****Westminster Presbyterian Church

**2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE**

**January 9, 2022**

**Baptism of the Lord**

**Prelude** "Absent" by Astor Piazzolla

 Jane Voorhies, accordion & John Ross, piano

**Welcome** Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

**Call to Worship** (Psalm 29; Luke 3)

*One: The voice of God resounds upon the water.*

***All: The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.***

*One: The Son of God is named, “Beloved.”*

***All: And all who worship shout out, “Glory!”***

*One: Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.*

***All: Let us worship God in holy splendor.***

***Special Music*** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

 Text by Robert Robinson, Public Domain

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;

praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;

and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

**Call to Confession**

**Time of Silent Confession**

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

***Holy God, you know us each by name, yet we often forget your caring presence in our lives. You are the One who draws near to us through the fires and storms of life, yet we foolishly blame you as the cause of misfortune. We say in baptism that we will care for your children, yet we often act out selfish ambition rather than love. We are sorry, and we seek change in our lives. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.***

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

…Believe and share the good news!

***In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!***

**Passing of the Peace**

*Please greet those around you with a wave, peace sign, or by making eye contact repeating this response:*

May the peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

**Children’s Chat** Karen Hoffman

(Children in Grades 1 – 5 are invited to come to Faith Village following the Children’s Chat or to find and sit with their parents. Parents can pick up their children in Faith Village following the service.)

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Prophets Isaiah 43:1-7 O.T. pg. 672

Gospel Lesson Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 N.T. pg. 60

 The Word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.***

**Meditation** “This is What it Looks Like When Doves Dive”Rev. Chris Peters

***Special Music*** "Duo I" by Astor Piazzolla

 Jane Voorhies, accordion & John Ross, piano

**Affirmation of Faith** (Confession of 1967, 9.51)

***By humble submission to John’s baptism, Christ joined himself to humankind in their need and entered upon the ministry of reconciliation in the power of the spirit. Christian baptism marks the receiving of the same Spirit by all Christ’s people. Baptism with water represents not only cleansing from sin but a dying with Christ and a joyful rising with him to new life. It commits all Christians to die each day to sin and to live for righteousness. In baptism the church celebrates the renewal of the covenant.***

**Moment of Gratitude**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Instrumental Response**

**Prayers of the People**

**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.***

**Charge & Benediction** Rev. Chris Peters

**Postlude** "Song of Popo" by Astor Piazzolla

 Jane Voorhies, accordion & John Ross, piano

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our Infant Room is available. This is located off the narthex through the West/Sheridan-end sanctuary doors. When you enter the narthex, turn to your right, where the door will be open.

There is a large basket near the Sheridan Street doors where your offering can be placed following the service.

If you don’t want to take your bulletin with you, please dispose of it in the recycling basket as you exit the sanctuary.

**Ministers**

The whole congregation.

**Pastors**

Rev. Chris Peters

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**Music Directors**

John & Laura Ross

**Director of Children & Youth**

Trish Souliere

Sympathetic prayers to the family of **Don Larson**, who passed away recently. His funeral will be at Roper’s Chapel on “O” Street on Jan. 15 at 11 am. Pastor Jimmy will officiate. Inurnment will be in Decatur, NE at a later date.

*****“I am the vine,*

 *you are the branches . . .”*

**The week of Jan. 9, 2022**

*Westminster Presbyterian Church is an inclusive faith family, inspired by Jesus Christ,*

*to call, nurture, and empower disciples.*

**Community Conversations**

As is our long-established custom, knowledgeable community members have been invited in January to speak to pertinent issues of the day. There is no issue more all-consuming than COVID and this will be WPC’s first opportunity to learn about and consider Lincoln’s response to the pandemic. Please look over the list below then plan on attending sessions on how various entities in Lincoln have fared. We’ve asked speakers to respond to the question, “What did your institution do to cope with COVID and what are your ongoing plans while we still have an active pandemic.” We’ll gather in Fellowship Hall at 10:45 am after worship.

Our presenters are:

* January 9: Dr. Steve Joel is superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools
* January 16: Dr. Rich Lloyd is Health Sciences President of Bryan School of Nursing and Executive President of Hastings College
* January 23: Teresa Ewins is Chief of Police for the Lincoln Police Department
* January 30: Dr. Bob Rauner is founder and president of Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln

**Greeters**

The Church Life Committee is looking for individuals who would be willing to welcome worship attendees, one Sunday, every other month in 2022. Click on the link in the eVine or contact Pam Wealand at pjwealand0983@gmail.com to sign up.

**Worship Update**

Westminster’s Session and leadership thank you for continuing to wear a mask on-site and in worship for the sake of our youngest disciples who still cannot be vaccinated, especially in light of the ongoing increase in cases due to omicron. As shared in our November Session Notes, we ask that worshippers continue to mask up so that we may be able to most safely resume congregational singing when the COVID dial returns to yellow. This approach was not changed at our Dec. meeting, though there was balanced discussion. We will continue to update you on any changes to come from our Safety Task Force or Session in this space and/or in our Session Notes.

**Poinsettias**

If you know of someone who would enjoy having a poinsettia, please take one to them or take one home yourself.

**Usher Teams**

The Worship & Music committee is looking for volunteers who are willing to commit to ushering once a month as a four-member team. We are hoping to have a total of 16 volunteers to usher once a month for a commitment of 6 months starting in January. Email Kim at kim.kubick@hotmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

**Faith to Forest Zoom Series**

Adult Education encourages you to Zoom and learn about the vital role of trees in our call to tend creation and protect life on our planet. The Zoom episodes will run from 7-8 pm on Thursdays in January. Links for the Zoom are in the weekly eVine. See your latest Messenger for more about the series.

**Green@Heart Recycles Again!**

Don’t send Styrofoam or non-functional Christmas lights to the landfill. We will gather these items at the church again and deliver them to special recycling centers for YOU! There is a designated drop-off box at the east entrance.

**Joy Offering**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Joy offering. We received donations of $1680.

**Wednesday Nights**

*For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” - Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)*

This week, our preschoolers will learn about how Jesus called the disciples.

In Faith Village, we will be making Rice Krispies fish while we discuss what it means to be "fishers of people.”

The Wednesday Youth Group will continue our discussions about friendship, focusing on how to strengthen our relationships.

All groups meet at 5:30 pm and end at 7:30 pm. The exceptional Zanders will be serving chicken nuggets and roasted red potatoes for dinner.

**Sunday Youth Group**

The Sunday Youth Group will begin a new series called "Faith in an Anxious World." This week we will begin to discuss anxiety and talk about how to see and name it. Naming anxiety is critical because when we ignore symptoms or feelings of anxiety, the result can be depression or unhealthy habits of coping. We will explore ways of finding healthy ways of dealing with anxiety and how God fits into the equation. While God doesn’t usually place anxiety on our shoulders, God is present and stays with us in our most anxious moments. Anxiety can become one of God’s greatest growth tools—changing the way we view ourselves and the world around us—as we ask ourselves two questions: Where is God at work in the midst of my anxious moments? What might God—or anxiety—be trying to tell me.

**Week Beginning January 9**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sun. (9)**9:15 AM Youth Sermon Set-up9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery10:45 AM Adult Ed, FH10:45 AM Confirmation Class12 Noon Sudanese Worship1 PM Preschool Winter Program7 PM H.S. Youth Group**Mon. (10)**11 AM Explorers Study Group, Parlor5:30 PM Worship & Music, Library5:30 PM Church Life Ministry, Zoom6 PM WCY Children & Youth, Zoom6 PM Mission & Outreach, FH**Tues. (11)**9:15 AM Staff Meeting10:30 AM Stewardship & Finance, Lounge5 PM Personnel6 PM A & P, Zoom | **Wed. (12)**1:30 PM Hearts&Hands, Library4:30 PM Foundation Finance4:30 PM Foundation Marketing5 PM Foundation Board, FH5:30 PM Wed. Activities5:30 PM Bell Rehearsal, Sanctuary6:30 PM Hearts&Hands, Library7 PM Acts Study, Zoom7 PM Virtual Choir Rehearsal**Fri. (14)**12 PM Pinewood Derby, Cub Scouts, FH**Sat. (15)**Pinewood Derby, Cub Scouts, FH**Sun. (16)**9:15 AM Youth Sermon Set-up9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery10:45 AM Adult Ed, FH10:45 AM Confirmation Class12 Noon Sudanese Worship7 PM H.S. Youth Group |

**Giving through Dec. 29, 2021**

Week 52 Giving    $37,410

YTD Giving        $642,296

Weekly Budget  $ 11,250

YTD Budget        $585,000

joanne@westminsterlincoln.org 402-475-6702