**W E S T M I N S T E R**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Sacrament of Communion**

**8 November 2020 + 10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome and Announcements** Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

**Voluntary** Sinfonia from Cantata 29 Johann Sebastian Bach

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

**\*Call to Worship** Rev. Christian K. Choi

This is the day the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it;

Let us be awake and aware of God’s presence

within us and around us.

We look for God; we await the gentle presence of God

coming into our lives again and again.

We join all creation in singing a new song as we prepare

to meet Christ in every unknown tomorrow.

With lamps well lit, let us worship God.

**\*Hymn** From All That Dwell Below the Skies*Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator’s praise arise: Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer’s name be sung through every land, in every tongue. Alleluia!

In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong: Alleluia!

In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise. Alleluia!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word: Alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*Prayer of Confession** Rev. Trajan I. McGill

Before your light, loving God, we become aware of the shadows in which we

live. In the midst of your abundant gifts, we sense the poverty of our response.

Forgive us when we snuff out your holy light in ourselves and in others. In the times when we give up, may we be strengthened to press on. When others distract us from seeking you, may your guiding light lead us back to you.

Encourage, uplift, and energize us, especially when we need to be reminded of who we are and whom we serve. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

**\*Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**\*Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

**Children’s Sermon**

**First Scripture Reading** Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-15

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. .. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods. Amen.

**Music** Zion’s Walls Revivalist Song, Aaron Copland, arr.

Come fathers and mothers come, sisters and brothers come,  
 Join us in singing the praises of Zion, the praises of Zion.  
 O fathers don’t you feel determined to meet within the walls of Zion?  
 We’ll shout and go round, we’ll shout and go round the walls of Zion.

**Second Scripture Reading** Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Amen.

**Meditation** Learning our Limitations Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: “But the wise replied, “Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.” Matthew 25:9*

**Solo** Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and BurningTraditional Spiritual

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
 Children, don’t get weary ‘till your work is done.  
 Soon this journey will be over, the time is drawing nigh.

**Introduction to the Offering**

**\*Offertory Response** Doxology

**Invitation to the Lord’s Table**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving** The Lord be with you.

Let us lift our hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God.

Let us pray. It is our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God,  
creator and ruler of the universe…. 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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Words of Institution**

**Music at the Communion** Love One Another Luacine Clark Fox

As I have loved you, love one another. This new commandment:  
 Love one another; by this shall all know ye are my disciples, if ye have love  
 one to another. Now there were in that upper chamber, Jesus and his disciples  
 there to eat the supper of the Passover ere the end should come. Then Jesus  
 looked in their faces and unto them he spake: As I have loved you, love one  
 another. This new commandment: Love one another; by this shall all know   
 ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

\***Prayer after Communion** With thanksgiving, we offer ourselves to you, Holy Three in One. We offer our

bodies to do your work and our voices to sing your praise. We thank you that

when this earthly life is ended you will welcome us home, where we will live with you and all the saints, bathed in light and lost in unending songs of praise.

Until that time, give us the wisdom and resilience to keep our lamps trimmed and burning. Amen.

**\*Hymn** God of the Ages, Whose Almighty HandNational Hymn

God of the ages, whose almighty hand

leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
 of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
 our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past.  
 In this free land by thee our lot is cast.  
 Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay  
 thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,   
 be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.  
 Thy true religion in our hearts increase.  
 Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.  
 Lead us from night to never-ending day.  
 Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
 and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

\***Charge and Benediction**

\***Voluntary** Trumpet Tune in A David N. Johnson

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

**Worship Participants**

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life

Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts

Logan Campbell, Bass Lyle VanDeventer, Bass

Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers

Sara Eldridge and Gregg Humphrey, Ushers

Bill Deemer and Mary Ray, Communion Preparation Team

Mary Ray, Safety Team