

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

November 10, 2024

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Everything Good About God is True



Prelude

“Andante” from *Sonata in C* by Alessandro Besozzi
Dr. Scott Anderson, trombone

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Call to Worship** (adapted from *The Lives We Actually Live: 100 Blessings for Ordinary Days*, #03)
Louisa McConnell

One: Oh God, free me from the expectation that life should always be better.

Many: Meet us in the midst of everyday stressors – the bills, the pressures, the fears about the future and the worries of right now.

One: Blessed are we remembering that the world is not ours to shoulder alone.

Many: Help us to put one foot in front of the other as best we can.

One: When we need love. When we feel threadbare...

Many: God, today, give us enough to go on, give us hope to see a future, give us joy to see a present lit up by your love.

One: Let us worship the Lord our God, who we trust is good alone, and who alone is wholly good.

Hymn #414** ***Be Still and Know That I Am God
(5x through; congregation to sing on rounds 2-4, soloist 1 and 5)

***Call to Confession** Saige Witt

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Isaac Hemmerling

Forgive us, Lord, when we think too highly of ourselves; when we seek privilege and honor. Encourage us, Lord, when we cannot lift our eyes because we do not have anything to give. You have met us in all that is good, and you walk alongside us in times of uncertainty and weariness. Have mercy on us, and inspire us to live lives of grace, justice, peace, and love. In the name of Jesus, we pray with humility and hope. Amen.

***Response to Confession #444**

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive (vs. 1 & 4)

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray.

But you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.

Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Isaac 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 #205**

Live in Charity (x3)

Live in charity and steadfast love

Live in charity; God will dwell with you. (1 & 3)

Ubi caritas, et amor,

Ubi caritas, Deus ibi est. (2)

***Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Share a sign of welcome and inclusion (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 Reading

Matthew 4:18-22

N.T. pg. 3

Epistle Reading

Romans 12:9-21

N.T. pg. 162

Today's readings will come from the Common English Bible, a highly regarded scholarly translation in modern language published in 2014. Note: an "epistle" is a letter. In the New Testament there are 27 books total and 21 are letters/epistles by different authors to different communities.

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

Sermon

"Choosing to Follow What is Good"

Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow

***Hymn #726**

Will You Come and Follow Me

***Affirmation of Faith (Confession of Belhar, 10.7 excerpts)** Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

We believe that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and seek the right. We believe that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Moment of Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Special Music

"'Tis Thee We Would Be Praising" by J.S. Bach
Dr. Scott Anderson, trombone

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn #761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Charge & Benediction

Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow

Postlude

“Allegretto” from *Sonata in C* by Alessandro

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

Today's words for worship come from the following sources: The invitation before the Call to Worship is written by Pastor Chris. The Call to Worship has been adapted from *The Lives We Actually Live: 100 Blessings for Ordinary Days*, #03 'for when you just need to put one foot in front of the other' by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Our confessional sequence has been adapted from resources in *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2*, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor.

Today we welcome Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow

Bruce Reyes-Chow is a sought-after speaker and writer on topics of faith, culture, politics, race, and technology. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), has led churches in the San Francisco Bay Area for nearly three decades, and is a former moderator of the PC(USA). Reyes-Chow, who is third-generation Filipino-Chinese American, hosts the podcast *BRC & Friends* and has authored five books, most recently *In Defense of Kindness*. A senior consultant and coach with Convergence, Reyes-Chow and his spouse have three adult children and live in San Jose, California.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. All kids and their families are welcome to pick up a blue Children's Worship Bag in the narthex (Sheridan Blvd. foyer). If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available. This is at the north end of the Narthex.

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

Liturgists: Louisa McConnell, Saige Witt, Isaac Hemmerling

Music Director: Dr. Mary Young **Organist:** John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Kelly Braswell-Burbach and Josh Whitfield

Ushers: Marybell Avery, Kathy Anderson, Marilyn Hood, Joan Roberts

Dishwashers: Gary & Glenna Haller

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter



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

The week of Nov. 10, 2024

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



“A better story of faith exists, and it has the capacity to heal the world—if we only embrace, articulate, and live it more courageously.”

Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow

Sun., Nov. 10, 9:30 AM

Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Guest Preacher

Leading Adult Education in Fellowship Hall after Worship

Fall Stated Congregational Meeting | Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024

The Fall Stated Meeting of the Congregation will be held following the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 17. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect 2025 Officers of the Church (Ruling Elders and Deacons), and to elect 2025 Foundation Board Members.

Position Open at Westminster

Westminster is looking for a part-time Communication and Administration Coordinator—22 hrs./wk. The position description is on the website—westminsterlincoln.org. To apply: Send cover letter and resume to office@westminsterlincoln.org.

Could you take a turn?

We are still in need of dishwashing volunteers for the third and fourth Sundays of the even numbered months. Step up and help Westminster fulfill our pledge to be “green.”

Environmental Justice

I was hungry—and you fed me.

Westminster's church-wide environmental justice study continues with a focus on Food Justice. Our November action is to LEARN and to DO. LEARN a few basics about world hunger [here](#) or by scanning the QR code. Then DO something right here at Westminster—buy fair trade coffee and chocolate on the first Sunday of each month, serve hungry people at Matt Talbot or the Gathering Place, and give to the Food Pantry! They always need canned fruit, pork and beans, tuna, and cereal.



Angel Tree

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 infants to age 12.

Starting Nov. 12, look for the Angel Tree at the top of the stairs across from the receptionist's desk. Pick a tag from the tree, 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. 12. Most people, especially children, look forward to receiving clothing and gifts over the holidays. Will you be someone's angel?

Thank you, Mission & Outreach

Communion Schedule Note

Communion will be held one more time in 2024, on Sunday, November 24th, in celebration of Reign of Christ / Christ the King Sunday. This scheduling was approved by Session in accordance with Book of Order guidelines. Did you know... the PC(USA) Book of Order requires a minimum of quarterly communion celebrations for our congregations, though many are like Westminster and celebrate roughly once-a-month?



Since 1888 Presbyterian Women and friends have given to the Thank Offering, which is one of the two grant making programs of PW that support family programs and health related ministries. The money collected in 2023 funded 6 national and 2 international projects.

In our own Synod of Lakes and Prairies, \$18,000 was awarded to The Dakota Presbytery Indian Reservation to

reestablish the Welcoming of the Child ceremony. This Lakota tradition celebrates the births of babies, the training of new mothers by the elders, as well as teaching parenting skills to nurture healthy families.

Please consider joining Presbyterian Women of Westminster in supporting the 2024 Thank Offering with gifts through the church office. Please write checks to: Westminster with “PW Thank Offering” on the memo line.

God gives us a Spirit of loving kindness, of generosity, and thankfulness. God’s very nature is love and we are blessed to be a blessing!

Photographic Artwork Exhibit

Dale Minter will be exhibiting some of his photographic artwork in the hallway going from the garden room to the main sanctuary during November. Please feel free to explore the visual journey. There will be an Open House on Nov. 19, 6 - 8 pm.

PHOTO EXHIBITION

Dale Minter

A selection of works from his
Man • Nature • Made Series
& Snapshots Series

Open House
November 19, 2024 6 - 8 pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2110 Sheridan Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68502

Enter lower east parking lot door



Staff Schedules

Paster Chris will be out of the office next week, attending a continuing education event.

Joanne Gabriel will be out of the office from Mon. through Wed., returning on Thurs., Nov. 14.

Week Beginning Nov. 10

<p><u>Sun. (Nov. 10)</u> 9:30 AM Worship, Faith Village Rev. Reyes-Chow, Guest Preacher 10:45 AM Adult Ed, Rev. Reyes-Chow, Fellowship Hall 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Nov. 11)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 6:30 PM Children & Youth, Zoom 6:30 PM Scouts, Cole Hall</p> <p><u>Tues. (Nov. 12)</u> 10 AM PW Circle #5, Lounge 5 PM Building & Grounds, Lounge 5 PM Church Life, Library 5:30 PM Worship & Music, FH 6 PM Mission & Outreach, Lounge</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Nov. 13)</u> 1:30 PM Hearts and Hands 6 PM W3 (Welcome to Westminster on Wed.) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Nov. 14)</u> 6:30 PM Scout Committee Meeting, Youth Area 7 PM Lincoln Continentals Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Fri. (Nov. 15)</u> 6 PM Game Night, Cole Hall</p> <p><u>Sun. (Nov. 17)</u> 9:30 AM Worship, Faith Village Baptisms, New Members 10:30 AM Fall Stated Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary 11 AM Farmhouse Initiation, Sanctuary 10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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