

Service for the Lord's Day

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

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

Andante

Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome

◆ Call to Worship

We are witnesses

to the love of God our maker.

We are witnesses

to the peace that Jesus gives us.

We are witnesses

to the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Surprised, challenged, healed and nourished,

we are witnesses.

Let us worship God!

◆ Hymn 826

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Risen Christ,

we are often troubled by our doubts, but you are not troubled by them.

You do not require perfect understanding.

Instead, you reveal yourself to us again and again that we might come to know you.

Forgive us when our doubts keep us stuck,

when fear prevents us from loving all creation as you call us to do.

Help us to accept the peace you so graciously offer to us.

Have mercy on us when we hoard or hide it, when we fail to offer it to others.

Renew us and make us whole that in this world of strife we may be bearers of your peace.

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

Ukrainian chant

Lord, — have mer - cy. Christ, — have mer - cy. Lord, — have mer - cy.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, know that the one who hears our prayers is the one who forgives. So far as the east is from the west have our sins been removed from us. Believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed to try again. Thanks be to God! Amen.

◆ Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal 232

Hymns of praise now let us sing: Alleluia!

Unto Christ our heavenly king: Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave: Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save: Alleluia!

◆ Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

God's Word to Us

A Time with Children and Youth

Young children are invited to depart to the education building for a time of unstructured play.

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter

Psalm 4

OT p. 464

Anthem

Peace I Leave with You

Walter Pelz

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:

not as the world giveth give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid.

Gospel

Luke 24:36b-48

NT p. 85

Sermon

We Are Witnesses

Lynne Clements

Responding to God's Word

◆ Affirmation of Faith

The Confession of 1967, inclusive language version

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.

His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for all people when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.

In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are.

They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

◆ Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness
(see insert)

SLANE

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.**

The Offering

Offertory

The Penitent's Vision

K. Lee Scott

Jesus, name, all names above, Jesus, best and dearest,
Jesus, Fount of perfect love, holiest, tenderest, nearest,
Jesus, Source of grace completest, Jesus, purest, Jesus, sweetest,
Jesus, well of power divine, make me, keep me, seal me thine!
Thou didst call the Prodigal; Thou didst pardon Mary:
Thou whose words can never fall, love can never vary:
Lord, to heal my lost condition, give (for thou canst give) contrition;
Thou canst pardon all my ill; bid my spirit, "Peace, be still!"
Jesus, open me the gate that the robber entered,
Who in that most lost estate wholly on thee ventured.
Thou, whose wounds are ever pleading, and thy Passion interceding,
From my sins, Oh, let me rise to a home in Paradise!

◆ Presentation of the Offering

Glory to God 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

◆ Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Lord God, we offer to you only a portion of what you have given us. All that we have is
from your creative hand. All that we can give away we do through Jesus' love. All of our
renewal comes from the Holy Spirit's wisdom. Use these gifts so that all may have joy;
in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

◆ Hymn 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

◆ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Ballo della Battaglia

Bernardo Storace

◆ Please stand, as you are able.

The flowers today are given by the Session of Westminster in memory of Mary Royster White, whose generosity provided this sanctuary and two endowment funds. Mrs. White's birthday was April 17, 1885; she died July 5, 1973.

What's Happening *at Westminster*

Sunday, April 14

9:30 a.m. Church school hour
9:30 a.m. New Member Gathering in Room 208
11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Noon UKirk and 20/30/40 Crew Bagel Brunch at Common Grounds
12:15 p.m. Singers rehearsal in the Choir Room
12:30 p.m. Session meeting in the Library

Monday, April 15

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

Thursday, April 17

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

Saturday, April 20

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Beta Bridge Stream Cleanup

Sunday, April 21

University Sunday

9:30 a.m. Church school hour
11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Noon UKirk and 20/30/40 Crew Bagel Brunch at Common Grounds
12:15 p.m. Singers rehearsal in the Choir Room
12:30 p.m. Deacons meeting in the Upper Lounge

Westminster Staff

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Lift High the Cross

826

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

to Refrain

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
 your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

Lord of All Hopefulness

Jan Struther, 1931

Irish traditional

SLANE, 10.10.10.10



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ev - er
2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were
3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to
4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is con -



child - like, no cares could des - troy: be there at our wak - ing and
skilled at the plane and the lathe: be there at our la - bors and
wel - come, your arms to em - brace: be there at our hom - ing and
tent - ment, whose pre - sence is balm: be there at our sleep - ing and



give us we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or-der hu - man life



we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.