

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

Wandering Heart

A Lenten Series



'Then They Remembered' by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing.

Prelude

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

by Emma Lou Diemer

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

*Hymn #196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*Waypoints on the Journey: Crescendo Rob, Sarah, Sam, Reese, and Addie Baltensperger

*Invitation to Worship (Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org) Rob, Sarah, Sam, Reese, and Addie Baltensperger

One: We summon every ounce of courage.

All: We give ourselves pep talks and we call our friends. We dig deep within.

One: We practice the words out loud, rolling them around in our mouths, imagining the response. We deal out every “what if” card our brain holds on to and spend absurd amounts of time imagining all the ways it could go wrong.

All: And then finally, blessedly, we say it: I love you. To speak the truth of your heart takes courage. It always has.

One: But please, summon your courage, join the parade, and speak with conviction.

All: For God has been saying to the world since day one: I love you. What is your response?

*Call to Confession

Deacon Claire Titus

*Time of Silent Confession

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall. Too often we stay quiet. Too often we let others carry the song. Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines. Show us which songs are ours to sing. Show us which parades are ours to lead, and then give us the courage and conviction to do both. With hope and honesty 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

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 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. 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

Elder Sarah Baltensperger

(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

Gospel Lesson

John 12:12-16

N.T. pg. 106

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

Reflection

“Songs of Loudest Praise”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn (insert)**

Return to You

(Wandering Heart Theme Song; chorus sung by congregation)

Affirmation of Faith (PCUS Declaration of Faith; Chapter 4, Section 4)

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

One: We believe... Religious leaders hated Jesus because he criticized their hypocrisy and reproved their neglect of justice and mercy.

All: They charged him with blasphemy and sedition when he claimed to speak and act with God’s authority.

One: One of Jesus’ followers betrayed him. Others abandoned and denied him because they were afraid to stand with him.

All: Civil authorities condemned him because he provoked unrest among the people.

One: He was sentenced, mocked, beaten, and crucified as a common criminal.

All: We confess that in the execution of Jesus the sin of the human race reached its depths.

Anthem

“Hosanna! Thy Saviour Hath Come!” by Rob Gardner

Prayers of the People

Deacon Claire Titus

The 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 #198**

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

Improvisation: “Songs of Loudest Praise”

*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: Palm Sunday” 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

Acolytes: Reese Baltensperger & Addie Baltensperger

Liturgist: Deacon Claire Titus

Waypoints on the Journey: Rob, Sarah, Sam, Reese, and Addie Baltensperger

Greeters: Scott & Stephanie Rogers

Ushers: Suzanne Bartlett, Martha Kingsbury, April Douglas

Dishwashers: Dave & Barbara Arunski



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

The week of Mar. 24, 2024

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

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

Procession with Palms

John 12:12-16 “Songs of Loudest Praise”

As Jesus and the disciples enter Jerusalem, we can imagine Peter amongst the disciples, watching the singing and cheering crowds. When it comes to singing praise in our own lives of faith, are we out loud or reserved, leading or accompanying? How can we sing loud songs of praise as individuals and a community of faith this Palm Sunday and beyond?

Eggstravaganza, Wed. Mar. 27

Cole Hall

Join us for our annual Easter egg hunt on Wednesday, March 27. Children from preschool to 5th grade are invited to come for an evening of fun. The evening begins with dinner at 5:45 PM, followed by the hunt and games at 6:15 PM. Come for the hunt and stay for the rest of the evening activities. Questions? Contact Trish at (402) 570-0163 or trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

Maundy Thursday, Mar. 28, 6:15 PM

Dinner, Communion, Worship

John 13:1-20 “Streams of Mercy”

In a very brief reflection, Pastor Chris will invite us to value the experience of faith with all of our senses. As the disciples felt the water as Jesus washed their feet, tasted the gifts of grain and grape and the seder meal, and felt the cool of the air as they moved toward the Garden of Gethsemane with Jesus... all senses were engaged. Our service will be less about hearing a sermon and more about experiencing community together, preparing our hearts to go forth with love our song, love our voice, and love our calling.

Please RSVP for the Maundy Thurs. meal by signing the clipboard in the Garden Room after worship today or by calling the church office.

Good Friday, Mar. 29, 6:15 PM**Sanctuary**

Multiple Scriptures from John “Prone to Leave the God I Love”

A service of “Lessons and Reflections” will have us hearing scriptures that tell the story of Good Friday and the Passion narrative. After each we will briefly consider one image that stands out within each scripture. Good Friday is a service of reflection and remembrance, and so we hope you will find your own image within the stories, one that might call you to a closer walk with Christ.

Easter Sunday, Mar. 31, 8 AM & 10 AM**Sanctuary**

Luke 24:1-12 “And I Hope”

“Christ is risen! Alleluia!” is our song of praise on Easter, but on the first Easter there was a mix of uncertainty and caution amongst moments of praise. Considering the disciple Peter this Easter, can we be people who will run toward hope – toward the empty tomb, even after our own biggest failures, losses and fears? On Easter, the empty tomb, the discovery by the women, and Peter’s rush to see it all show that we can always begin again, too.

Easter Sunday Cinnamon Roll and Fruit Social will be held between worship services on Easter Sunday, Mar. 31, in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

Adult Education

We continue Adult Education today and April 7 based on themes in the hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” Join us from 10:45 to 11:30 AM. Pastor Jimmy will lead the discussions. Adult Education will not meet on Easter Sunday.

Lenten Passports Due Tomorrow

Lenten Passports are due no later than Monday, March 25. They can be placed in the blue box in the Garden Room. Drawings for prizes will be March 26.

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. Check your closets and bring them in!

Palm Sunday Bulletin Art Artist Statement

“Then They Remembered” by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

They didn't understand at first, but then they remembered. (paraphrase of John 12:16)

This image attempts to visualize these two locations in time and space. On the left, Peter looks out from the palm procession—his eyes glazed over as he watches Jesus riding into the city where he will surely meet his death. As the crowds sing “hosanna!” for a new, soon-to-be-killed-king, the dissonance of the scene causes Peter to tremble—like a guitar string snapped suddenly mid-tune.

In the top right is Peter’s mirror image. In this mirage, we glimpse the future. Peter stands aghast at the empty tomb, waves of hope and relief rushing through him like a river of grace, the remembering happening all at once—like a childhood song plucked from memory, like the refrain of a chorus that won’t let you go: *it’s true, it’s true, thank God it’s true.*

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.

Lunch Bunch in April

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, April 2, 11:30 A.M., at Mi Tierra, 84th & Holdrege. This is our second time at this location. They have lots of room and easy parking. RSVP to 402-290-5888 or jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

Schedule on April 1

The church building will be closed for a staff holiday on Monday, April 1. No meetings will be held at the church on April 1.

Week Beginning March 24

<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 12 Noon Youth Group to Urban Air</p> <p><u>Mon. (Mar. 25)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 5 PM Lenten Passports Due</p> <p><u>Tues (Mar. 26)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge</p> <p><u>Wed. (Mar. 27)</u> 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM Eggstravaganza, Cole Hall 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p>	<p><u>Thurs. (Mar. 28) Maundy Thurs.</u> 6:15 PM Maundy Thursday Church Dinner, Communion, Worship, Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Scouts—Monthly Pack Committee Meeting</p> <p><u>Fri. (Mar. 29) Good Friday</u> 6:15 PM Good Friday Service, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Sun. (Mar. 31) Easter Sunday</u> 8 AM Easter Worship, Sanctuary 9:15 AM Cinnamon Roll and Fruit Social, Fellowship Hall 10 AM Easter Worship, Sanctuary 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</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.

