

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## Prelude

## Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

**Special Announcement: Covenant Network** Rev. Brian Ellison

## \*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 124, CEB and NRSV)

Rev. Chris Peters

One: If the Lord hadn't been with us when we were attacked, the torrent would have consumed us.

**All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

One: If the Lord had not been with us, raging waters would have prevailed.

**All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

One: Bless the Lord, who did not hand us over.

**All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

One: We escaped like a bird from the trap of the fowlers.

**All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

## \*Hymn #399

**God Welcomes All**

## \*Call to Confession

Elder Kathy Rohwedder

## \*Time of Silent Confession

## \*Unison Prayer of Confession

*Living God, you call us in faith and we respond with gratitude. Still, we overlook the treasures you place*

*before us. We forget to see the beauty of your creation, formed by your creative love. We fail to love our neighbors in their full humanity, made in your image. We deny justice for the sake of our preferences rather than work for justice for the sake of your vision. Forgive us, O Lord. Give us a spirit of adventure, seeking the treasures you have in store. Instill in us a spirit of gratitude, that we might live our lives in joy and praise. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.*

**\*Response to the Confession** **#469**  
*Lord, listen to your children praying.  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying.  
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.*

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness** Elder Kathy Rohwedder  
...Believe and share the good news!  
*In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!*

**\*Response of Praise** *(chorus x2)*  
**You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us**

**\*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

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**  
Gospel Lesson Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 N.T. pg. 14  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "Hidden Treasures" Rev. Brian Ellison

\*Hymn #714

God of the Fertile Fields

\*Affirmation of Faith (PCUSA A Brief Statement of Faith)

Rev. Chris Peters

***We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.***

**Moment of Gratitude  
Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Rev. Chris Peters

**Special Music**

"Prayer" by René Clausen  
Words by Mother Theresa of Calcutta  
Singers from Westminster Choir

"Help me spread Your fragrance wherever I go.  
Flood my soul with Your Spirit and Life.  
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly,  
that my life may be only a radiance of Yours.  
Shine through me and be so in me that every  
soul I know will feel Your presence in my soul.  
Let them look up and see no longer me, but only You."

**Prayers of the People  
Lord's Prayer**

Elder Kathy Rohwedder

***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 #307**

**God of Grace and God of Glory**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Brian Ellison

## **Postlude**

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

Today's words for worship come from Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, editor and the Presbyterian Outlook, Order of Worship for August 17, 2023 by Rev. Gina Bairby, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Taos, NM. 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 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:** Elder Kathy Rohwedder

**Music Director:** Ronnie Zanella

**Organist:** John Ross

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

**Ushers:** Becky Bockrath, Martha Kingsbury, Suzanne Bartlett

**Greeters:** Scott & Stephanie Rogers

**Dishwashers:** Megan and Jason Woita



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

**The week of August 27, 2023**

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

**Adult Education | Today | 10:45 AM | Fellowship Hall**

“How Welcoming Are We?”, Rev. Brian Ellison, Guest Speaker  
This class will feature honest talk and practical help building a congregation that is truly inclusive, deepening its welcome of LGBTQIA+ and all people. We'll discuss the history of the Presbyterian church's journey on these issues, the current state of the church, and the theological foundation for welcome and affirmation. Seizing on Westminster's existing commitments and spirit, we'll explore where God is calling each of us to action.

**The Rev. Brian Ellison** has served since 2012 as executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a national organization, of which Westminster is a long-time member, which seeks full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people in every aspect of the church's life and leadership. Brian previously served for 13 years as pastor of a church in the Kansas City area, and he is currently also the stated clerk of the Synod of Mid-America. In his spare time, he is a host/contributor at KCUR, the NPR affiliate in Kansas City, where he lives with his partner Troy and their dog daughters, the recalcitrant Willoughby and the dopey Sage.

**Maui Fire Response**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is currently responding to the devastating fires on the islands of Maui and Hawaii through care teams, response grants, and collaborating with and supporting United Church of Christ congregations there and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. To support these efforts, you may go to the following link for designating gifts to PDA for fire response, or you are invited to join Westminster for World on a Plate: Hawaii, a meal fundraiser for

PDA efforts in Hawaii. Keep reading for more information on World on a Plate: Hawaii. <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/hawaii-wildfires/>

### **Church Directory Photo Update**

We are planning an in-house update to the church directory photos and contact information. Jim Kinkennon will be available to take photos in Fellowship Hall from 10 AM to 5 PM Mon. through Wed. and Fri., as well as on Thurs. from 10 AM to 8 PM, during the weeks of Aug. 28 through Sept. 8, except for Labor Day. We hope you will sign up for a time online [https:// tinyurl.com/yv492tm6](https://tinyurl.com/yv492tm6) or by calling the church office.

**Several people have not been able to use the on-line sign-up form, especially on their phones. Please call the church office for an appointment if you are unable to get online. Once picture taking begins, we'll go completely to a call-in sign-up. If none of these dates and times work for you, we hope to add some more in the future.**

We are missing current photos of many of you, which keeps us from getting to know each other, especially putting our newer members at a disadvantage. There will be no pressure to buy anything. Just bring your smile! More information will be shared soon on ways to request or access the church directory.

**The Mission focus for August is Willie's Underwear Project.** This project was started by Willie Shafer, a long-time member of Westminster. Sadly, Willie is no longer with us, but her legacy continues. Willie's Underwear Project is exactly what it sounds like - providing underwear and sweatpants and t-shirts and socks to school nurses and counselors for when a student is ill at school or has an accident and needs a change of clothes to be able to return to class. Sometimes a parent can't be reached, or the parent can't get a change of clothes to the school quickly or a change of clothes just isn't available in the household at the time. This would mean the child has to sit in the nurse's office until a solution is found.

You can donate items in the bucket at the top of the stairs near the 27th Street entrance or give a gift card or check to the Westminster Office. If giving a check, write Willie's Underwear Project in the memo line. Mission/Outreach thanks you for your generosity.

## **ALOHA**

You are invited to **World on a Plate--LUAU Hawaii**

At Tom and Laurel Pappas' Home

Winsome Manor, 4150 South Street

Friday, Sept. 29 at 5:30 PM

Please RSVP to: (402) 202-9889 and text the dish you are bringing.

Bring your favorite Hawaiian dish, your own plate and utensils.

The monetary Breadbasket will be given to

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

HAWAI'I WILDFIRES - DR000165

### **Lunch Bunch at Ollie & Hobbes Craft Kitchen**

Lunch Bunch will meet September 5, 11:30 A.M., at Ollie & Hobbes Craft Kitchen, 2940 Pine Lake Rd. This is directly across from the movie theater complex at SouthPointe. This requires about a one-block walk from the parking lot. Please R.S.V.P. to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or [jimkinkennon@gmail.com](mailto:jimkinkennon@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

### **Celebrate the Season of Creation!**

From Sept. 1 to Oct. 4 the liturgical year turns to reflection on the wonders of creation. Westminster is among the groups supporting these special events at First Presbyterian Church.

Fri., Sept. 8, 7:30 PM Joel Satore presents pictures and stories from his National Geographic Photo Ark Project. Tickets at [fpclincoln.org](http://fpclincoln.org) or 402-477-6037.

Sun., Sept. 17, 7 PM. A Changing Climate: Challenges and Opportunities Featuring Dr. Martha Durr, Nebraska State Climatologist, and Josh Moening, Norfolk Mayor

### **Green Tip of the Week:**

If your electric water heater is warm to the touch, fitting it with an insulating jacket for about \$30 will conserve energy and money, paying for itself in the first year. If you have other tips to share, send them to Pastor Jimmy at [jimmy@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:jimmy@westminsterlincoln.org).

### **Presbyterians in the Park | Sunday, October 1**

The worship service will be at the Antelope Band Shell with lunch afterwards at the Auld Center. There will be more details coming.

## **CROP Walk | October 8, 2023**

Help fight hunger by joining the Westminster CROP Walk Team! You can join the team by registering to walk, collecting pledges, and joining us at Bethany Christian Church on October 8 or you can sponsor a walker with an online donation through the Lincoln CROP Walk website <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/westminster-presbyterian-2>. Walkers can also accept cash or checks; checks should be made payable to CWS/CROP. We will be ordering Team Westminster t-shirts again for everyone who walks so please send your t-shirt size(s) to Trish, [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org), after you register.

### **Staff Schedules**

Pastor Jimmy is away supply preaching in Palmyra. We encourage Jimmy to be available during the summer for supply preaching in our presbytery due to the strain on smaller and rural churches for leadership.

Office Manager Joanne Gabriel will be out of the office beginning on Monday, Aug. 28 and returning on Sept. 5.

### **Week Beginning August 27**

<p><b><u>Sun. (Aug. 27)</u></b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Adult Education, Rev. Brian Ellison, Guest Speaker, Fellowship Hall 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (Aug. 28)</u></b> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Reading Bible in a Year, Library 4:30 PM A &amp; P, Conference Room 6 PM Session, Lounge 6:30 PM Scouts, Cole Hall</p> <p><b><u>Tues. (Aug. 29)</u></b> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 5 PM Ladies' Night Out</p>	<p><b><u>Wed. (Aug. 30)</u></b> 1:30 PM Hearts &amp; Hands, Library 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (Sept. 3)</u></b> 9:30 AM Worship with Communion 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (Sept. 4)</u></b> <b>Church office is closed for the Labor Day Holiday</b></p>
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**Worship services are available on-line at this link:**

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