

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

April 24, 2022

Creation Celebration / Confirmation Sunday

Prelude

"Improvisation: God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Minute for Mission

Tom Pappas

*Call to Worship (Psalm 104 excerpts; Common English Bible)

Elder Margaret Sprude

One: Let my whole being bless the Lord!

All: Lord my God, how fantastic you are!

One: You wear light like a robe; you open the skies like a curtain.

All: Lord my God, how fantastic you are!

One: Lord, you have done so many things! You made them all so wisely!

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

*Hymn #15

All Creatures of Our God and King

*Call to Confession

*Time of Silent Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Creator God, we confess before you and one another. Although Christ is risen from the grave, we are still held captive to self-interest. You call us to work for the common good, but we pursue profits and pleasures that harm the land and pollute the waters. You invite us to rebuild and restore this world, but we falsely claim that earth care is unrelated to our faith. You invite us to use our gifts, but we resist sharing them in Christian community. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Forgive us, and encourage us by your Spirit to share our gifts for the common good. We pray in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

...Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

*Response of Praise

#581 Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

Please share a sign of welcome and inclusion that is mutually comfortable (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Chat

Laurel Van Ham

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Psalm

Psalm 104

O.T. pg. 554

Hebrew Scripture

Nehemiah 2:17-18

O.T. pg. 431

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

Sermon "For the Common Good"

Rev. Chris Peters

Special Music: *I Dreamed of Rain*

Westminster Choir, arr. Larry Nickel
Jonah Bricker, tenor

***Affirmation of Faith (PCUSA Confirmation Catechism)**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Question 15. What do you believe when you say that God is "Maker of heaven and earth"?

First, that God called heaven and earth, with all that is in them, into being out of nothing. Second, that God rules and supports the creation in perfect wisdom, according to God's eternal purpose.

Question 17. Why then did God create the world?

God's creation of the world was an act of grace. God granted existence to the world simply in order to bless it. God created the world to reveal God's glory, to share the love and freedom at the heart of God's being, and to give us eternal life in fellowship with God.

Question 18. Does your confession of God as Creator contradict the findings of modern science?

No. Nothing basic to the Christian faith contradicts the findings of modern science, nor does anything essential to modern science contradict the Christian faith.

Question 19. What does it mean to say that human beings are created in the image of God?

God created us to live together in love and freedom — with God, with one another, and with the world. We are created to be loving companions of others so that something of God's goodness may be reflected in our lives.

Question 21. What does our creation in God's image say about our responsibility for the earth?

We are responsible for seeing that the earth's gifts are used fairly and wisely. We must take care that no creature suffers from the abuse of what we are given, and that future generations may continue to enjoy the earth's abundance in praise to God.

Confirmation Recognition

Pastor: Now, as a church, let us welcome our Confirmands with these words:

All: As new members in our church family, we welcome you in the fellowship of Christ at Westminster! With you, we can all better follow Christ's call to love God and love neighbor.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Special Music: *Declare Your Maker's Praise*

Westminster Choir, arr. Lloyd Larson
Sanda Mašić, *flute*

Prayers of the People

Elder Margaret Sprude

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.

***Hymn #23**

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

"Earth and All Stars" arr. Keith Kolander

*Please rise in body or spirit for these parts of worship.

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 entry foyer through the Sheridan Blvd./West-end sanctuary doors. When you enter the foyer, turn to your right, where the door will be open.

Giving to Westminster's Mission and Ministry

At Church: An offering to support Westminster may be placed in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan Blvd. doors in the narthex and the sanctuary elevator exit. Look for the signs that read "Giving Basket."

Online: To give online, visit the following web address: <https://westminsterlincoln.org/generosity-and-the-joy-of-giving/>



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

The week of April 24, 2022

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

Congratulations to those who are being Confirmed Today!

Siena Bergo, Skyler Bennett, Emma Braswell, Thomas Bryson, Simone Gergen, Rachel Hoffman, Finn Killeen, Matthew Killham, Theodore Kirkland, Ian Mulvaney, Ben Schafer, Norah Schmidt, Tucker Sup

Lorax Party | Today

As a part of our celebration of creation, the Children and Youth Committee and the Green at Heart Committee are hosting an intergenerational Lorax Party immediately following worship today. Our theme is celebrating trees and exploring all the wonderful gifts they give to us. We will enjoy brunch, decorate cookies, learn what comes from a tree, and more. Take some time today to appreciate this beautiful world God created.

Sunday Youth Group

We are headed to Urban Air this evening! Meet at Urban Air, 2840 South 70th Street, at 5 PM. Please bring \$10 for admission, assistance is available. If you plan to join us, be sure to complete a waiver in advance.

The Nooks and Crannies of Westminster | April 27

Have you ever wandered through Westminster and were fearful you wouldn't find your way back to the Garden Room? Do you have a favorite hiding space, maybe a spot you found while attending a lock-in? Join us April 27 at 6 PM for dinner in Cole Hall followed by a tour of the Nooks and Crannies of Westminster. Fun for all ages!

Repurpose your Pill Bottles

What if you went to the pharmacy to get a prescription filled and they dumped the pills into your open hand? Not sanitary and not safe. This is what often happens in many underdeveloped nations. You can make a difference. The big pill collection container has returned for you to again drop off your empty, labels off, glue removed and cleaned pill bottles to the church office area. We will collect for the next few months and send these precious containers to underdeveloped nations for safe dispensary of medication to their citizens. So don't toss your empty pill bottles in the recycling bin at home, take the labels off including the glue and bring them to the church for us to repurpose.

VBS 2022: To Mars and Beyond



Join us on an exciting trip through outer space June 6-9 as we explore how to serve God and discover God's mission for our lives. Registration is \$15 per child/maximum \$45. Register your child or sign up to volunteer. The link is in the eVine.

Marathon/Half Marathon Support | May 1

We need your help! Sunday, May 1 is the annual Lincoln Half Marathon and Full Marathon. As a church, we are going to cheer the runners on and offer donut holes and water to the spectators that gather near the church. We see this as a great opportunity for outreach to our community. We would love some youth to help pass out donut holes and hold signs from 7:15 AM to around 8:30 AM. If you can commit, please email Trish Souliere at trish@westminsterlincoln.org. Thank you for your support!

Mystery Party | May 1 | 6 – 8 PM

The Youth Group will be doing a mystery party in the parlor May 1 at 6 PM. We will be assigning parts before that day, so please let Trish know if you will be coming.



RSVP to Joanne at joanne@westminsterlincoln.org

Youth Group Mission Trip | July 29 – August 1

The Youth Group will head to Ferncliff in Little Rock, Arkansas for a mission trip July 29. We plan to stop in Branson to see Jesus, Live Onstage at the Sight and Sound Theater then continue on to Little Rock. After spending a couple of days at Ferncliff, we will head up to Kansas City and visit Worlds of Fun before driving back to Lincoln. The cost per person will be \$450, with scholarships available. It is going to be a great trip! Interested? Please register here— <https://forms.gle/VBB4V5eHmpCzrws6>

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

Liturgists: Elder Margaret Sprude

Interim Music Director: Ronnie Zanella

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Larry Peach, Steve McConnell, Carolyn Harp, Susie Hughes

Greeters: Katie & Leo Zulkoski

Coffee Clean-Up: Green@Heart, Children and Youth

Week Beginning April 24

<p><u>Sun. (24) Confirmation Sunday</u> 8 AM Confirmation Breakfast 8:35 AM Confirmation Students meet with Elders, Cole Hall 9:15 AM Youth Sermon Set-up 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship/ Confirmation Sunday 9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery 10:30 AM Lorax Party 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 3 PM Senior Recital, Sanctuary 5 PM Youth Group, Urban Air</p> <p><u>Mon. (25)</u> 11 AM Explorers Study Group, Rev. Ellen’s house 6 PM Session, Fellowship Hall</p> <p><u>Tues. (26)</u> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Deacons, Fellowship Hall 7 PM Circle 6, Lounge</p>	<p><u>Wed. (27)</u> 9:15 AM Worship Planning 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands 4:30 PM Search Committee 5 PM Bell Rehearsal 5:30 PM Whatchamacallit— Cole Hall 6 PM Nooks and Crannies of Westminster, Cole Hall 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Hearts & Hands 7 PM Bible Study—Zoom</p> <p><u>Thurs. (28)</u> 5 PM Ladies Night Out—Tico’s</p> <p><u>Sun. (May 1)</u> Lincoln Marathon 9:15 AM Youth Sermon Set-up 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery 10:30 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 7 PM Youth Group</p>
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Week 16 Giving	\$21,922
YTD Giving	\$229,830
Weekly Budget	\$10,970
YTD Budget	\$175,529

Televised Worship

Thurs. at 12:30 pm/Sat. at 1 pm.
 Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

joanne@westminsterlincoln.org

402-475-6702