

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



January 23, 2022

## Faith to Forest: Tree Sabbath Sunday

### Prelude

"Minuet on *The Holly and The Ivy* & *The Cherry Tree Carol*"  
by Alec Rowley

### Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

### Minute for Mission: Faith to Forest Fundraiser

#### Call to Worship (Psalm 104:1-2, 16-17, 35b Common English Bible)

*One: Let my whole being bless the Lord!*

**All: Lord my God, how fantastic you are!**

*One: You are clothed in glory and grandeur!*

**All: You wear light like a robe;**

*One: you open the skies like a curtain.*

**All: The Lord's trees are well watered—**

*One: the cedars of Lebanon, which God planted,*

**All: where the birds make their nests,**

*One: where the stork has a home in the cypresses.*

**All: Let my whole being bless the Lord! Praise the Lord!**

### Special Music

"For the Beauty of the Earth"  
Text by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, Public Domain

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies:  
Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: [Refrain]

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: [Refrain]

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: [Refrain]

### Call to Confession

### Time of Silent Confession

## **Unison Prayer of Confession**

***Creator God, when our lives are rooted in your grace, you nourish us with wisdom like a tree planted by the waters. We claim that all creation sings your praises, yet we harm the earth by wasting resources and destroying forests. We say that we value the gift of creation, yet we treat our neighbors who are created in your image with scorn and disgust. Lord, forgive us and restore us so that we might bear the good fruit of love in our daily living. In Christ's name we pray for such fruitful restoration. 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**

Laurel Van Ham

## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Tree Sabbath Lessons and Hymns**

**Reading: Psalm 1**

**Meditation**

**Hymn**

"How Happy Are the Saints of God" Text by David Gambrell  
Copyright 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.).  
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How happy are the saints of God who do not heed the wicked way;  
delighting in the holy Word they seek God's wisdom night and day.

Like deeply rooted trees, they stand beside an ever-flowing stream.  
Their fruit is plentiful and good; their leaves are always growing green.

**Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10**

**Meditation**

**Hymn**

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower" Text by Natalie Sleeth  
Copyright 1986 Hope Publishing Company.  
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In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

**Reading: Luke 6:43-45**  
**Meditation**  
**Hymn**

"Sometimes a Light Surprises"  
Text by William Cowper, Public Domain

Sometimes a light surprises the child of God who sings;  
it is the Lord who rises with healing in his wings;  
when comforts are declining, he grants the soul again  
a season of clear shining to cheer it after rain.

Though vine nor fig tree neither their longed-for fruit should bear,  
though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there,  
yet God the same abiding, his praise shall tune my voice;  
for while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.

**Reading: Psalm 148**  
**Meditation**  
**Hymn**

"Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!" Text by Herman Stuempfle, Jr.  
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Sing praise to God, you heavens! Sing praise, each shining light!  
Sing, planets in your orbits; sing, stars all burning bright!  
Sing praise, you wind and tempests, you driving rain and snow!  
Sing, clouds that race and billow and shadow earth below!

Sing praise, O earth, sing praises! Sing praises, hill and plain,  
you mountains thrusting skyward, you valleys ripe with grain!  
Sing praise, each fragrant flower, your fairest hues display.  
Sing praise, you trees of autumn in glowing, glad array!

Sing praises now, God's people; your gift of speech employ  
to praise the Lord, your Maker, with thankfulness and joy!  
Sing with the whole creation; a cosmic chorus raise:  
"To God alone be glory and everlasting praise!"

**Reading: Isaiah 55:12-13**  
**Hymn**

"You Shall Go Out with Joy" Text by Steffi Geiser Rubin  
Copyright 1975 Lillenas Publishing Co. (admin. Music Services).  
Used by permission. CCLI License #1507379.

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands  
while you go out with joy.

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith, 11.3)

*We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.*

## **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**

"The Ash Grove" arr. Charles Callahan

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## **Ministers**

The whole congregation.

### **Pastors**

Rev. Chris Peters

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**Liturgist:** Marybell Avery

**Music Directors:** John & Laura Ross

**Director of Children & Youth:** Trish Souliere



*"I am the vine,  
you are the branches . . ."*

**The week of Jan. 23, 2022**

*Westminster Presbyterian Church is an inclusive faith family, inspired by Jesus Christ,  
to call, nurture, and empower disciples.*

**Children and Youth Wednesday Night Activities** are suspended for January 26.

### **Preschool Registration**

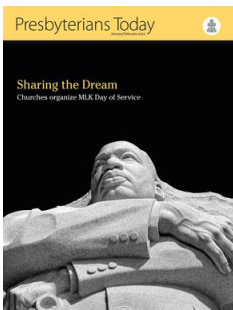
Registration has begun for Westminster Preschool's '22-'23 school year for current families and Westminster Church members! Registration opens for the community on Feb. 1. Please join us at our Registration Open House on Tues., Feb. 1 from 6-7 pm to tour the preschool. Contact Rachel at [rachelh@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:rachelh@westminsterlincoln.org) for more information!

### **Volunteer Opportunity for Habitat for Humanity**

We have an opportunity to help out Habitat for Humanity to put together a team of people to help paint the interior of their new Restore location. If you would like to volunteer to help paint, please let Steve Hughes know via email at [skh@eskays.com](mailto:skh@eskays.com) or phone at 402-450-2524. There are openings in the weeks of February 6 or 13. Also indicate if you would prefer a weekday or weekend time frame. We don't have a specific date set yet so it will be helpful to know when the most people would be available.

### **Faith to Forest Zoom Series—Week 3**

Training is important for toddlers and puppies—and trees! You can help Lincoln's young saplings get off to a good start by partnering with the Lincoln Parks Department as a Prairie Pruner. Lorri Grueber, City Forester, will introduce this new program and explain tree pruning basics on Thurs., Jan. 27, 7-8 pm at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83742356716>. A live field training session will be arranged when weather and cover conditions allow.



### **Westminster's Reverse Offering is a feature story in the January/February 2022 Presbyterian Today Magazine!**

We are on page 16-17 in the linked PDF version online, and p.18-19 in the print version. The link to the online version is in last week's eVine. There are some copies of the article available at the receptionist desk.

**Week Beginning January 23**

<p><b><u>Sun. (23)</u></b> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship on Live Stream</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (24)</u></b> 11 AM Explorers Study Group via Zoom 6 PM Session via Zoom</p> <p><b><u>Tues. (25)</u></b> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Circle #6 via Zoom</p>	<p><b><u>Wed. (26)</u></b> No Children and Youth Wed. Night Activities 7 PM Acts Study, Zoom 7 PM Virtual Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><b><u>Sat. (29)</u></b> 10:30 AM Deacon Retreat via Zoom</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (30)</u></b> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship on Live Stream</p>
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Week 3 Giving                    \$9,174

YTD Giving                      \$95,491

The 2022 budget is being finalized and will be available at our Congregational Meeting in February.

**Televised Worship**

Thurs. at 12:30 pm/Sat. at 1 pm.

Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

[joanne@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:joanne@westminsterlincoln.org)

402-475-6702