****Westminster Presbyterian ****Church

**2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE**

**April 30, 2023**

**Creation Celebration**

**4th Sunday of Eastertide**

**Prelude** “Improvisation on *God of Great and God of Small*”

**Welcome** Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

**Flash Lesson on Being an Earth Care Congregation #3**

 Steve McConnell

**\*Call to Worship (adaptation of Acts 2:42-47)** Deacon Kathy Phillip

One: Siblings, let us gather together with glad and generous hearts.

**All: For many signs and wonders are being done among us.**

One: Let us break bread together and share our lives in common.

**All: Let us give what we can to all who have needs so that all people, no matter who they are, may regard us with good will.**

One: Let us devote ourselves to our prayers and to the gospel.

**All: For in this way God will add to our numbers every day.**

**\*Hymn #803 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need**

**\*Call to Confession** Deacon Kathy Phillip

**\*Time of Silent Confession**

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

***Good Shepherd, you call us by name and we have heard your voice. We confess to you that we do not always live as people of your peace. We have seen the harm being caused to creation, yet we have not always worked to protect the land and water. We have heard the cries of those who have experienced racism, yet we have turned away in pursuit of our own comfort. We have heard the call to seek the goodwill of all, yet we have looked to our own gain at the expense of others. Lord, call to us once again. Open our hearts to be changed. Lead us beside the still waters and empower us to invite others to find your peace as well. In the name of 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 Scriptures Psalm 23:1-6 O.T. pg. 501

New Testament Lesson Acts 2:42-47 N.T. pg. 120

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

**Sermon** “Sharing is More than Caring”Rev. Chris Peters

**\*Hymn #19 God of Great and God of Small**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** **(Confession of 1967 9:25)**

***The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God’s purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail.***

**Presbyterian Women’s Recognition**

**Special Music** "The Lord Is My Shepherd" by John Rutter

 Westminster Choir Octet

 Sanda Mašić, *flute*

**Prayers of the People** Deacon Kathy Phillip

**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 #306 Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

**\*Charge & Benediction** Rev. Chris Peters

**Postlude** "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" by Wilbur Held

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

Today’s liturgy (our words in worship) is adapted by Pastor Chris from resources in Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A (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 red Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan Blvd. doors in the narthex and near the top of the stairs in the sanctuary on the Garden Room / South side. Look for the red baskets and signs that read “Giving Basket.” Ushers monitor the baskets and collect the offerings following the service.

**For online giving,** scan the QR code.

**Ministers:** The whole congregation

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

**Liturgist:** Deacon Kathy Phillip

**Music Director:** Ronnie Zanella

**Organist:** John Ross

**Director of Children & Youth:** Trish Souliere

**Ushers:** Erika and Dan Schafer, Ben Schafer, Sara Schafer

**Greeters:** Carol and Jim Bishop