

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



April 23, 2023
Creation Celebration
Third Sunday of Eastertide

Prelude

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”
by Nancy Rabbi

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Flash Lesson on Being an Earth Care Congregation #2

Bob Leavitt

***Call to Worship (1 Peter 1:17-23)**

Deacon Carolyn Harp

One: Followers of Jesus, by Christ’s cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

All: Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

One: By Christ’s rising we are free from the fear of death.

All: Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

One: By Christ’s love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

All: Give us a new direction as we worship in hope. Alleluia! Amen.

***Hymn #35**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

***Call to Confession**

Deacon Carolyn Harp

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Creator God, you created us to connect with the world and with one another, yet we waste this gift. We claim care for your creation, yet we refuse to take meaningful action. We celebrate

the wins in life as if they are caused by our own ability, yet we blame our hardships on others. Stand before us, open our eyes, and help us to recognize your defeat of death. Make us new for the journey on the road ahead, empowered by your Spirit and the community we find in your church. In the name of Christ, our Lord, 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

Jamie Hemmerling

(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

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24 :13-35

N.T. pg. 90

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

Sermon

“The Connections We Make”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #727**

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

***Affirmation of Faith (Confession of 1967 9:37)**

We believe the church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private life or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church’s worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church’s evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relation with other persons is the measure of the church’s fidelity.

New Member Welcome

Elder: As a congregation we welcome you, saying...

All: We welcome you to the Westminster church family, and pledge to support you in worship, faith, and service together. With you we are more the church Christ is calling us to be.

Special Music

"You Do Not Walk Alone" by Elaine Hagenberg
Westminster Choir Octet

Prayers of the People

Deacon Carolyn Harp

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 #14**

For the Beauty of the Earth

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”
by John Leavitt

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

Today’s liturgy (our words in worship) come from Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A (Kimberly Bracken Long, editor). Today’s Prayer of Confession is written 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.

Ministers: The whole congregation

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

Liturgist: Deacon Carolyn Harp

Music Director: Ronnie Zanella

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Becky Bockrath, Martha Kingsbury, Suzanne Bartlett

Greeters: David & Kathy Anderson



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

The week of April 23, 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 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.

How Did We Do That?

How has Westminster earned certification as an Earth Care Congregation nine years in a row? Pick up your coffee and donut hole and come to the Lounge at 10:40 this morning to hear the Panel of Presbyterian Pundits (you know some of them!) talk about specific things we have done, are doing, and hope to do more of. You are part of this success story!

Bag Lunch Book Discussion with Pastor Chris

Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church

Growing Young Bag Lunch Reading Schedule at Noon

Rescheduled to **April 25**: Chapters 4-6

May 16: Chapters 7-8 + Appendix

Bible in a Year Group Discussion

Are you participating in the *Read the Bible in a Year* project at Westminster? There will be a small group discussion on Wed., April 26 at 6:30 PM in the Lounge. You are invited to come and share your insights and questions!

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.

Prayers of sympathy are requested for the family and friends of **Jean Patoka** who passed away early Thursday morning. Funeral arrangements for late May are pending.

Ladies' Night Out | Wed., April 26 | 5-7 PM

The next Westminster Church Ladies' Night Out will be Wed., April 26, 5-7 PM. Place: Billy's 1301 H. Street; <https://www.billysrestaurant.com/> Kindly RSVP to robynu2@hotmail.com by Sunday, April 23.

We hope you can join us this month as we celebrate Creation Care at Billy's for our April LNO gathering. Nader will incorporate locally sourced ingredients in our pre-arranged price of family style appetizers for \$15; plus, the cost of drink, tax and tip.

As always, feel free to bring a friend! This is a very fluid group – we are happy to see you whenever it works into your schedule. We do ask that you RSVP your attendance so we will have a seat at the table for you.

This year we will gather every other month at Billy's and choose restaurants throughout Lincoln for the remaining months. If you have any suggestions, please let us know!

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet at Brewsky's, 70th & Van Dorn, at 11:30 AM, Tuesday, May 2. R.S.V.P to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

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.

Prairie Readers | 1 PM in the Lounge

The book for May 17 is “Black Cake,” by Charmaine Wilkerson.

Discussion Leader: Weston Crawford

Week Beginning April 23

<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 3:30 PM UNL Concert 6:30 PM Youth Group</p> <p><u>Mon. (24)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Reading the Bible in a Year, Library 6 PM Session, Lounge 6:30 PM Scouts Den/Pack Meeting, Cole Hall</p> <p><u>Tues. (25)</u> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 12 PM Bag Lunch Book Discussion Rescheduled, Library 5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge</p> <p><u>Wed. (26)</u> 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5 PM Ladies’ Night Out 5:30 PM Westminster LiNK, Cole Hall</p>	<p>6:30 PM Bible in a Year Small Group Discussion, Lounge 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (27)</u> Preschool Closed 9 AM Friendship Home All Staff Meeting, FH</p> <p><u>Fri. (28)</u> Preschool Closed 6:30 PM Scouts—Committee Meetings, Youth Café</p> <p><u>Sun. (30)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village 10:40 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM UNL Concert Rehearsal, Sanctuary & FH 6:30 PM Youth Group</p>
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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>