

Service for the Lord's Day

Pledge Dedication Sunday

November 12, 2023

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



Welcome 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

Adagio

Gustav Merkel

Welcome

◆ Call to Worship

from Psalm 89

*I will sing of thy steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim thy faithfulness to all generations.*

**For thy steadfast love was established forever,
thy faithfulness is firm as the heavens.**

*Thou hast said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations."*

Let us worship God.

◆ Hymn 53

O God, Who Gives Us Life

NOEL

Call to Confession

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

Prayer of Confession

**You have created an abundant world, Lord, for the benefit of all your children.
Your creation is glorious: the sunsets, rainbows, forests, animals, mountains, and oceans.
You have created a rich diversity in your children and in the physical world.
Yet, too often we listen to the voices of culture:
there is not enough and we need to get our share. Forgive us.
Help us open our eyes to the wonders before us and help us,
in all that we do, to care for the earth and your good creation.**

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

HS 71

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, have mercy.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: It was because God so loved the world that God sent God's only son. Christ came into the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him. Beloved, in the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

Listen to the word that God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation;
listen even if you don't understand.

First Reading

Isaiah 30:19-22

OT p. 619
Elizabeth McCree

Anthem

As the Wind Song

Swee Hong Lim

The text for the anthem can be found at Glory to God hymnal no. 292.

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

NT p. 147

Sermon

Transformation

Jewell-Ann Parton

Responding to God's Word

◆ Affirmation of Faith

from the *Patmos Abbey, Order of St Columba, Australia*

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
Who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.
We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.
We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God,
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.
We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,
and that our path leads to a glory we cannot yet imagine.
We believe that in the Church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.
This is our faith, and we are humbled to profess it in Jesus Christ. 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.**

Offertory

Shout for Joy!

African-American spiritual

O Lord! Shout for joy!
Early in the morning, shout for joy!
Late in the evening, shout for joy!
Feel like shouting, feel like praying.

◆ 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!**

◆ Hymn 839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

ASSURANCE

During the hymn, the congregation is invited to bring forward their pledge cards.

◆ Prayer of Dedication

We bring you our offerings, tithes, and pledges, Lord, in your name and in service to the world. These gifts are symbols of our choice to follow you. Receive them, we pray, that they may go forth as your blessing for the world. Amen.

◆ Charge and Benediction

◆ Passing of the Peace

*May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.*

Postlude

Moderato

Robert Schumann

◆ Please stand, as you are able.

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

The flowers today are given by Jackie Brownfield in memory of the Kitchen Committee members who have passed in the last fifty years. The rose on the table today celebrates the birth of Flynn Russell Scrimshaw, grandson of Rich Gregory and Gail Ott, born November 4 to Anne Russell Gregory and her husband Ben Scrimshaw in Bozeman, Montana.

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.

What's Happening *at Westminster*

Sunday, November 12

Pledge Dedication 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. Brunswick Stew in the Courtyard

1:30 p.m. Session Meeting in the Library

Monday, November 13

6 p.m. Service of Remembrance in the Sanctuary

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

Tuesday, November 14

Noon Adult Potluck Luncheon in the Library

4 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study in the Lower Lounge

Wednesday, November 15

3:30 p.m. Communion at WCBR

Thursday, November 16

6 p.m. UKirk Friendsgiving Event at University Baptist Church

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

Saturday, November 18

10 a.m. Westminster Walkers

Sunday, November 19

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

12:15 p.m. Deacons Meeting in the Upper Lounge

4 p.m. OCS concert in the Sanctuary, with Megan Sharp, soprano, organ & strings



53 O God, Who Gives Us Life

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de-spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

175

Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and its righ - teous - ness,
 seek, and you shall find;
 but by ev - ery word

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4, emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2-3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;
 Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

Text and Music © 1972 Universal Music - Brentwood Publishing/Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music
 (admin. Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)

LAFFERTY
 Irregular

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

SPANISH

1 *Busca primero el reino de Dios
 y su perfecta justicia,
 que lo demás lo añadirá el Señor.
 Alelu, aleluya.*

KOREAN

1 너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와
 그의를 구하-면
 이모든것 네게 더하시리라
 알렐-루 알렐루야

839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing,
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing,

pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry; this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior

Sometimes this prolific 19th-century hymnwriter wrote texts for others to set, and sometimes she created words for tunes others had composed. This text was of the second kind, and the resulting close fit between words and music has made them both popular and inseparable.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

KOREAN

- 1 예수를 내가 주로 믿어
성령과 피로써 거둔나니
이세상에서 내 영혼이
하늘의 영광 누리도다
후렴 이것이 나의 간증이요
이것이 나의 찬송일세
나사는 동안 끊임없이
예수 내 구주 찬송하리
- 2 온전히 주께 맡긴 내영
온전한 기쁨을 누리면서
자비와 사랑 속삭이는
하늘의 천사 보리로다 후렴
- 3 예수께 맡긴 나의 영혼
주안에 복되고 평안하니
세상도 없고 나도 없고
사랑의 주만 보이도다 후렴