

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul" by Gerald Near

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Moment for Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

Steve Hughes

***Call to Worship** (Inspired by Psalm 23 NRSV) Deacon Claire Titus

One: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

All: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

One: He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

All: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

***Hymn #81**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

***Call to Confession**

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

God of perfect love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope.

We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We do not stand firmly

enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us, and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Response to the Confession**

#649, v. 1 & 3

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

...Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise**

#435

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.

***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

Trish Souliere

(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

New Testament

John 9:1-41

N.T. pg. 102

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

Sermon

“What do you say about Jesus?”

Rev. Chris Peters

*Hymn #182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Affirmation of Faith (Apostles' Creed—"Spirit" version)

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the
dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Special Music

"Psalm 51" by Russ Michaels
Michael Jha, *baritone*
Westminster Choir

Prayers of the People

Deacon Claire Titus

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 #829**

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

"My Song Is Love Unknown" by Karl Osterland

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

Parts of today's words for worship come from or are adapted from Worship Resources for the Third Sunday in Lent 2023 by Rev. John Wurster in the Presbyterian Outlook and from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Year A, Vol. 1 (Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, editor).

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."

For online giving, scan the QR code.



Ministers: The whole congregation

Pastors: Rev. Chris Peters & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Liturgist: Deacon Claire Titus

Music Director: Ronnie Zanella

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Robyn Uebele, Leslie Miner, Cynthia Olson

Greeters: David & Kathy Anderson

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



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

The week of March 19, 2023

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

Adult Education Series: "Why Do I Serve? Let Me Tell You My Story."

Sundays at 10:45 AM | Lounge

Today - Allen Wachter

VBS 2023: Make Waves | June 5-9 | 9 AM – 12 Noon

What you do today can change the world around you.

It's time to get your kids registered for VBS! Kids ages 4 through 5th grade are invited to register before June 3

at <https://vbsmate.com/westminsterlincoln>. Registration is \$15/child (\$45 max/family). Adult and youth volunteers are welcome to sign up at the same link.

VBS Supply Donations

If you are interested in donating supplies, we have a list of the supplies on an Amazon wish list here https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2E8WC6SXCZP4F?ref=wl_share. You are welcome to either buy something from the list or donate anything similar you might have at home. If you have any questions, please contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-570-0163.

Westminster Foundation

What questions do you have about the Westminster Foundation? Your Foundation trustees have set a goal to communicate regularly with the congregation throughout the church year. Please share your questions with a foundation trustee. We want to be sure we're addressing your questions and look forward to hearing from you.

Westminster Foundation trustees include: Joyce Douglas, Mark Schorr, Pat Leach, Allen Wachter, David Anderson, Erika Schafer, Steve Hughes, Sandi Larson, Greg Hershberger and Jim White.

Bag Lunch Book Discussion

with Pastor Chris



Third Tuesday (3/21, 4/18, 5/16).
Noon. WPC Library.

Bag Lunch Book Discussion with Pastor Chris
Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church

What are our core commitments as a congregation, and how do they compare to churches that are vital and vibrant in this “post-Christian” world? Pack a lunch and come explore these and similar questions with Pastor Chris during our first series of “Bag Lunch Book Discussions” focusing on Study, Discussion, and Table Fellowship.

Growing Young is a book published by the Fuller Seminar Youth Institute that will be read by Westminster’s Session over the next three months. From the first chapter, “The news for the church is not all gloom and doom... All around the country, hundreds of “bright spot” congregations are effectively loving and serving young people. We call these churches that grow young because:

1. They are engaging young people ages 15 to 29; and
2. They are growing – spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and sometimes also numerically.

This book describes what we found. It spells out the *core commitments* of churches that are... growing young.”

A few copies of the book are still available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Joanne (joanne@westminsterlincoln.org) for a copy!

Growing Young Bag Lunch Reading Schedule at Noon

March 21: Chapters 1-3

April 18: Chapters 4-6

May 16: Chapters 7-8 + Appendix

Call for Eggstravaganza Donations

Our annual Eggstravaganza is coming up on April 5 and we can use your help. We are seeking donation bags of candy and/or any other small handouts for the children. Collection buckets are at the East entrance.

Preschool Art Show Preview

Please stop in Fellowship Hall after the service today and enjoy the display of artwork made by our preschoolers.

We Need to Hear from You

To conserve resources, we are updating our mailing list for *The Messenger* and want to know your preferences. We are asking you to choose one of the options below and email your preference to joanne@westminsterlincoln.org by April 25. If we don't hear back from you, we will no longer mail *The Messenger* to you. If you are unable to respond by email, call the church office at 402-475-6702. Please know that you can always be added back to the list by contacting the church office.

1. Send *The Messenger* to my email address, which is: _____ and discontinue sending it in the mail.
2. I no longer wish to receive *The Messenger*.
3. Continue to mail a paper copy of *The Messenger*.

Sunday Youth Group | March 26 | 5 PM

Are you ready for Chopped: The Feeding of the Five Judges Part 2? It is almost time! Brush up on your kitchen skills over the next couple of weeks and get ready to whip up a masterpiece on Sunday, March 26.

SWANSON SCHOLARSHIP | March 31 Deadline

Full-time undergraduate students and high school seniors are encouraged to apply for Westminster's Swanson Scholarship. Established in 1999 by the Swanson Family, this scholarship provides \$500 financial support per recipient per academic school year. Applications are available on the church website (<https://westminsterlincoln.org>) under the GIVE tab or in the church office. The scholarship is open to individuals in all courses of study; however, preference will be given to applicants demonstrating an interest in Education and Community Service.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

As we watch the heartbreaking aftermath of earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, you may be asking, "what can we do?" Prayer is our quickest

