

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Wandering Heart

A Lenten Series



'Seventy-seven Times' by Lauren Wright Pittman
Digital painting.

Prelude

Improvisation: "Teach Me"

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Minute for Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

Carolyn Harp

***Waypoints on the Journey: Open Book**

Nancy, Bob, Ella, & Barrett Leavitt, and Cory, Mircalla, & Revan McCune

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

Nancy, Bob, Ella, & Barrett Leavitt, and Cory, Mircalla, & Revan McCune

One: Teach me about the ways of the wind, about the ways of the world, about the ways of the heart.

All: Teach me about forgiveness, about the language of I'm sorry and the softness of sincerity.

One: Teach me about abundance, about seventy-times-seven and all the days of my life.

All: Teach me about joy, about its contagious weaving and its soul-healing. Teach me about mercy, about open hands and deep breaths.

One: Teach me about the dawn of time and the stars in the sky.

All: Teach me what matters most. Teach me what is mine to do.

One: Teach this aching curious heart until I run out of questions or I run out of days.

All: Teach me some melodious sonnet, and I will have a life well-lived.

***Hymn #740**

Lead Me, Guide Me

***Call to Confession**

Elder Jaime Hemmerling

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher." Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Spark a desire in us to learn, and empower our curiosity so we might grow in faith. With hope and humility we pray, amen.

***Response to the Confession #437**
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!

***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 #475 (verse 1)**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

***Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
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. 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.***

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:15-22

N.T. pg. 20

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

Reflection

"Teach Me"

Rev. Chris Peters

"A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth: A Lenten Cantata"

by David Von Kampen, Westminster Choir and Organ

Opening

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

God Will Provide Himself a Lamb

This Lamb is Christ

He Was Despised and Rejected

O Wondrous Love

Chorale

Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer

Elder Jaime Hemmerling

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 #205

Live in Charity

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” by John Ross

*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: Second 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: Elder Jaime Hemmerling

Waypoints on the Journey: Nancy, Bob, Ella, & Barrett Leavitt, and Cory, Mircalla, & Revan McCune

Greeters: Joyce Douglas & Marilyn Hood

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

Dishwashers: Tom Pappas and Laurel Van Ham



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

The week of Mar. 17, 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 is featuring discussions based on themes in the hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” The sessions follow 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.

“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=TUUpvQmRvTDRZUkxZMmVNRTUrK0M3Zz09>

Bulletin Art Artist Statement

Seventy-seven Times by Lauren Wright Pittman

When I'm creating a mandala inspired by a text, I'm able to zoom out and see the bigger picture, and the image itself ends up looking like a bird's eye view, which I think is a helpful perspective sometimes. In this mandala, I wanted to follow a person through the process of reproval, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration as Jesus describes in Matthew 18. In the center, a person is standing alone, isolated, with their arms crossed in a closed-off posture. If you're sinned against, Jesus says to go and "point out the fault when the two of you are alone" (Matthew 18:15). When you move to the second ring of the mandala, there are pairs of people shaking hands, finding common ground, or at least attempting to. If this doesn't work, then you are to bring more people (one or two more) together to provide counsel and witness. In the third ring of the mandala, two people are engaging with the closed-off person, sharing a way forward. In the next ring hyacinth flowers—which represent sorrow, regret, and forgiveness—stretch, bloom, and grow, bringing beauty into the now open arms of the people in the last ring of the mandala, who are embraced and woven into the community. The person from the center goes from being alone and closed-off to embraced and open. When I was drawing the figures from the center out, it began to look like a dance. Is this the picture that grace paints?

Prairie Readers

Prairie Readers will meet March 20 in the lounge. Lisa DeBuse will lead the discussion of Sue Monk Kidd's book "The Invention of Wings."

Spring Clean Up

If you have time to give for Spring Cleanup of Westminster's grounds, we will be working both Fridays 10-12 and Saturdays 10-12 for the next bit of time. (If your time to give does not fit that schedule, check with Tom Pappas for independent instructions.)

1. Cut down plantings in parking lot dividers.
2. Collect and remove leaves from parking curbs.
3. Cut back knockout roses.
4. Clean up loggia planter.
5. Refresh Prayer Garden.

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

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 early next week, so please take a look today. If you lost a pair of ear buds, contact the church office.



Week Beginning March 17

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| <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> <p><u>Mon. (Mar. 18)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 5:30 PM Preschool Art Show Opening 6:30 PM Scouts, Den Meetings 6:30 PM Children & Youth, Zoom</p> <p><u>Tues (Mar. 19)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10:45 AM Stewardship & Finance, Library 5 PM Ladies' Night Out, Ollie & Hobbes 7 PM Faith and Cancer Support Group, Library</p> | <p><u>Wed. (Mar. 20)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM WestminsterLink, Cole Hall 5:40 PM Wandering Hearts and Seeking Souls, Lounge 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Mar. 21)</u> 9 AM Friendship Home, FH 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge</p> <p><u>Sun. (Mar. 24) Palm Sunday</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Procession/Faith Village 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 3 PM Youth Group, Sun Valley Lanes</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