

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

April 2, 2023
Palm Sunday

Prelude "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" by J. Wayne Kerr

Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Call to Worship** Deacon Gary Haller

One: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

All: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.

One: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for Christ is the life we long for, Christ is the living Word who sustains us.

All: We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love in the form of cloaks before him, to cushion his walk.

One: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, Christ arrives: modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.

***Hymn #196** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Children's Chat Trish Souliere

***Call to Confession** Deacon Gary Haller

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, sure of your faithfulness even in dying, comforted by your compassion in every age, we seek your mercy for our imperfect



At Westminster we hope you find a sense of welcome and belonging with our community today. In 2026 we will celebrate 100 years of worship in and service out from our sanctuary at Sheridan and South. In anticipation of that celebration, we have embraced a new vision to "expand our lives in faith, connect people deeply, and make a difference through service."

Presbyterians confess our sins in two ways – personally and corporately (or as a group). Just as individuals sin, so do systems and communities. We confess not just “for me” but also “for us” when we recognize the grace and forgiveness God shares with us.

What's up with Holy Week? By the end of the fourth century (yes, the "good old 300's" CE), the pattern of Holy Week was established. Augustine shared that the church, "has a requirement for retaining those same days" for Christian practice.

gratitude. We, like the disciples, fall asleep when Jesus asks us to stay awake and pray. Our minds wander as he sets his path straight for Jerusalem to speak truth to power on our behalf. We are careless with our faith, while Jesus acts with extraordinary love. Forgive our apathy. Forgive our inattention. Forgive our careless and self-serving attitudes. Remind us, this Holy Week, of the salvation you offer in Jesus Christ. Let us not take this gracious gift for granted. 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, v. 1

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 O.T. pg. 565

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11 N.T. pg. 23

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

Sermon "Where Are You Headed?" Rev. Chris Peters

Hymn #760 ***Bring Many Names***

Moment of Gratitude

Moment for Mission: Foundation Questions

Board Member Erika Schafer

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Special Music "Hosanna, Hosanna!" by Joseph Martin
Westminster Choir

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Communion of the People

Holy Week begins today with Palm Sunday and continues through Maundy Thursday (from the Latin for "mandate or command" honoring Christ's mandate to love one another), Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. (Includes information from *Introduction to Christian Worship: Third Edition* by James F. White)

The Westminster Foundation was founded in 1955, "to aid Westminster by the solicitation of gifts, grants and bequests of both real and personal property... and, in turn, hold and administer them for the use and benefit of the Church." The Foundation Board is made up of WPC members, currently totaling 11 members. Westminster's Foundation provides budget support as well as endowment-supported grants for specific purposes, ranging from the 2022 Second Celebration costs to elevator repair and special projects approved by Session.

You're invited to join us for a variety of cinnamon rolls, coffee (or water), and conversation in the Garden Room after worship! The Garden Room is the room with plants and the stained-glass windows between the East entry doors and the Sanctuary. One way we seek to "connect people deeply" each week is by spending time together after worship!

Ministers: The whole congregation

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

Liturgists: Deacon Gary Haller

Music Director: Ronnie Zanella

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Carol Boehler, Kim Kubick, Diana Wild, Shalla Young

Greeters: Kathy Phillip & Kelly Braswell-Burbach

Prayer after Communion

***Hymn #198**

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Jesus, Still Lead On” by Paul Manz

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

Note: Today's liturgy – our words for worship – are from or adapted by resources for Palm/Passion Sunday 2023 by Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott in the Presbyterian Outlook; Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor; and Rev. Chris Peters.

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.

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



Communion Servers: Tim Gergen, Ernie Hines, Jim Hlava, Gwen Thorpe, Diana Wild



*“I am the vine,
you are the branches . . .”*

The week of April 2, 2023

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

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion | April 6 | 7 PM

Good Friday Worship | April 7 | 7 PM

Easter Sunday Worship | April 9 | 8 AM and 10 AM

Coffee and Conversation | Garden Room | Between Services

Palm Sunday Processional

Today we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey where crowds greeted him by waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" We invite the children to participate in a Palm Sunday processional. Get a palm branch in the narthex and process down the center aisle during the first hymn. After we reach the steps, we will transition into the Children's Chat and the children will be dismissed from there. If your child plans to stay with you during worship, please come forward to help them find you.

Cinnamon Roll Bar

Immediately following the service, the Children and Youth and Church Life Committees invite you to take a little time to enjoy conversation and home baked cinnamon rolls in the Garden Room.

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.

A contest to name “that art piece the Davis family created.”

Please help give this lovely piece a name. All are welcome to participate (enter as an individual or a group), and multiple submissions are encouraged. Pick up a form at the front desk and drop it off at the church office by **Thurs., April 6**. The winner—and the winning name—will be announced on Earth Sunday, April 16.

Eggstravaganza

We would like to invite all our children, youth, and friends to come to our Eggstravaganza event on Wed., April 5 at 5:30 PM. Egg hunt locations will be roughly divided by age, preschool--elementary--youth group -- to make the event more fun and/or challenging for everyone. The egg hunt will begin at 5:30 PM, followed by a pancake dinner at 6 PM. At 6:30, we will talk about Holy Week, leading into Easter. Parents and siblings are welcome to join us for any part or all of the evening.

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

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 an Amazon list of supplies we need here <https://tinyurl.com/4zhs59s7>. You are welcome to either buy something from the list or donate anything you might have at home. If you have any questions, please contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-570-0163.

April 2 Stewardship/Finance Highlight

On Sunday, 3/26, our 6th-12th youth participated in their annual “Chopped” fellowship event at church. Like the TV show, teams of youth were given a basket of mystery ingredients to prepare for our “celebrity” judges – including WPC Volunteer Chef Extraordinaire Susie Hughes and Susan Zander, Faith Village Teacher and Building/Grounds Member Ron Souliere, and self-proclaimed foodie Pastor Chris! Your giving supported the salaries of staff who planned and prepared the event, ensured the safety and well-being of our youth, and provided clean facilities for their meeting; also, giving supported the cost of ingredients and supplies out of our youth budget, and facilities costs such as gas to turn on the stove in the kitchen! Thank you for your continued support of Westminster's budget and our ministries and mission!

Lunch Bunch | Tues., April 4

Lunch Bunch will meet at Villa Amore, 5353 N. 27th St., Tuesday, April 4, at 11:30 AM. RSVP to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

History Buffs | Sat., April 8 | 9 AM | Lounge

John Janovy, Jr., Varner Professor Emeritus, UNL, will be presenting his story about recovering evidence for who his parents really were, given the fact that they married in the middle of the Great Depression and both died relatively young. The resulting book is entitled, "Bernice and John: Finally Meeting your Parents Who died a Long Time Ago." Come to hear the story.

Prairie Readers | Wed., April 19 | 1 PM in the Lounge

The book for April is "Sparks Like Stars," by Nadia Hashimi.

Discussion Leader: Lisa DeBuse

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. If you are getting *The Messenger* by email only, there is no need to contact the church. We'll continue to send it to your email.
2. I no longer wish to receive *The Messenger*.
3. Continue to mail a paper copy of *The Messenger*.

Middle School Montreat July 19-23 | Completed Grades 5 - 8

The conference is held at Maryville College, a PC(USA)affiliated private college located in Maryville, TN and will take place July 19-23. More information is available here: <https://montreat.org/events/msc-23>

High School Montreat June 4-August 5 | Completed Grades 9 - 12

Complete details are available here <https://montreat.org/events/myc-23>.

Please contact Trish Souliere at trish@westminsterlincoln.org if your child is interested in attending. If we have enough interest, we will look into taking a group.

Week Beginning April 2

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| <p><u>Sun. (2) Palm Sunday</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village 10:30 AM Cinnamon rolls, Garden Rm 12 Noon Sudanese Worship, Chapel 6:30 PM Youth Group</p> <p><u>Mon. (3)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Reading the Bible in a Year, Library 12 PM PEO Meeting, Parlor 6:30 PM Scouts Pack 16 7 PM Circle 4</p> <p><u>Tues. (4)</u> 8 AM Election, FH 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 5 PM Adult Ed, Conference Room 6 PM Building & Grounds, Lounge</p> | <p><u>Wed. (5)</u> 10 AM Circle 3, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM Westminster LiNK 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanc.</p> <p><u>Thurs. (6)</u> 7 PM Maundy Thursday Worship</p> <p><u>Fri. (7)</u> 7 PM Good Friday Worship</p> <p><u>Sat. (8)</u> 9 AM History Buffs, Lounge</p> <p><u>Sun. (9) Easter</u> 8 AM Easter Worship 9:15 AM Coffee and Conversation, Garden Room 10 AM Easter Worship 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> |
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Please see the “Stewardship/Finance Highlight” from the past week in the eVine. This highlight shares an activity or function in the life of Westminster that was funded specifically because of our budget and your giving through pledges!