

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



**May 21, 2023**  
**Ascension of the Lord**  
**7th Sunday of Eastertide**

**Prelude** "Six Flute Trios, Op. 83, No. 2, *Allegretto*" by James Hook  
Westminster Flute Ensemble

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

**Minute Message: Pentecost Offering** Carolyn Harp

**\*Call to Worship (Psalm 47:1-2, 5-6)** Deacon Megan Woita  
One: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with  
loud songs of joy.

***All: For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great  
king over all the earth.***

One: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the  
sound of the trumpet.

***All: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to  
our King, sing praises.***

One: For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a  
psalm.

***All: God is king over all the nations; God sits on the  
holy throne.***

**\*Hymn #268** Crown Him with Many Crowns

**\*Call to Confession** Deacon Megan Woita

**\*Time of Silent Confession**

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

*We confess, O God, that too often we have our head in the clouds. We are more comfortable with dreaming of the world as we wish it would be instead of working with you to bring that wish to reality. At times, we find it difficult to claim the power you have given us. Surely you have others more capable to be your witnesses? And so, we continue to gaze heavenwards. Jolt us out of our complacency, O God. Remind us to get a move on. Remind us we have work to do with you. Give us your energy, courage, and vision to be your witnesses to the end of the earth. 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**

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.)*

## Special Music

"Six Flute Trios, Op. 83, No. 6, *Allegretto*"  
by James Hook, Westminster Flute Ensemble

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

New Testament Lesson      Acts 1:1-11      N.T. pg. 118  
Gospel Lesson              Luke 24:46-53      N.T. pg. 91  
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

**Sermon**      "You Will Be Witnesses"      Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**\*Hymn #264**      **At the Name of Jesus**

### \*Affirmation of Faith (A Declaration of Faith)

***We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God... We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His lordship is hidden. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.***

## Moment of Gratitude

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

## Special Music

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing" by Susan Callaway  
Quartet from Westminster Choir

## Prayers of the People

Deacon Megan Woita

### 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 #269**

**Lead On, O King Eternal!**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**Postlude**

"Six Flute Trios, Op. 83, No. 6, *Andante - Allegretto*"  
by James Hook, Westminster Flute Ensemble

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

Today's liturgy (our words in worship) come from The Presbyterian Outlook's Order of Worship for May 21, 2023, by Rev. Sharon Core, General Presbyter for the Presbytery of the Western reserve.

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 Megan Woita

**Music Director:** Ronnie Zanella

**Organist:** John Ross

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

**Ushers:** Robyn Uebele, Leslie Miner, Cynthia Olson

**Greeters:** Joyce Douglas and Marilyn Hood

**Dishwashers:** Tom Pappas and Laurel Van Ham



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

**The week of May 21, 2023**

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

### **Enough with the Crab Grass!**

This year's Creation Celebration Speaker Series wraps up today with Justin Evertson, Green Infrastructure Coordinator for the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. Learn how to save both money and effort on your landscape by using plants that have had centuries to adapt and thrive in Nebraska's climate. Justin's recommendations for Westminster's own landscaping also offer a substantial "green" payoff by introducing beneficial plant and wildlife diversity. His Faith to Forest presentation last year was so compelling that Justin's audience called for an encore presentation. Bring your coffee to the Lounge at 10:40 to find out why.

### **Take a Sip of Justice**

Your coffee today is brought to you by Green@Heart and comes from Cafe Con Amor, a high-altitude farm in Costa Rica. A specialty blend of Caturra and Villa Sarchi varieties, this premium product is described as "a clean cup with a smooth honey sweetness, citrus tones, and balanced acidity." And even better, this coffee tastes like justice because it is grown sustainably and sold directly at a fair price that supports the workers and their farms. Learn more about it at the coffee bar and enjoy the brew!

### **Help Wanted**

Westminster needs help with the dishes, and you'd like to help BUT—your kids have lots of Sunday games, you're a snow bird, sometimes you work on Sundays, you have responsibilities out of town, etc. This opportunity is for you! We need a roster of folks who can't commit to a regular schedule but might be available on the occasional Sunday that a regular dishwasher has conflict. If you're feeling a nudge to do this, please contact Laurel Van Ham quickly—before the nudge goes away!

## **Westminster Preschool Marathon**

You are invited to watch our preschool athletes run a marathon around the church grounds! Please come cheer on the children! Race days are Wed., May 24 and Thurs., May 25. Meet in the church parking lot by 10:45 AM to claim your cheering section. The marathon is followed by a family picnic. Feel free to bring a lunch and join us!

**A memorial service for Jean Patoka** will be held at Westminster on Friday, May 26 at 11 AM. A luncheon will follow the service. Memorials to S.A.I.L. Music Camp, Westminster Presbyterian, or donor's choice.

## **Pentecost Sunday Birthday Cookies | May 28, 10:45 AM**

It is almost time for the birthday of the church! On Sunday, May 28, we will celebrate Pentecost with sugar cookies in the Garden Room after the service. We will have Pentecost colored frosting and various toppings for you to craft your own Happy Birthday creation.

*Pentecost trivia: What does the word "pentecost" mean?*

## **Disaster Assistance HYGIENE KITS**

Please help the Mission/Outreach team fill the big tote near the 27th street entry. For June we will be collecting items for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance HYGIENE KITS. You are welcome to make a full kit or simply bring items which will be used to build a kit. The need is great. Please give generously!

1 - hand towel 15" X 28" to 16" X 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)

1 - washcloth

1 - sturdy wide tooth comb with 6 inches of teeth

1 - finger or toenail clipper

1 - bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)

1 - toothbrush (in original packaging)

10 - Band-Aids or other adhesive bandage strips.

Please do not add toothpaste to the kit.

Gallon plastic bags with zipper closure.

Your check is always welcome as well. Please make your check payable to Westminster and write PDA kits in the memo line.

**Christy Dempsey**, daughter of this congregation, has accepted a new call to *Church of the Rockies* in Estes Park.

## 2023 Member Interest Form

During Pastor Chris's sermon last week, we were encouraged to consider how we might share our gifts in the life of the church – both at Westminster and in the community as a part of Westminster. On behalf of Church Life and WPC Staff, **you are invited to complete our new Member Interest form at church or online.** In early June these forms will be distributed to ministry leaders / chairs, who will then contact you about your interest. Some items may cause an immediate contact, while other seasonal items may lead to a contact down the road. The online version is on the website ([westminsterlincoln.org](http://westminsterlincoln.org)). Select *Volunteer Opportunities* and then *What are you interested in?* Pastor Chris welcomes your questions about the process or plans. Let us share our time together as a church family in God's service!

## Adult Education in June

Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn will help us explore the PC(USA) *Book of Confessions*. Discover how the Church has grappled with issues over the centuries. We'll meet each Sunday in June at 10:45 AM in the Lounge.

- June 4 The Ecumenical Creeds – Nicene and Apostles' Creeds
- June 11 The Reformation Confessions and Catechism
- June 18 Confessions During Conflict – Westminster and Barmen
- June 25 Recent Confessions – C. '67, Brief Statement of Faith, & Belhar



**For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.  
(Matthew 25:35)**

Westminster has been serving meals to the community surrounding The Gathering Place for many years. Our team

of five volunteers arrives at 1443 E Street at 4:30 PM on the second Friday of each month, and serves at least 100 meals, prepared by the staff, to people in the neighborhood with food insecurity issues. You are invited to join the 17 members of the team, part of the Mission/Outreach Ministry's call to live out Matthew's gospel message. Contact Carolyn Harp ([charp2@neb.rr.com](mailto:charp2@neb.rr.com) or 402-261-6897) or the church office.

## Faith Village Summer Schedule

To allow families time to worship together, the last Sunday children will be dismissed for Faith Village this semester will be May 21. Children's worship bags are available every week that include supplies to help them engage in the weekly lectionary scripture.

## Staff Schedules

Pastor Chris is out of the office for a continuing education trip to Austin, TX this week. He is studying with a colleague in the area of worship and liturgy while planning Westminster's worship themes for the coming year. He will be back on May 24.

## Week Beginning May 21

<p><b><u>Sun. (21)</u></b> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village 10:40 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (22)</u></b> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Reading the Bible in a Year, Library 6:30 PM Scouts Pack 61— Committee Meetings, Youth Cafe</p> <p><b><u>Tues. (23)</u></b> 5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge 6:30 PM Preschool Graduation, Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Wed. (24)</u></b> 10:45 AM Preschool Marathon 1:30 PM Hearts &amp; Hands, Library</p>	<p>6 PM Session, Lounge 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Thurs. (25)</u></b> 10:45 AM Preschool Marathon</p> <p><b><u>Fri. (26)</u></b> 11 AM Jean Patoka Funeral and Luncheon 6 PM Wedding Rehearsal</p> <p><b><u>Sat. (27)</u></b> 5 PM Ravenscroft/Kerr wedding, Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (28)</u></b> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:50 AM Columbarium Memorial Service 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
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**The church building will be closed on Mon., May 29 for Memorial Day.**

**Worship services are available on-line at this link:**

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