

# Service for the Lord's Day

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023

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



## Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

*Cantilena*

Florence Price

Welcome

### ◆ Call to Worship

*Through Moses, God said,*

**Let my people go.**

*In scripture, the law declares;*

**In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts.**

*With grace, Jesus said:*

**give one coat away.**

*With honesty Jesus taught:*

**Sell what you have, give that money to the poor.**

*Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free.*

*Dropping our nets, giving to others, and following.*

**So in this hour of worship, may we release that which binds us.**

**May we worship with open, untamed, and porous hearts,**

**so that we can walk freely with God.**

*Let it be so.*

**Amen.**

### ◆ Hymn 757

**Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples**

KINGSFOLD

Call to Confession

*Let us now ask God to cleanse our hearts, to redeem our memories, and to renew our faith in the goodness of God as we pray together the prayer of confession printed in our bulletin.*

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, we admit to holding tight to that which we know and understand. We put you in a theological box to avoid the shades of grey that come with faith. We put worship in a box to avoid the discomfort of change. We put others in boxes labeled “worthy” and “unworthy.” We put all that we have in a box and pray we won't run out. We confess to holding tight to fear, greed, and worldly structures. Forgive us for missing the point. Open our eyes to a new way – to a holiness found in open boxes, unclenched fists, shades of grey, and holy release.**

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal no. 576

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

*Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose again for us, Christ sits on the right hand of God and prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has passed away and the new has begun.*

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### ◆ Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal no. 582

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## God's Word to Us

A Time with Children and Youth

Sung Prayer for Illumination (sung in English and Yoruba)

Come, O Holy Spirit, come.  
Come, almighty Spirit, come.  
Come, O Spirit, come.

First Reading

Acts 3:1-10

NT p. 112  
Barry Parks

Anthem

*I Believe This Is Jesus*

African-American Spiritual  
arr. Undine Smith Moore

I believe this is Jesus; come and see.  
The Light of God shines in his face,  
he offers all his pardoning grace.  
Oh, come and see.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

NT p. 163

Sermon

A Good Day of Sailing...

Jewell-Ann Parton

## Responding to God's Word

### ◆ Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that on the first day, God released love and creativity over a void;  
and that void became mountains and rivers, sunsets and starry nights.  
We believe God released God's people from the grips of oppression, liberating us day in  
and day out.**

**We believe God laid down with death and was released from its grip, knowing suffering  
and freeing us from this fragile life.**

**And we believe God invites us – day in and day out- to release our fears,  
let go of assumptions, tear down walls, throw open the doors, and walk closer to love.**

**May it be so. Amen.**

Prayers of the Congregation and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be 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.**

Story of Transformation: Gene Locke

Offertory

*Until I Reach My Home*

African-American Spiritual  
arr. Dr. Brandon Boyd

Lord, until I reach my home, until I reach my home.

I never expect my journey over 'til I reach my home.

I would not be a sinner. I'll tell you the reason why.

I'm afraid my Lord might call my name, and I wouldn't be ready to die.

I went up on the mountain. I didn't go there to stay.

But then my soul got happy, then I stayed all day.

I got a crown up in a that kingdom, ain' a that good news.

I'm a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up a my cross,  
gonna take it home to my Jesus, ain' a that good news.

◆ Presentation of the Offering

HS 82

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

◆ Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Abundant God, it is not always easy to give what we have. We count our pennies. We calculate what we have given before. We all have our money stories. Yet, we trust that you will take these gifts, however freely or reluctantly given – and use them to build up your Kingdom here on earth. For that is who you are, building disciples out of people and new life out of cautious gifts. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 66

**Every Time I Feel the Spirit**

PENTECOST

In today's worship, we remember the creators of the body of music known as Negro Spirituals, Jubilee Songs, and, more modernly, African-American Spirituals. By whatever name, these beautiful songs speak directly to the soul. As you feel moved, please consider placing an offering in the envelope provided in the pews in support of the church's Royalties for Negro Spirituals Program.

◆ Charge and Benediction

- ◆ Passing of the Peace  
*May the peace of Christ be with you.*  
**And also with you.**

Postlude *Wade in duh Wadduh* William Farley Smith

- ◆ Please stand, as you are able.

*The greens today are given in loving memory of Mary-Moore Grove by her family.*

*Some liturgies for this year's stewardship season are adapted from "Our Money Story" by A Sanctified Art.*

*Ellie Weikle, soloist; Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra, percussion*

*Today's guest choir director is Dr. Brandon Boyd.*

## What's Happening *at Westminster*

### **Sunday, October 15**

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion in Common Grounds

9:30 a.m. Church School Hour for all ages;

in the Library, a special presentation by Dr. Brandon Boyd

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. UKirk and 20/30/40 Crew Bagel Brunch at Common Grounds

1 p.m. CROP Walk

7 p.m. Deacons Meeting via Zoom

### **Monday, October 16**

6:30 p.m. UKirk Dinner & Discussion in Common Grounds

### **Tuesday, October 17**

6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Lower Lounge

### **Thursday, October 19**

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room

### **Friday, October 20**

7:30 p.m. Organ Concert Series Concert in the Sanctuary, featuring Bálint Karosi

### **Saturday, October 21**

10 a.m. Westminster Walkers

2 p.m. Memorial Service for Jon Craig in the Sanctuary,  
followed by a Reception in the Fellowship Hall

### **Sunday, October 22**

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion in Common Grounds

9:30 a.m. Church School Hour

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. UKirk and 20/30/40 Crew Bagel Brunch at Common Grounds

12:15 p.m. Singers Rehearsal in the Choir Room

Welcome to the Westminster community. Make sure you're signed up for our eNews, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, @westminstercville. Visit [www.westminsterva.org](http://www.westminsterva.org).

To give, scan the QR code to the right.



# 757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

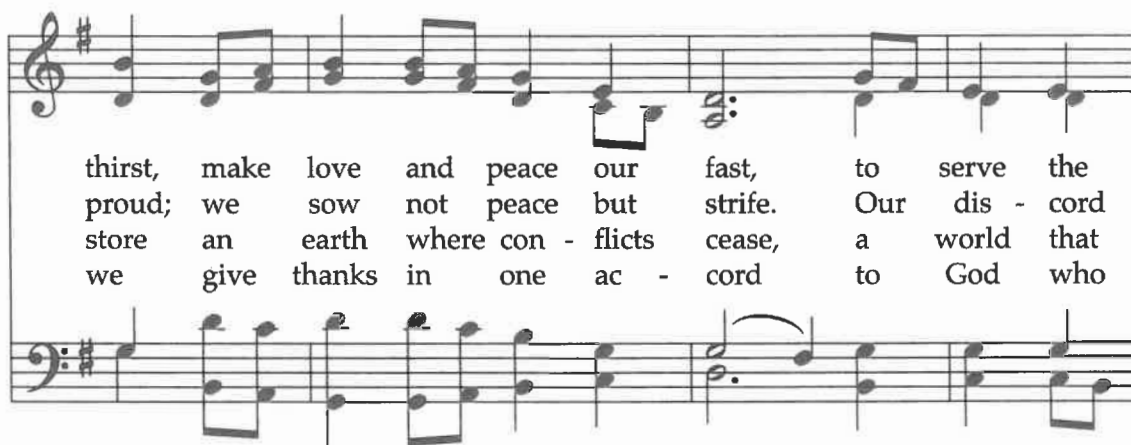
1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the  
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man  
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y  
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make  
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -  
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to  
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

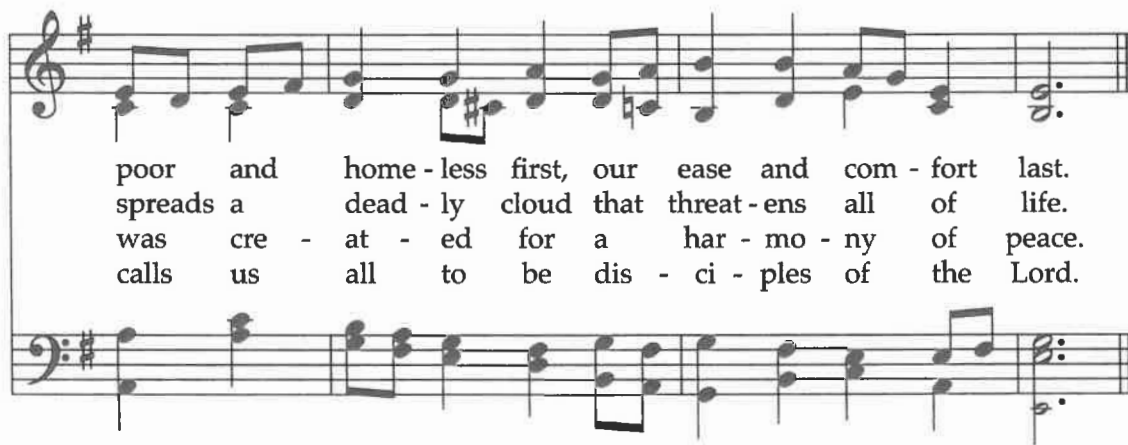
plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their  
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly  
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -  
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION



thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the  
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord  
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that  
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who



poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.  
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.  
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.  
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

# Faith Begins by Letting Go 684

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what  
 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ory's  
 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en -

had seemed sure, tak - ing risks and press - ing on,  
 roots a - live so that hope may bear its fruit;  
 larg - ing hearts, shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer,

though the way feels less se - cure: pil - grim - age both  
 prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive, not through mer - it  
 bind - ing up the bro - ken parts; till we find the

right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
 we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
 com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

This text affirms that faith is not a state of being but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world. The movement from one stage of faith to another is suggested by gestures of the hand: letting go, holding on, reaching out.

# 66 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my

heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the

Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray.

*Fine*

1 Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, out of God's

2 Jor - dan Riv - er, chil - ly and cold, it chills the

mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me, it looked so

bod - y but not the soul. There is but one train up - on this

fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

track. It runs to heav - en and then right back.

*to Refrain*

Like many African American spirituals, this one mixes the language of biblical narrative with veiled but effective allusions to the hope of escape from slavery, either by crossing rivers into free states or by participating in organized efforts like the Underground Railroad.