

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



November 19, 2023

34th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Prelude

“We Gather Together” by Franklin Ritter

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Introit

“We Walk by Faith”

We walk by faith, we live in hope
With every step we take we trust in God alone
We hold to Christ, He leads us on
He is our Shepherd ever faithful ever strong
And when we lose our way or when our footsteps roam
His heart will find us; his grace will lead us home
Across the mountains high or through the valleys deep
He leads us onward, His love is all we need.
Til we reach the promised land, we will trust His guiding hand. We'll
live in hope and walk by faith.

*Call to Worship

Rev. Chris Peters

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place;

All: We gather today to rest in you.

One: You have been the voice that guides us;

All: We gather today to listen to your Spirit.

One: You have been the host who feeds us;

All: We gather today to be filled by your Word.

One: You have been our joy and crown;

All: We gather today to sing your praise!

*Hymn #703

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

*Call to Confession

Rev. Chris Peters

*Time of Silent Confession

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that once again, we have done what is evil in your sight. We have hurt people, by action and inaction. We have wounded creation, by action and inaction. We have chosen our ways over yours, by action and inaction. Forgive our past and shape our future that we might build your kingdom here. In the name of Christ, we pray. 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**

Rev. Chris Peters

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. Chris Peters

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

Rev. Chris Peters

Scripture

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 4:7-11

N.T. pg. 235

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

N.T. pg. 28

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

Sermon

"Packing List Parables: Account Ability"

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

“Live as good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serving one another with whatever gift you have received.” --1 Peter 4:10
“Then the Master returned to settle accounts . . .” --Matthew 25:19

***Hymn #712 As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought**

Affirmation of Faith (PCUS 1977 Declaration of Faith)

Rev. Chris Peters

***Christ calls us to live in the presence of God.
We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
personal lives that are centered in God and open to
God's reality and rule.***

***Christ teaches us to put obedience to God
above the interests of self, family, race or nation;
to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time.
It is part of our discipline to observe a day of
worship and rest,
setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work,
celebrating with sisters and brothers the Lord's
goodness.***

***We need constantly to search out God's way in
Scripture,
not expecting detailed directions for every decision,
but relying on the Word to tell us who God is,
to press God's present claim on us,
and to assure us of God's grace and comfort.***

**Moment of Gratitude
Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Special Music

“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

arr. by Lloyd Larson

Duet by Sanda Masic and Tatiana Eskridge

Prayers of the People

Rev. Chris Peters

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 #702
Beside Me**

Christ Be

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Postlude

“Now Thank We All Our God” by Lani Smith

*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 19, 2023 by Rev. Carol Holbrook Pickett, Pastor of Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church near Cincinnati, OH and liturgy writer at deepwellworship.com.

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

Interim Music Director: Mary Daugherty

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Acolytes: Reece & Addie Baltensperger

Greeters: Carol & Jim Bishop

Ushers: Leslie Miner, Robyn Uebele, Cynthia Olson, Barb Andersen

Dishwashers: Tom Pappas & Laurel Van Ham



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

The week of Nov. 19, 2023

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

Parable of the Coins

Today, Pastor Jimmy will preach on how we serve God and use the talents God has given us.

Fall Stated Meeting of the Congregation

The Fall Stated Meeting of the Congregation will take place today following the worship postlude. 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.

Nominations

Board of Deacons

Class of 2024

Marijane England

Claire Titus

Janell Welstead

Class of 2025

Brian Lammers

Class of 2026

Jeanne Atkinson

Michael Gregg

Brooke Larson

Shirley Wiggins

Board of Elders

Class of 2024

Skyler Bennett

Class of 2026

Dave Arunski

Jon Bennett

Sarah Baltensperger

Stephan Biheng

Karen Hoffman

Susie Hughes

Jim Kinkennon

Foundation Members

Rob Baltensperger

Gwen Thorpe

Pat Leach

Allen Wachter

Moses Bilew Sermon Feedback

Today following Congregational Meeting!

Moses Bilew, Westminster's Sudanese worship/community leader will be preaching a sermon today in our sanctuary, following the congregational meeting. This opportunity is for his final class in a Commissioned Ruling Elder training program through Dubuque Presbyterian Seminary. We need members to stay, watch the sermon, and provide feedback using provided forms. The sermon and forms will be shared with his professor this coming week. We anticipate the sermon and feedback time will take no more than 30 minutes.

Adult Ed | 10:50 AM | Lounge

Please join us for Adult Ed after worship this morning. We will hear from Claire Titus and Joyce Douglas on their personal perspectives on thankfulness.

Let us give thanks . . .

There will be a Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service today 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 the ingredients you used, if possible. Master creations can be delivered between 10-2 on Friday or on Sunday, Dec. 10, before the worship service.

Mission/Outreach is pleased to bring **Equal Exchange Coffee and Equal Exchange Organic Chocolate** to Westminster friends. Available the first Sunday of the month. *HINT – Great gift ideas for the holiday season.*

Our congregation is proud to offer a brew that is delicious and chocolate that is organic. These products reflect our values of social justice. By choosing this fairly-traded coffee and chocolate, you are supporting a whole separate ethical supply chain—not huge corporations. Enjoy it! Buy some to bring home, and share it with friends.

When we give the opportunity to purchase Equal Exchange products during Fellowship Hour after services or for the holidays, we're making a strong statement about our values as a community. We're proclaiming that our congregation believes that it's vital to keep small farmers on the land providing food for their families and having some economic control over their lives; that it's important to work with indigenous producers and women; that sustainable agricultural methods are a vital way to address climate change.

Angel Tree Project

Once again Westminster is partnering with the Salvation Army Angel Tree Project. Christmas and holiday gifts from the Angel Tree are given to children from low-income families. Gifts, toys, clothing, and much more are provided for children from infant to age 12. Senior citizens who are 60 years and older can also benefit from the Angel Tree. Look

for the Angel tree at the top of the stairs across from the reception desk. Pick a tag from the tree and shop. Return the unwrapped gifts, with the tag attached to the bag, placing them under the tree. **Gifts must be returned to the church by Dec. 13.** Most people, especially children, look forward to receiving clothing and gifts over the holidays. Will you be someone’s Angel? Thank you. Mission & Outreach

Food Pantry Thank You

As we approach Thanksgiving, we want to thank you for your wonderful support of Westminster Food Pantry. The pantry is an ongoing mission of our church. Your food donations and monetary gifts make it possible for our pantry to send boxes each week that will provide food for six families. The People City Mission definitely thanks you too. We wish you many blessings at Thanksgiving and thanks again for your generosity.

--Marilyn Smith and Nora Hinrichs

Schedule

Pastor Chris will be off Tues., Nov. 21 and Wed., Nov. 22.

The church office will be closed Thurs., Nov. 23 and Fri., Nov. 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Week Beginning November 19

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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> <p><u>Mon. (Nov. 20)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study—Reading the Bible, Library 6:30 PM Scouts—Den Meetings, Cole Hall</p> | <p>7:30 PM UNL Trombone Ensemble Free Concert, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Tues. (Nov. 21)</u> 7 PM Faith & Cancer Support Group, Library</p> <p><u>Thurs. & Fri. (Nov. 23-24)</u> Holiday—Building Closed</p> <p><u>Sun. (Nov. 26) Christ the King</u> 9:30 AM Worship with Communion/Faith Village 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM Youth Group</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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