
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Public Service of Worship

March 4th, 2018

The Third Sunday of Lent



“Those in whom the Spirit comes to live are God’s new Temple. They are, individually and corporately, places where heaven and earth meet.”

— N.T. WRIGHT

Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church. We are grateful to have you join us today, as we offer worship to God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A few notes to help you fully participate:

Our worship will keep you busy! We often think of worship as “singing songs” and “hearing a sermon,” but there is greater depth available to us. We pray and read together, we use our bodies, we hear, and eat, and respond, and all from the heart.

Please note that when the congregation is to read, the type will be boldfaced and indented:

[Leader] The Lord be with you!

***[Congregation]* And also with you!**

Please note the * and § symbols to indicate standing or standing and raising hands.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: Also known as “communion”, the Lord’s Supper is rite of fellowship between Christ and His people. We invite all who have been initiated into the family of God by baptism, and admitted to table fellowship by the leadership of this or some other church, to join in the communion service by faith. If you haven’t been baptized, please speak with the pastor or elders before the service if you would like to come to join in the Holy Supper.

CHILDREN: You will notice many children in our service today. Jesus welcomed little children to Himself, and so we welcome them in our worship service! We understand that this means baby noises and wiggly children, and we're fine with that. If your child is fussy or needs a little time to quiet down, we have a mother's nursery in the side room. We're happy to accommodate your family in any way we can.

TODAY’S WORSHIP: God’s people had been returned from the exile, set free to worship him. But they didn’t think the time was right to build the temple! We have no temple... how do we build one, and should we want to? How would we do that, anyway?

APOSTOLIC GREETING AND WELCOME

SILENT MEDITATION: I KINGS 8:56

Blessed be the Lord who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise...

Please take this time of silence to prepare your hearts before the Lord.

***CALL TO WORSHIP: NEHEMIAH 9:5-6**

Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting.

Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

You are the Lord, you alone.

You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it,

the seas and all that is in them;

and you preserve all of them;

and the host of heaven worships you.

You are the Lord, the God who chose Abram...

And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous

§DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***HYMN: PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN, NO. 76**

** Please stand if you are able. § Please stand and raise your hands.*

***RESPONSIVE READING: THE LAW OF GOD**

Then God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me."

For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him. (1 Corinthians 8.6)

"You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

Little children, guard yourselves from idols. (1 John 5:21)

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain."

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:17)

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. (Hebrews 4:9-10)

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you."

Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. (Colossians 3:20)

"You shall not murder."

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire." (Matthew 5:21-22)

"You shall not commit adultery."

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge. (Hebrews 13:4)

"You shall not steal."

We urge you, brothers, to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one. (1 Thessalonians 4:10-12)

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. (Ephesians 4:25)

"You shall not covet."

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)

KINGDOM PRAYER

At the conclusion of each request, we implore the Lord's mercy to hear our prayers, as follows:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer.

We pray for the following:

- *To be built up into one body, glorifying God in all that we do.*
- *For a strong commitment to one another, unity with all who are in the Lord*
- *For the ministry of the Slavic Reformation Society.*
- *For the leadership of the Session of the church.*
- *That new people would be added to WPC.*

OFFERTORY AND PRAYER

***HYMN: GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS, NO. 32**

***SCRIPTURE READINGS**

We give thanks for the Word of God with the following statement after each reading:

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON & SERMON TEXT: HAGGAI 1:1-2

In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest: ² "Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord."

NEW TESTAMENT READING: EPHESIANS 2:11-22

GOSPEL READING: MARK 4:26-29

CONFESSION OF FAITH: CALVIN'S CATECHISM (1538)

iii. Second Petition: Thy kingdom come.

The kingdom of God is this: by his Holy Spirit to act and to rule over his own people in order to make the riches of his goodness and mercy conspicuous in all their works. On the other hand, it is to ruin and confound the reprobate who are unwilling to be subject to his reign, and to lay low their sacrilegious arrogance, in order to make clear that there is no power which can withstand his power.

Accordingly, we pray that “God’s kingdom come,” that is, that the Lord may day by day add new believers to his people so that they may celebrate his glory in every way; also that he may pour out ever more widely upon them his rich graces, through which he may live and reign day by day more and more in them, until he completely fulfills their perfect union with himself. At the same time we pray that he will cause his light and truth to shine with ever new increases, by which to dispel, snuff out, and destroy the darkness and falsehoods of Satan and his kingdom.

PRAYER FOR THE SERMON

SERMON: *WHY SUCH A RUSH?* REV. JERID KRULISH

***HYMN:** *MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS*, NO. 521

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell[°]. The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

[°] lit. *hades*, i.e. under the power of death †The congregation is permitted to kneel.

EXHORTATION TO CONFESSION: REVELATION 2:4-5

But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.

PUBLIC CONFESSION: THE STRASBOURG LITURGY (1539)

Almighty, eternal God and Father, we confess and acknowledge unto You that we were conceived in unrighteousness, and are full of sin and transgression in all our life. We do not fully believe Your Word nor follow Your holy commandments. Remember Your goodness, we humbly ask You, and for the sake of Your Name, be gracious unto us, and forgive us our iniquity which, alas, is great.

Beneath the cross of Christ, we come to know that ours is the guilt, but Yours the forgiveness; ours the condemnation, but Yours the gift of justification; ours the bondage, yet Yours the freedom of adoption and new obedience. Even the faith by which we profess our dear Savior's sacrifice was itself won for us by His death. Therefore, we cry out to You in sorrow for our sins and in thanksgiving for Your gift. Give us the grace, we pray, to receive again this word of the cross, which alone can refresh us on our pilgrim way, and send us out again into the world.

† SILENT REPENTANCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:19-20

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it has always been Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

DECLARATION OF ABSOLUTION

After the declaration, let the congregation respond, "Amen."

HYMN: THERE IS A FOUNTAIN FILLED WITH BLOOD, NO. 253

EXHORTATION AT THE TABLE

You are welcome to the Lord's Table if you are a baptized Christian who has been received into communal membership by this or any other church.

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

§ GLORIA PATRI

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.**

*** PRAYER OF THANKS AND INTERCESSION**

At this time, please move to the perimeter of the sanctuary in a closed circle. The elders will come and serve you; please hold your bread until all have received, and then we will eat together. The wine will be distributed in the same manner. It is our privilege to bless the non-communing children.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

Our bread is gluten-free. The fruit of the vine is real wine, except for the innermost ring of the tray, which has no alcohol.

*** 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.

***HYMN: LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS, NO. 616**

***BENEDICTION & THREEFOLD AMEN**



FOR FAMILY AND PRIVATE WORSHIP:

HYMN OF THE MONTH: *CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY, NO. 277*

CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:

This week's lesson:

Q. 1. Who made you?

A. God.

Next week's lesson:

Q. 2. What else did God make?

A. God made all things.

WPC BIBLE READING PLAN: ONE CHURCH, ONE CHAPTER

	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Main Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>
3/5	The Gospel of Mark	Mark 3	Ps. 47
3/6		Mark 4	Ps. 48
3/7		Mark 5	Ps. 49
3/8		Mark 6	Ps. 50
3/9		Mark 7	Ps. 51
3/10		Mark 8	Ps. 52

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day," Al - - le - lu - ia!
 2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - - le - lu - ia!

sons of men and an - gels say; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has burst the gates of hell; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - le - lu - ia!
 fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head; Al - - le - lu - ia!

raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 death in vain for - bids his rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died, our souls to save; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 made like him, like him we rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!

sing ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - le - lu - ia!
 ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - - le - lu - ia!

