

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Wandering Heart

A Lenten Series



'Beseeching' by Hannah Garrity
Ink on paper.

Prelude

“Prelude & Fugue in e minor, BWV 533” by J.S. Bach

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Waypoints on the Journey: Choppy Waters**

Karen and Rachel Hoffman

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

Karen and Rachel Hoffman

One: We are born with the ability to wrap our fingers around another, to hold tight to what we know.

All: Maybe that’s where the instinct comes from— this clinging, this sinking, this holding on.

One: Maybe that’s why Peter cries, “Never!” when Jesus must leave. From the very beginning we’ve known how to hold tight.

All: So I pray: open up my hands. Uncurl my fingers one by one. Loosen the grip that I hold unyielding.

One: Remind me that birds must fly and children must grow and leaves must fall.

All: And even though we are born with the ability to hold tight, we can learn how to love with open hands.

***Hymn #829**

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, “This should not happen!” We want to control life’s moments that are beyond our reach. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with our own sense of certainty rather than faithful and open curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on our own truth, when we could open ourselves up to another’s experience. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, 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**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

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 1)**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy graces; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;

praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

***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

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

Scripture

Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

O.T. pg. 559

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16:21-23

N.T. pg. 18

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

Sermon

"I'm Fixed Upon It"

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn Return To You (Wandering Heart Theme Song; chorus sung by congregation)**

Insert

Moment of Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anthem

"A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth" by David von Kampen
Westminster Choir

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

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 #728

Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

Improvisation: "I'm Fixed Upon It"

*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: Fourth 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

Waypoints on the Journey: Karen & Rachel Hoffman

Greeters: Kathy Phillip

Ushers: Joan Roberts, Marybell Avery, Barbara Wright-Chollet, Marilyn Hood

Dishwashers: Marijane England, Joan Roberts





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

The week of Mar. 10, 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 During Lent | Sundays in Lent

During the season of Lent, Adult Education will feature discussions based on themes in the hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” The sessions will be following the format of scripture reading and group discussion: to facilitate discussion, chairs will be in concentric circles. Join us Sundays in Lent from 10:45 to 11:30 AM. Pastor Jimmy will be leading the discussions.

Painting Flowerpots for Habitat for Humanity Families—All Ages

Join us after the service today in Fellowship Hall. We will be painting small clay flowerpots to decorate tables at the annual Habitat for Humanity Community Builders Breakfast before being filled and given to Habitat families as a house-warming gift. We need you to exercise your creative skills to help Westminster welcome families to their new homes.

“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

Beseeking by Hannah Garrity

After ten years in ministry, I work in a church for the first time. In this text, I feel Jesus speaking directly to me: “You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things” (Matthew 16:23). This is exactly where frustration surfaces for me in my amazing church job. It is when I have set my eye on human things. I worry about the budget. I worry about the email. I worry about the building. So why am I so focused on human things? And the negative ones, at that? Because I’m human. Because these things matter. But not if I miss the grandeur of this incredible organization sharing the expansive love of God! With every brush stroke in this ink painting, the humanity of Peter’s face deepens, his expression clarifies. He cannot let his beloved friend be murdered. He worries about human things. How weighty and legitimate those things feel. Jesus seems free of those human worries.

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!

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

You are Invited!!
PW Spring Gathering
Fremont Presbyterian Church, 520 West Linden Ave.

Theme: "Do everything in love."
1 Corinthians 16:14

Homestead Presbyterian Women
Saturday, April 6, 2024
9:30 AM to 1:30 PM



There is no charge for this gathering, there will be complimentary coffee and treats available in the morning and lunch will be provided.

Hope to see you there! For questions, please contact Maggie Horak 402-429-0523, mmhlin@outlook.com

For PW Together in Service, please bring Baby Layette Kit items to donate (sleepers, receiving blankets, onesies, bibs, wash cloths, hooded baby bath towels – all new). An offering will be collected with half going to PW Synod Native American Scholarship Fund and half to defray cost of lunch.

Cantata | March 17 | 9:30 AM

Next Sunday, March 17, the Westminster Choir will present "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth," a Lenten Cantata by David Von Kampen, during our 9:30 AM worship service. Come and be inspired!

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. Please drop off any donations in the tote behind the reception desk. If you have any questions, contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

Lost and Found

We have collected several items that have been left at church. Please check the table in the Garden Room to claim anything that might be yours. We will be donating what's left after next Sunday, March 17. If you lost a pair of ear buds, contact the church office.

Star City Chorus Presents *Thank you for Being a Friend*

It's the season finale for Star City Chorus. Come enjoy your favorite TV theme songs sung live on Friday, March 15, at 7 PM at Westminster. Tickets not required, \$10 suggested donation.

Week Beginning March 10

<p><u>Sun. (Mar. 10)</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:40 AM All Ages Service Project: Flowerpots for Habitat, FH 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Mar. 11)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 6 PM Mission & Outreach, FH</p> <p><u>Tues (Mar. 12)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10 AM Circle #5, Lounge 5 PM Church Life, Library 5 PM Personnel, Zoom 5:30 PM Worship & Music, FH 6 PM Welcoming Task Force, Library 6 PM Bldg. and Grounds, Zoom 6 PM A & P, Conference Room</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Mar. 13)</u> 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:40 PM Wandering Hearts and Seeking Souls, Lounge 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Fri. (Mar. 15)</u> 7 PM Star City Chorus, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Sun. (Mar. 17) Cantata</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Cantata/Faith Village Preschool Art Show in FH 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 10:45 AM Confirmation, FH 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM Youth Group</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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