

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

April 16, 2023
Creation Celebration
Second Sunday of Eastertide

Prelude "In the Garden / What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
arr. Brant Adams

Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Flash Lesson on Being an Earth Care Congregation

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

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 #20** *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

***Call to Confession**

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Creator God, you stretched the heavens – stars and sky and distant planets, formed the Earth – soil and sea and all that sustains us, and made us in your image – creative and with great potential to love. Still, we turn from you in sin, ignoring the call to



Welcome to worship at Westminster! This Sunday begins our annual Creation Celebration season as well as the church season of Eastertide.

Why a Creation Celebration? Along with the Biblical and faith-based commitment and call to be good stewards of God's creation, Westminster is a Presbyterian Church USA certified Earth Care Congregation. For the next four weeks we will hear a brief message related to the commitments we make each year as an Earth Care Congregation.

Turning Prayers into Action: What is one commitment you can make to turn toward God by being a good steward of the world around you?

care for the world around us. We view “a little bit” as good enough when more action is needed. We care when it is most convenient to our consumerism, rather than out of an ongoing sense of call to be good stewards. Re-shape and renew us in the light of your resurrection hope and joy. Lead us to paths of caring, healing, and just living as beings connected to you, to this world, and to one another. In the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Response to the Confession** #544 (x2)
***Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.***

***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 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

Hebrew Scripture Psalm 8 O.T. pg. 492
Gospel Lesson John 20:19-31 N.T. pg. 115

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

Sermon “Created for Connection” Rev. Chris Peters

Hymn #246 ***Christ is Alive!***

*Affirmation of Faith (PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith)

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.

Moment of Gratitude: Art Piece Recognition Prayer of Thanksgiving

Special Music

“Like a River In My Soul”
Traditional Spiritual, arr. Tim Osiek
Quartet from Westminster Choir

For last year's Creation Celebration, Mark and Vicki Davis created an incredible piece of art that is now displayed here at church. Listen to the Moment for Gratitude to learn more and to hear the name of this art piece!

Prayers of the People

Deacon Gary Haller

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.

Each stanza of *God of the Sparrow* is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world. (*Glory to God* Hymnal Footnote)

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: Robyn Uebele, Leslie Miner, Cynthia Olson

Greeters: Katie & Leo Zulkoski

*Hymn #22

God of the Sparrow

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude "Come, Thou Almighty King / Praise Him, Praise Him"
arr. Larry Shackley

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

Today's liturgy (our words in worship) is prepared from scriptural sources by Pastor Chris.

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.

Guest Musician: Liliam Martinelli (Ronnie Zanella's mother)



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

The week of April 16, 2023

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

Worship at Westminster: Creation Celebration Eastertide Focus!

Fun fact: Easter Sunday *begins* the season of Eastertide in the church, one of the most joyful seasons in our calendar! This year we will celebrate our Creation Celebration during this season as we hear the stories of Jesus after the resurrection.

Creation Celebration

Sunday at 9:30am in the Sanctuary and Livestreamed
Creation Focused Adult Education; 10:45am in the Lounge

Sunday April 16 – Creation Celebration Worship

Message: Created for Connection

Sunday, April 23 – New Members Joining

Message: The Connections We Make

Sunday, April 30 -- Presbyterian Women’s Recognition

Message: Sharing is More than Caring

Sunday, May 7 – Marathon Support, Communion, and a Baptism!

Message: This Is the Way

Sunday, May 14 – Hostamania, Senior Recognition, End of Creation Celebration Series

Message: The Christian Commandments

Creation Celebration Speaker Series

April 16-May 21, experts from Lincoln and beyond talk about our call as Christians, our actions as a congregation, and practical information on saving money while protecting the environment.

This Sunday hear keynote speaker, Rev. David Lux, retired Senior Pastor of Saint Paul United Methodist Church (and more recently Nebraska’s Senior Pickle Ball Champion), talk in his quiet, powerful way about why our environmental practices are also matters of faith.

What does Matthew 25 (“a cup of water given in my name”) say about our management of resources like air and water? Fill your coffee cup, pick up a donut hole, and come to the Lounge at 10:40-11:30 AM.

Prehistoric Putt

The Youth Group will be heading to Prehistoric Putt at 1919 Cornhusker Highway from 4 PM - 5:30 PM today. Please bring \$5 per person, maximum of \$10 per family. If you need a ride, please let Trish know at trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

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.

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 Bag Lunch Reading Schedule at Noon

April 18: Chapters 4-6

May 16: Chapters 7-8 + Appendix

UNL Recital at Westminster | Mon., April 17

There will be a UNL Trombone Ensemble Recital on Monday, April 17 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. You are all invited. No charge.

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

Week Beginning April 16

<p><u>Sun. (16)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village 10:40 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 4 PM Youth Group, Prehistoric Putt</p> <p><u>Mon. (17)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Reading the Bible in a Year, Library 5:30 PM Worship & Music, Lounge 6 PM Children & Youth, Library 6:30 PM Scouts Den/Pack Meeting, Cole Hall 7:30 PM UNL Trombone Ensemble Recital, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Tues. (18)</u> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 12 Noon <i>Growing Young</i> Bag Lunch Discussion, Library</p>	<p>3 PM Homestead Presbytery Steering Meeting, Lounge 7 PM Faith and Cancer Support Group, Library</p> <p><u>Wed. (19)</u> 8 AM Habitat Restore Breakfast 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM Westminster LINK 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (20)</u> 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge</p> <p><u>Sun. (23)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village 10:40 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6:30 PM Youth Group</p>
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Marathon Welcome Support | Sun., May 7 | 7 – 8:30 AM

The Annual Lincoln Marathon course passes directly by Westminster, providing us the opportunity to be welcoming. All Westminster members are invited to extend our hospitality by staffing a welcome table to distribute donut holes, water, Gatorade, and bananas to runners and spectators.

You're invited!

2023 Faith Partners Kickoff Breakfast

Wed., April 19, 8 to 9:30 AM

Habitat ReStore – 5601 S. 59th Street

Habitat's mission is to [put God's love into action](#) by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Join our network of faith partners to help families in need of safe, affordable housing in Lincoln. Find out more about how your congregation can help by attending our Kickoff on Wednesday, April 19. Enjoy inspiration, fellowship and free breakfast at this

informative event. We'd love to see you there and look forward to [doing great things together!](#)
RSVP Rose Opbroek at ropbroek@lincolnhabitat.org or 402.660.6193. Please RSVP by April 17.

Televised Worship

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

Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@WestminsterLincoln/streams>

joanne@westminsterlincoln.org

402-475-6702