

Service for the Lord's Day

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 29, 2021

Westminster Presbyterian Church
400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, Virginia
www.westminsterva.org · 434-293-3133



*W*elcome visitors, newcomers, and friends worshipping with us today! If you're interested in joining our church community, please speak to a pastor after worship or contact the church office, 434-293-3133. We hope you will worship with us again, whenever possible.

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

Dies sind die heil'gen zehn Gebot

J. S. Bach

Welcome

◆ Call to Worship

based on Psalm 103:1-5

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

The Lord forgives all our iniquity, and heals all our diseases.

The Lord redeems our lives from the pit, and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

God satisfies us with good as long as we live

so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Come. Let us worship God.

◆ Hymn 49

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

When the busyness of our lives erodes the intentions of our hearts:

*Merciful God, **forgive us.***

When our personal agendas take precedence over reaching out to others:

*Merciful God, **forgive us.***

When we keep putting off being more active "doers of the word":

*Merciful God, **forgive us.***

When we resist change, knowing that our acting and thinking are limited by our prejudice and ignorance:

*Merciful God, **forgive us.***

When we only half-listen to those who cry out to be fully heard:

*Merciful God, **forgive us.***

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession continues

*Gracious and merciful God,
forgive us for past faults
and help us in the present and future
to make ourselves more available to the hurting world
that surrounds us—the world that begins on our doorsteps.
Equip us to be patient and compassionate listeners,
proclaiming the gospel not in overbearing ways
but sensitively and lovingly. Strengthen us with the Holy Spirit
to be fruitful and active witnesses to Jesus in all we do and say. Amen.*

Sung Response

HS 68

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!**

Assurance of Forgiveness

James 1:21

As we become doers of the word and not merely hearers, we discover that it is “in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive”—in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

◆ Sung Response

HS 22

**All glory be to God on high, and peace on earth from heaven,
And God’s good will unfailingly be to all people given.
We bless, we worship You, we raise
For Your great glory thanks and praise,
O God, the great Creator.**

◆ Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

God’s Word to Us

First Reading

James 1:17-27

Anthem (11:00)

Teach Me, O Lord

William Byrd

Quintet: Megan Sharp, Dana Patek, Erika Herz, Steve Patek, Winston Barham
*Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes;
and I shall keep it unto the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law:
yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.
Make me to go in the path of thy commandments:
for therein is my desire.
Incline my heart unto thy testimonies:
and not unto covetousness.*

*O turn away mine eyes, lest they behold vanity:
and quicken me in thy way.
O establish thy word in thy servant:
that I may fear thee.
Glory be to the Most High, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, and is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Second Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Sermon Finding Our Touchstones Ken Henry

◆ Affirmation of Faith

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.
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. Amen.

◆ Hymn 61 (11:00) **Your Law, O Lord, Is Perfect** CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN

Prayers of the Congregation and the Lord's Prayer hymnal, p. 35

◆ Hymn 700 **I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me** I'M GONNA LIVE

You are invited to bring your Hunger Offering forward during the final hymn.

◆ Prayer of Thanksgiving and Benediction

Postlude *Fugue in C Major* Dieterich Buxtehude

◆ Please stand, as you are able.

The flowers today are given by Carol and David Hogg.

The Program Year Begins *at Westminster*

Welcome to University Students!

Sundays:

8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship
12 p.m. Brunch at Common Grounds for all young adults

Thursdays:

5:30 p.m. Yoga in the Westminster Courtyard

First and Third Wednesdays, beginning September 1:

7 p.m. 20/30 CreW Wednesday Wind-Down for young adults and graduate or professional students

Regular service projects will begin on September 5!

Church School Classes begin

Sunday, September 12

9:30 a.m. Classes for children, youth, and adults

Music at Westminster

Thursdays:

7 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal, University students welcome

Sundays:

12:15 p.m. Singers Choir, for youth and adults, rehearsals beginning on September 12

Westminster Staff

Ken Henry, *Pastor*

khenry@westminsterva.org

Lynne Clements, *Associate Pastor*

lclements@westminsterva.org

Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra

*Assoc. Pastor for Social Justice
and University Mission*

dpiatt@westminsterva.org

Megan Sharp

Director of Fine Arts

Jonathan Schakel

Organist

Sanford Wilcox

Facilities Manager

Ashley Dunn-Jalenak

Communications Manager

Steve Brown

Finance Administrator

Tom Mullen

Sexton

Alonzo Williams

Assistant Sexton

Through a series of online and in-person messages, devotionals, and worship opportunities, we hope to keep you connected to — and nurtured by — the Westminster community. Make sure you're signed up for our eNews, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, @westminsterville. Visit www.westminsterva.org.