Station across from the Abraham Lincoln Museum. Westminster has again been recognized as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Mission Agency for 2024.



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY April 21 - The Class of 2024 will be recognized and commissioned on Sunday, April 21, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. This is a time of celebration and a milestone on the faith journeys of our youth: *William Charles Affrunti, Juliet Kathryn Boutelle, and Juliana Charis Pinckney Eastvold*. Confirmands will present to Session on Wednesday, April 17 and enjoy a dinner in the Library with their families and mentors following Session prepared by the Membership Committee.

FAMILY MATTERS ZOO TRIP on **Saturday, April 27, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.** for families with young children (birth to Grade 5). Families will meet in the zoo lobby at 3:00 P.M. Families can bring a picnic dinner to enjoy in the park across the street afterwards. Families will have to purchase their own tickets at the zoo. Please RSVP to Meleah and Aaron at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

YOUTH SUNDAY APRIL 28 Our youth will lead worship at the 10:00 a.m. service. This year’s theme is **Vine and Branches** based on John 15:5. Seniors Kristianna Eastvold, Will Hovey, and Sam Simonson will present meditations.

NEW HARMONY SPRING RETREAT - THURSDAY - SATURDAY, MAY 2-4, 2024

Members and friends are invited to join Dr. Kieffer and Dale Rogers on a journey to New Harmony, Indiana for a Spring Retreat Thursday–Saturday, May 2-4. Participants are welcome to drive down Thursday morning to visit the historic city, shop, and enjoy lunch. The retreat will begin with dinner on Thursday evening in the Paul Tillich Dining Room of the Red Geranium Restaurant and conclude at 12 noon on Saturday.



The cost of the two-day retreat is \$250 per person. This includes two nights of lodging and five meals. The Christian Education Endowment is subsidizing the retreat and scholarships are available. Reservations have been made for 40 participants. Applications are available in the West Narthex and on our website at www.wpcspi.org. **Registration deadline is Monday, April 15, 2024**

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, April 15

Tuesday, April 16

- 9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Offsite)
- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 4:30 PM I.T. Committee (Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM Family Ministry

Wednesday, April 17

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group (Conference Room)
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
- 5:30 PM Session (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 6:15 PM Confirmands attend Session
- 6:30 PM Confirmation Dinner (Library)
- 7:00 PM Great Decision in WACCI (3rd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, April 18

- 1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
- 4:00 PM IL Presbyterian Home Service
- 4:30 PM Personnel Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, April 19

- 5:30 PM DMA Potluck (Parish Hall)
- 6:15 PM DMA Program

Saturday, April 20

- 11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 11:00 AM Linda Dillard's Memorial Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 PM Linda Dillard's Reception (Parish Hall)

Sunday, April 21 – Confirmation Sunday

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Sanctuary)
- 11:15 AM Confirmation Reception
- 11:15 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Second Floor Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Nurse Honor Guard Practice (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 PM Senior 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
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