

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



November 12, 2023

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Expand our Lives in Faith, Connect People Deeply,
Make a Difference through Service**

Prelude

“Allegro maestoso e vivace” from *Sonata No. 2*
by Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Call to Worship (Psalm 78: 1-7, Common English Bible)**

Elder Jaime Hemmerling

One: Listen, my people to my teaching; tilt your ears toward the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a proverb.

All: We won't hide them from our descendants; we'll tell the next generation all about the praise due the Lord and God's strength – the wondrous works God has done.

One: God established a law for Jacob and set up instruction for Israel, ordering our ancestors to teach them to their children.

All: This is so that the next generation can rise up and tell their children to put their hope in God – never forgetting God's deeds, but keeping God's instruction.

One: Let us worship God with hearts that are open to learning and growing in faith!

***Hymn #744**

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

***Call to Confession**

Elder Jaime Hemmerling

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, your way for us is clear: We are to live so that the manner of our lives speaks of your goodness,

your generosity, your infinite mercy. Too often, though, we forget the purposes for which you made us. Too often, when we might disrupt rudeness with the reflection of your goodness, we instead turn aside. When we might share mercy, we instead cling to material goods. When we might step out in faith or service, we instead avoid those who are not like us. We fail to give grace in the measure we have received it. Forgive us, we pray. Remind us that your goodness is enduring, and your mercy is everlasting, for we pray all these things in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Response to the Confession** #473
Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life. (refrain only x2)

***Assurance of Forgiveness** Elder Jaime Hemmerling
We pour water into the baptismal font at this time as a sign of our renewal in baptism and in confession. It is a visual reminder of the Nicene Creed's affirmation, "I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins," and Romans 5:5 that promises, "God's love is being poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

...Believe and share the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise** #587
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Passing of the Peace** Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn
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.)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scriptures

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

O.T. pg. 215

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

N.T. pg. 28

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

Sermon “Packing List Parables: Get Ready”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #350**

**Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning
(verses 1-2, 4)**

Affirmation of Faith (PCUSA Declaration of Faith, - 1977

PCUS)

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

One: Jesus announced the coming of God's kingdom and its hidden presence in the midst of the world's kingdoms.

All: He taught his disciples to seek God's kingdom first.

One: We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom.

All: Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful.

One: No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world.

All: We are in the world, but not of the world.

One: Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom.

All: Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen. Amen.

Moment of Gratitude

Adult Education Committee

Special Music

“I Wait for You in Silence” (Psalm 62) arr. David Hill

Westminster Choir

Prayers of the People

Elder Jaime Hemmerling

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 #767**

Together We Serve

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Con moto maestoso” from *Sonata No. 3*
by Felix Mendelssohn

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

Parts of today’s words for worship (liturgy) are adapted from the Presbyterian Outlook’s Order of Worship for November 12, 2023 by Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook.

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 Jaime Hemmerling

Interim Music Director: Mary Daugherty; **Organist:** John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Acolytes: Saige & Emerson Witt

Greeters: Josh Whitfield, Kelly Braswell-Burbach

Ushers: David Anderson, Marybell Avery, Joyce Douglas,
Barbara Wright-Chollet

Dishwashers: Marijane England, Joan Roberts



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

The week of Nov. 12, 2023

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

Parable of the Bridesmaids

Pastor Chris will lead us into a series on the parables of Jesus in Matthew chapter 25. These three parables challenge us to be ready in unique ways, and this Sunday we are challenged to prepare ourselves for discipleship, mission, and Christ’s call on our lives.

Adult Ed | 10:50 AM | Lounge

Please join us for Adult Ed after worship this morning. Gary Haller and David Atkinson will each offer a personal perspective on thankfulness.

Pardon our dust...and rocks...and caution tape!

Over the next few weeks and again in Spring 2024 our sidewalks and parking lot will be undergoing long needed reconstructive work for safety and accessibility. We appreciate your patience and understanding!

Youth Group | Today

The Westminster Youth Group and Good Shepherd Youth Group will be headed to Sun Valley today for pizza, games, and laser tag. The plan is to **meet at Sun Valley around 1 PM**, pending confirmation. Please bring \$5 per person, max of \$15 for admission. Please let Trish know if you plan to attend by text 402-570-0163 or email trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

Prairie Readers | Nov. 15

Prairie Readers will meet Nov. 15 at 1 PM in the Lounge. We will create our reading list for 2024 so come prepared to introduce us to your nomination for next year's reading pleasure.

Wednesday November 15, 2023 | Pie and Fellowship

Let's eat, drink, and be thankful together! Please join us Wednesday, November 15 at 5:30 PM for an all-church soup dinner followed by a pie potluck. Bring your favorite pie to share with the group and invite a friend to share with your church family. After feasting on good food, finish off the meal with a trip - or two - through the line-up of holiday desserts. Whipped topping will be provided. Please RSVP here <https://forms.gle/aLqBLfAhd2MXHSXF9> or contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org if you plan to attend so we can be sure to have enough food available.

Fall Stated Congregational Meeting | Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023

The Fall Stated Meeting of the Congregation will take place following the worship postlude on Sunday, Nov. 19. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect Officers of the Church (Ruling Elders and Deacons) for 2024 and to hear a Stewardship & Finance Committee update.

Let us give thanks . . .

There will be a Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 3 PM at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, 6300 A Street. All faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend. Reception to follow. You are invited to bring desserts from your own tradition, as well as a non-perishable food donation for The Food Bank of Lincoln.

Ladies' Night Out | Wednesday, November 29 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

You are invited to join us this month at LILA MAE'S SOUTHERN KITCHEN AND LOUNGE! Their address is 2110 Winthrop Rd. Join us and bring a friend. RSVP to Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com, by Sunday November 26.

Advent Workshop Dec. 10 at 10:45 AM—NOTE DATE CHANGE

Advent, the beautiful season of candlelight, reflection and expectation, is just around the corner. Advent, which means "coming" or "arrival," is a time of joyful anticipation while we wait for the birth of Jesus. We invite you to dive into the holiday season with your Westminster family at the Advent Workshop. We will gather on **December 10**, immediately after church to renew friendships and enjoy cookies, chili, friends, and crafts. The fierce competition for the coveted Silver Ladle continues,

along with the Youth Mission Baked Goods Auction, sponsored by the Westminster Youth Group.

Advent Workshop Baked Goods Auction

The season of expectation and giving is coming soon, bringing with it opportunities to spread good cheer with unexpected gifts. The Youth Group will be sponsoring a baked goods auction at the Advent Workshop again this year to support various mission initiatives throughout the year, including the annual Angel Tree gifts. We are calling for our talented and creative bakers to donate something special to the cause. Cakes, pies, brownies, bars, breads, or anything you would like to make is welcome. Contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or complete this form <https://forms.gle/GU9y4Vinjioimb3v9>. Please indicate ingredients if possible. Master creations can be delivered between 10-2 on Friday or on Sunday, Dec. 10, before the worship service.

Don't miss it!

Doug Tallamy, professor, author of Nature's Best Hope (spoiler alert—it's us!), popular speaker, and originator of the Homegrown National



Park will be in Lincoln LIVE at 3:00 Sunday afternoon, December 3rd. Westminster's Green@Heart is a co-sponsor of this event.

Admission is free, but tickets are required and are expected to "sell out" early. Go to

[https://www.zeffy.com/en-](https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/64d49130-ac2a-49b9-b09a-484a966099e1)

[US/ticketing/64d49130-ac2a-49b9-b09a-](https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/64d49130-ac2a-49b9-b09a-484a966099e1)

[484a966099e1](https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/64d49130-ac2a-49b9-b09a-484a966099e1) to get your ticket. Never heard of him? Watch the beginning of this YouTube video

and see how fascinated you can be by a guy talking about an acorn!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ3OHaWFB9E>

Acolytes

We are looking for children and youth of all ages to serve as acolytes during our worship service. Please add your name to the schedule here <https://shorturl.at/jJOX7>. If you have any questions, please contact Trish, trish@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-570-0163.

UNL Trombone Ensemble Concert

There will be a UNL Nebraska Trombone Ensemble Concert on Nov. 20 at 7:30 PM. The concert is free and open to the public.

Week Beginning November 12

<p><u>Sun. (Nov. 12)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:45 AM Confirmation Class 10:50 AM Adult Ed.—Exploring Thankfulness, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 1 PM Youth Group—Laser Tag</p> <p><u>Mon. (Nov. 13)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study—Reading the Bible, Library 5 PM Church Life, Library 5:30 PM Worship & Music, Lounge 6 PM Called Session Meeting, Zoom 6 PM Mission & Outreach, FH 6:30 PM Scouts—Monthly Pack Meeting, Cole Hall</p> <p><u>Tues. (Nov. 14)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10 AM Circle 5, Lounge 6 PM Personnel, Zoom 6 PM A & P, Conference Room 6 PM Welcoming Task Force, Library</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Nov. 15)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM Pie & Fellowship, Cole Hall, WestminsterLINK 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Nov. 16)</u> 9 AM Friendship Home, FH 10 AM Homestead Presbytery Meeting, Eastridge 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge</p> <p><u>Sun. (Nov. 19)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village/ Fall Stated Congregational Meeting 10:45 AM Moses Preach for Seminary Class, Sanctuary 10:50 AM Adult Ed.—Exploring Thankfulness, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 3 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Unitarian Church 6 PM Youth Group</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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

Televised Worship

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

Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

joanne@westminsterlincoln.org

402-475-6702