

Service for the Lord's Day

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023

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



Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

Chorale Prelude on "Down Ampney"

Herbert Sumsion

Welcome

◆ Call to Worship

Can you imagine unfettered love? Free and bold, wild and true, the kind of love that changes you?

Can you imagine faith like a compass that guides the way you love and hope:

that asks questions and yet still believes, even despite uncertainty?

Can you imagine a world where peace is the narrative and hope the currency?

Can you imagine?

Yes, we can imagine.

Today in worship, dare to dream.

Dare to imagine what could be.

Believe that God is here, in wandering thoughts, hopes, and prayers.

Let us worship God, the one who is that great unfettered love.

◆ Hymn HS 47

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. In humility and faith, let us confess our sins as we pray together...

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you invite us to dream of a better world, but instead we bury our heads in the sand. We are afraid to recognize how much must change. So, instead, more often than not, we maintain the status quo, and passively allow things to stay the same. We don't hold fast to the dream of a world without racism, sexism, bigotry, and shame. Forgive us. Show us the way. Teach us to dream and to imagine the world as you would have it. Humbly, we pray.

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal no. 576

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: Christ died for our sins and rose again that God may free us from the tyranny of judging others to live fully in the power of God's grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, God forgives our sins and offers us a transformed future.

Live fully into God's grace. Amen.

◆ Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal no. 583

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

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

Genesis 1:1-2

OT p. 1
Ann Parks

Anthem

Treasures in Heaven

Joseph Clokey

Elizabeth Dillon, soprano

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth,
Where moth and rust doth corrupt,
and where thieves break through and steal,
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
Ask, and it shall be given you;
Seek, and ye shall find;
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you,
For everyone that asketh receiveth,
And she that seeketh findeth,
And to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Second Reading

Luke 11:9-13

NT p. 68

Sermon

Sailing New Oceans

Jewell-Ann Parton

Responding to God's Word

◆ Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Creator, who, like a painter with a canvas, imagined creation and breathed it into being.

We believe in Jesus, who walked this hurting world and showed us a new way to love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who prods us and pulls us, leads us and guides us, carries us and loves us into new life, day after day.

**We believe in the power of the imagination,
a gift from God that allows us to dream dreams, create anew,**

**start over, try again,
and live lives of hope.
In response, together, as God's church, we dare to dream,
we strive to love, we try to imagine a new day.
And we walk together, all with God's help. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 650

O Beauty Ever Ancient

ANCIENT BEAUTY

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: Rob Smith

Offertory

Praise to the Spinner

James Hopkins

Praise to the spinner who twisted and twirled
from sea-foam and sunlight the life of this world.
Those same nimble fingers have gathered and fed
my joys and my sorrows into faith's single thread.
Praise to the weaver whose mystical loom
wove order and light from the chaos and gloom.
The shuttle that textures the night with the day
has woven together twines of grace with my clay.
Praise to the tailor whose needle has cast
the stitches of hope that have held my heart fast
and bound as one fabric without any seams
my highest, best visions with Spirit's deep dreams.
Spinner and Weaver and Tailor of all,
this day I acknowledge your wonderful call,
and I ask through the sacraments, worship and prayer
my life will make plain, Lord, it's your vestments I wear.

◆ 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
In scripture we hear of a woman who gave her last coin away. Jesus pointed her out, but did not say “go and do likewise.” Did you point her out to make us ask, “Why does this one have so little when others have so much?” Did you point her out to help us see the injustice that led to her suffering? Perhaps. So as we bring our gifts to you today, Lord, we pray that you will use our gifts for those who cannot afford to give to you and put food on the table. Right what is wrong, and use these gifts to build a world that we can only imagine. In hope, we pray. Amen.

◆ Hymn 282 **Come Down, O Love Divine** DOWN AMPNEY

◆ Charge and Benediction

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

Postlude *Psalm 150* Toon Hagen

◆ Please stand, as you are able.
The flowers today celebrate Ken Digges’ 90th birthday, given by his wife, Lucille.

Some liturgies for this year’s stewardship season are adapted from “Our Money Story” by A Sanctified Art.

What’s Happening *at Westminster*

Sunday, October 22

- 8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion at 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

Monday, October 23

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

Wednesday, October 25

- 7 p.m. 20/30/40 CreW Wednesday Wind-Down (off site)

Thursday, October 26

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

Saturday, October 28

- 10 a.m. Westminster Walkers

Sunday, October 29

- Reformation Sunday*
- 8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion at 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
- 3 p.m. Trunk or Treat in the Church Parking Lot

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

47

Joachim Neander, 1680

trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

Erneuerten Gesangbuch, 1665

LOBE DEN HERREN, 14.14.4.7.8

harm. *The Chorale Book for England, 1863*

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, who rules all cre - a
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign -
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend
4. Praise to the Lord! O for - get not God's man - i - fold gra -

tion! O my soul, praise the one who is thy health and sal -
eth! Lifts thee on ea - gle's wings, yea, and so gent - ly sus -
thee; Sure - ly all good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -
ces; All that hath life and breath, see how God's love doth em -

va tion! Come ye who hear, Bro - thers and sis - ters draw
tain - eth! Hast thou not seen, All that is need - ful hath
tend thee: Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y can
brace us. Let the a - men Sound from the peo - ple a -

near, Join me in glad a - dor - a - tion!
been Grant - ed in what God or - dain - eth?
do, Who with great love doth be - friend thee.
gain: Glad - ly for aye we sing prai - ses.

O Beauty Ever Ancient 650

Capo 3: (D) (G) (Em) (C) (G) (Em) (A) (D)
 F B^b Gm E^b B^b Gm C F

1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau-ty ev - er new,
 2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,
 3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,
 4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,

(G) (Em) (F#7) (Bm) (G) (Em) (A) (D)
 B^b Gm A7 Dm B^b Gm C F

di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,
 O beau-ty in the si - lence, in dark - ness as in light,
 O beau-ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,
 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau-ty ev - er new,

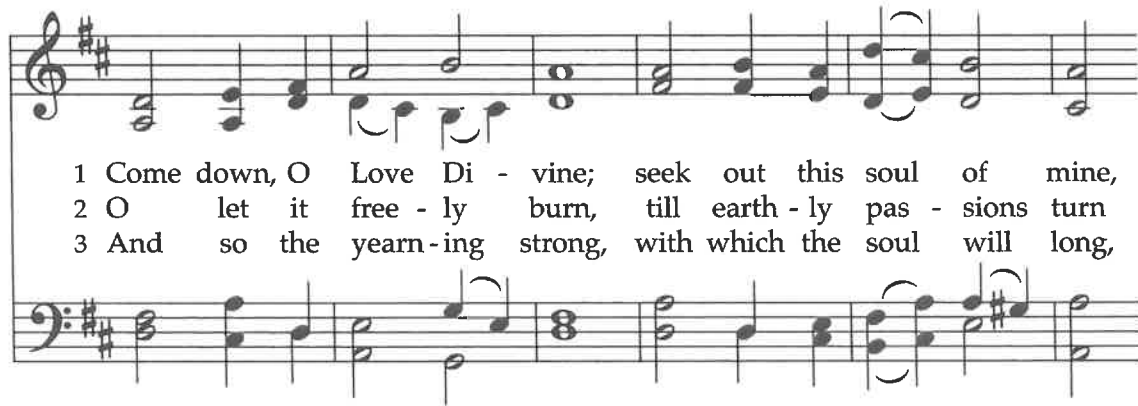
(D) (G) (Em) (C) (G) (C) (Dsus)(D) (G)
 F B^b Gm E^b B^b E^b Fsus F B^b

in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

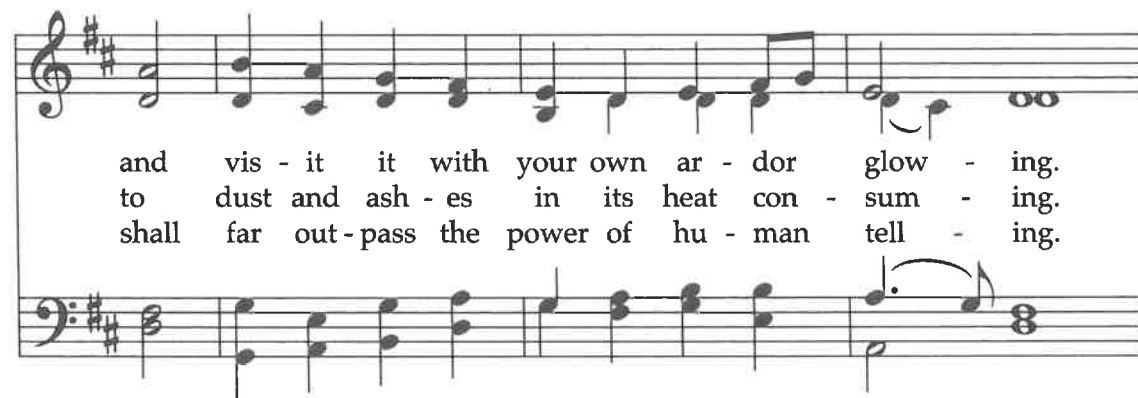
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Both Psalms 29:2b and 96:6a encourage us to “worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,” yet celebrating the beauty of the holy God is not an end in itself but involves a call to oppose unjust ugliness. The beauty that draws us to God also urges us to work for mercy and justice.

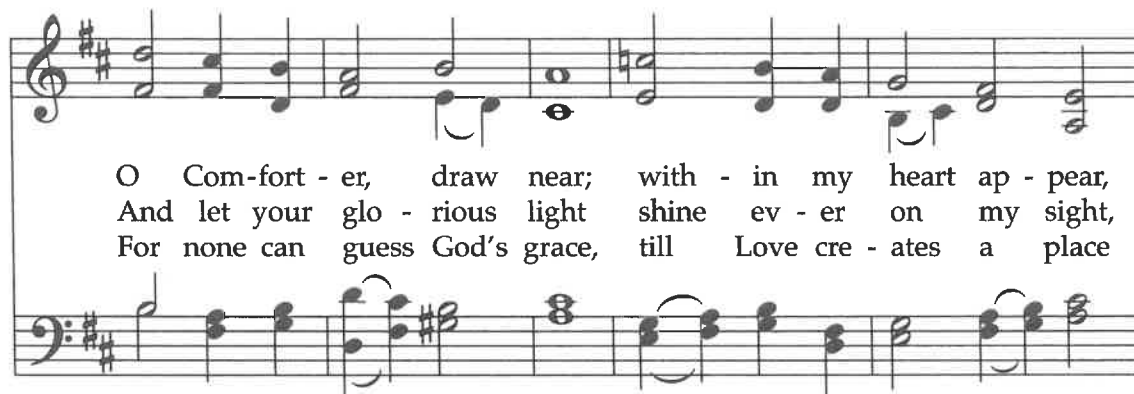
282 Come Down, O Love Divine



1 Come down, O Love Di - vine; seek out this soul of mine,
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing.
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing.
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing.



O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear,
 And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 For none can guess God's grace, till Love cre - ates a place



and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

This *lauda spirituale*, a kind of vernacular Italian sacred song from the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, was translated into English in the 19th century but received little notice until this tune (named for the composer's birthplace) was created for *The English Hymnal*.