

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

Wandering Heart

A Lenten Series



'Who Do You Say That I Am' by Lauren Wright-Pittman
Digital Painting.

Prelude

“These Are the Holy Ten Commandments” J.S. Bach

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

*Waypoints on the Journey: Mountain Peak

Chris, Lauren, and Wilder Peters

*Invitation to Worship (Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

Chris, Lauren, and Wilder Peters

One: I have stayed quiet before. I have held my tongue while passing mountains.

All: I have slipped my hands deep into pockets, despite the music that invites me to dance.

One: I have glimpsed a new moon and a new love and have acted as if it was something other than a complete, God-given miracle.

All: But not today. Not today. Today I will dance. Today I will tap my toes all the way to heaven's gates.

One: Today I will point out every shade of gold and periwinkle that we pass. Today I will talk about my faith like we talk about the weather— early and unprompted, comfortable and unashamed.

All: Today I will tell you that God did such a good job with freckles, willow trees, and your entire being.

One: And I will not be embarrassed by my own conviction. I will not swallow my praise.

All: I have stayed quiet before, but not today. Today I will sing.

*Hymn #157

I Danced in the Morning

*Call to Confession

Deacon Claire Titus

*Time of Silent Confession

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers. We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace. Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.

*Response to the Confession #437

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Deacon Claire Titus

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 #475 (verse 2) Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

***Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.***

***Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.***

***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

Jaime Hemmerling

(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

"Agnus Dei" from Dan Forrest Requiem for the Living
Westminster Choir, Reagan Hinze, soloist

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 19

O.T. pg. 498

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16:13-20

N.T. pg. 18

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

Sermon

"Praise the Mount"

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #837**

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine (Leaning)

Habitat Sunday Blessing

As you come forward for communion, you are invited to sign the piece of plywood that is part of a future Habitat House. In this way we share our prayers for peace and God's blessing for the family and home.

**The Lord's Supper
Invitation**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Blessing of the Elements Prayer After Communion

*Hymn #767

Together We Serve

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

Improvisation: "Praise the Mount"

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

Today's liturgy, or words for worship, are adapted from "Wandering Heart Words for Worship: Third Sunday in Lent" by A Sanctified Art LLC (sanctifiedart.org).

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 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 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 Young

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Liturgist: Deacon Claire Titus

Waypoints on the Journey: Chris, Lauren, and Wilder Peters

Ushers: Diana Wild, April Douglas, Skyler Bennett, David Anderson

Dishwashers: Becky Bockrath and Sarah Baltensperger

Communion Servers: Stephan Biheng, Sebit Deng, Sarah Gergen, Jaime Hemmerling, Jim Hlava





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

The week of Mar. 3, 2024

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

Lent 2024

Wandering Heart: Join the Journey!

We want you to “Join the Journey” of Lent 2024 with Westminster, Lincoln, NE! This year we will figure out faith with the disciple Peter using the Wandering Heart theme and focus by A Sanctified Art (sanctifiedart.org). This Lenten journey will encompass Sunday worship, Faith Village, and Adult Education *and* educational programming for all ages on Wednesday nights!

To ‘join the journey’, pick up a Lent Passport, which will guide you through the theme each week. Passport stamps may be earned by either attending worship on Sunday or by visiting our Wandering Heart Spirituality Stations in Fellowship Hall. A new station will be added each week. By stamping six of seven stops, you will be able to enter a drawing for either a prime parking spot at the 8:00 or 10:00am Easter service, or for a faithful fun family Easter basket with activities, candy, and more surprises!

This Lent, our Westminster family is challenged to Join the Journey in a meaningful way. This is the season to re-tune our hearts on God in faith. We hope you will ‘Join the Journey’ of Lent 2024!

Adult Education Today

Note that the Adult Ed roundtable “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” will take a one-week hiatus today for a presentation by Habitat for Humanity (which was cancelled due to weather in January).

Lunch Bunch | Tues., Mar. 5

Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, March 5, 11:30 A.M., at Fireworks Restaurant, 5750 S. 86th Street. RSVP is a MUST this time. Call or text Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or email jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

“Wandering Hearts and Seeking Souls: A Spirituality Experience for Busy People.”

Weds. In Lent from 5:40 to 6:25 PM, Lounge or Zoom

This Lent Pastor Chris will host a second Adult Education opportunity. This will be a hybrid class: you may meet in-person in the Lounge Classroom at WPC or on Zoom! This experience will focus on personal and community growth as disciples, looking at the scripture for the following Sunday in our Wandering Heart series through the lens of art, music, real-world events, and our own stories as companions on the journey. If you have questions, please reach out to Rev. Chris Peters (chris@westminsterlincoln.org). Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87321343956?pwd=TUpvQmRvTDRZUkxZMmVNRTUrK0M3Zz09>

Bulletin Art Artist Statement

Who Do you Say That I Am (Lauren Wright Pittman)

In this image, I wanted to create a kaleidoscope of perception, imaging the ways Jesus is perceived in the context of this passage, like light broken down into a myriad of shapes and colors. In the gold rays of light Jesus' form is obscured by the metallic shine of God's glory. In the gray and earth-tone rays he is seen in monochrome. Each of the earth-tone rays holds a pattern on Jesus' clothing which represents a misunderstanding of who Jesus is. Starting on the left, honey, locusts, and baptismal waters misidentify him as John the Baptist. Within the next ray to the right, ravens, an empty chair, rain, and fires from the heavens misidentify him as Elijah. On the right, scales of justice and plants being uprooted and planted misidentify him as Jeremiah. Through the middle of the image, there is a ray of light where the image comes into full color that holds this moment of clarity where Jesus and Peter truly see one another. In this ray, Peter's clothing holds symbols of his new identity: a rock upon which the church will be built and keys to the kingdom. Jesus' clothing holds imagery—an oil jar and the light of the sun—representing the way Peter sees him as the Messiah and Son of the living God.

History Buffs: COLUMBUS MEETS THE NATIVES, Sat., March 9

Title: “Momma don't make me learn that awful history.” A short lesson in the history of America's indigenous people, presented by Dr. Ken Govaerts. Meet in the Lounge at 9 AM.

Used Sneaker/Sock Collection

Green at Heart has discovered two separate programs which collect used sneakers and used socks to keep these out of landfills. The sneaker program re-sells. The sock program recycles. There is a collection box for both of these in the east entry, north alcove where Styrofoam was collected the past few months. Check your closets and bring them in!

First Nations Choral Festival: Music by Indigenous Composers St. Paul United Methodist Church, March 5, 7:30 PM

You are invited to the first-ever Native American choral festival celebrating the rich heritage of Indigenous composers and artists. The event will feature performances by students from Standing Bear High School and Lincoln North Star High School, as well as multiple University of Nebraska-Lincoln choirs, and two local church choirs, **including our own Westminster Choir.**



"We are thrilled to bring together such a diverse and talented group of artists and performers for the First Nations Festival," said **Mary Young, Festival Coordinator.** "This event not only celebrates First Nation composers of choral music but also provides a cross-curricular event that combines legend, music, poetry, and storytelling." The event is free, open to the public, and will be live-streamed. For more information, please contact Mary Young at maryruthyoung95@gmail.com or 585-545-9852.

Welcome Baby Donations

To celebrate new babies in the Westminster family, the Children and Youth Committee is seeking donations of useful baby items to stock a Welcome Baby Closet. Items from the closet will be used to create baskets for new parents. We are looking for donations of diapers, baby shampoo, baby wash, bottles, pacifiers, baby toys, baby clothes (newborn-6 mos.), knit/crochet/quilted blankets, gift card for restaurant or retail store, any baby item you might have found useful with your own children. Please drop off any donations in the tote behind the reception desk. If you have any questions, contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

Call for Eggstravaganza Donations

Our annual Eggstravaganza is coming up on March 27 and we can use your help. We are seeking donation bags of candy and/or any other small handouts for the children. Look for a collection tote at the top of the steps by the East entrance. If you have any questions, please contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org

Mission/Outreach is pleased to bring Equal Exchange Coffee and Equal Exchange Organic Chocolate to Westminster friends. The coffee you enjoy during the fellowship hour is also Equal Exchange.

By choosing the Equal Exchange brand, we are making a strong statement about our values as a community. **Available for Purchase:** We give the opportunity to purchase Equal Exchange products during Fellowship Hour after services on the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for supporting our ongoing commitment to making these products available.

Sinfonietta in Concert | March 5 | 7 PM | WPC Sanctuary

You are invited to hear Sinfonietta in concert, featuring works by Haydn, Corelli and Nielsen. Conducted by Ramón Araújo in partial fulfillment of the Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting from the Glenn Korff School of Music.

Week Beginning March 3

<p><u>Sun. (Mar. 3) Habitat Sunday</u> 9:30 AM Worship with Communion/Faith Village 10:45 AM Habitat, Lounge 10:45 AM Confirmation Class, FH 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM Youth Group</p> <p><u>Mon. (Mar. 4)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 6:30 PM Scouts Den Meetings 7 PM Circle #4 7 PM Rehearsal for Recital, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Tues (Mar. 5)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10:45 AM Stewardship & Finance 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 5 PM Adult Ed, Conference Room 7 PM UNL Recital, Sanctuary</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Mar. 6)</u> 10 AM Circle #3, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM WestminsterLINK 5:40 PM Wandering Hearts and Seeking Souls, Lounge 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Sat. (Mar. 9)</u> 9 AM History Buffs, Lounge</p> <p><u>Sun. (Mar. 10)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:40 AM All Ages Service Project: Flowerpots for Habitat 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
--	--