Preparing to Hear God’s Word

Prelude
Voluntary IV  William Boyce

Welcome  Lynne Clements

Opening Hymn  Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven  LAUDA ANIMA

Celebrating the Retirement of Kate Brinkley

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God’s Word to Us

First Reading  Psalm 13

Second Reading  Romans 8:18-27

Sermon  How Long, O Lord?  Lynne Clements

Affirmation of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

continued
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers of the People

Response

For the Troubles and the Sufferings
Rodolfo Gaede Neto

The Lord’s Prayer

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Voluntary VIII: Allegro
John Stanley
1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, 
in distress; God is still the same forever, 
feeble frame, gladly all our burdens bearing, 
face to face, Sun and moon and all creation,

2 Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears who, like me, should sing God’s praise? Alleluia! slow to chide, and swift to bless. Alleluia! still to countless years the same. Alleluia! dwellers all in time and space: Alleluia!

3 Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Maker all your days! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Maker’s faithfulness! Al - le - lu - ia! All with in me, praise God’s name! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Prayer

For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,
God, we call upon your mercy:
the whole creation’s laboring in pain!
Lend an ear to the rising cry for help
from oppressed and hopeless people.
Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!
We pray for peace,
the blessed peace that comes from making
justice,
to cover and embrace us.
Have mercy, Lord!
We pray for power,
the power that will sustain your people’s witness:
until your kingdom comes,
Kyrie eleison!

Rodolfo Gaede Neto

Westminster Staff

Ken Henry, Pastor
khenry@westminsterva.org
Lynne Clements, Associate Pastor
leclements@westminsterva.org
Dorothy Piatt
Assoc. Pastor for Social Justice and University Mission
dpiatt@westminsterva.org
Megan Sharp
Director of Fine Arts
Jonathan Schakel
Organist
Sanford Wilcox
Church Administrator
Kate Brinkley
Office Manager
Steve Brown
Finance Administrator
Tom Mullen
Sexton
Alonzo Williams
Assistant Sexton

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