

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



Charity by Giovanni di Balduccio (ca. 1330)

Marble relief. Commissioned as one of multiple reliefs featuring the Apostles and Virtues of the Christian faith. (Used via Public Domain.)

Prelude

“Prelude: More Love to Thee/I Love Thee” arr. Tom Fettke

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Call to Worship** (based on 1 Corinthians 13:1, 5-7, The Message Bible paraphrase)

Deacon Claire Titus

One: If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

All: Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self.

One: Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

All: Love doesn't strut, and it doesn't have a swelled head.

One: Love doesn't force itself; love isn't always "me first;"

All: Love doesn't fly off the handle, and love doesn't keep score of the sins of others.

One: Love doesn't revel when others grovel.

All: Love takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

One: Love trusts God always.

All: Love always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end.

***Hymn #370**

This is My Father's World

***Call to Confession** (based on Psalm 71)

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession** (based on 1 Corinthians 13, Common English Translation)

God of love, you have called us to hold love as the greatest value in our lives. Jesus called us to love God and neighbor, and the Spirit enables us for acts of love. As Paul wrote, love is patient and kind. Still, we push love to the side in the name of power, pride, and self-interest. At times we have been jealous, we have bragged or been arrogant, we have let injustices slide, and we have embraced lies over truth. Forgive us, O Lord. Redirect our hearts to embrace and embody the ethic of love at the center of our faith. In the name of Christ, we pray with hope. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

Lord, hear our prayer. ***Amen.***

Response to Confession #649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (v. 1)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

***Assurance of Forgiveness** (based on 1 Corinthians 13)

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise #853** *We Are Marching in the Light of God*
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God (repeat)
We are marching, we are marching ohhhh,
We are marching in the light of God.

***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.***

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scripture Psalm 71:1-6 O.T. pg. 532
Epistle 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 N.T. pg. 175
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon "A Spirit of Love" Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #693** *Though I May Speak*

Moment of Gratitude Rev. Chris Peters

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anthem

More love! More love!
The heavens are blessing
The angels are calling
O Zion, More Love!

"More Love" arr. Sid Davis
Westminster Choir

The Lord's Supper Rev. Chris Peters

Invitation

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.

Sanctus #552

One: Therefore with all creation we sing your praise...
1 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, Holy, Holy

***2 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

***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.

**Blessing and Sharing of the Elements
Prayer After Communion**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Hymn #529**

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

Today's Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are adapted from translations of 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 by Pastor Chris. Some of today's words for worship are adapted from the *Presbyterian Outlook, Weekly Liturgy for February 2, 2025* by Rev. Walter Canter, Pr. Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church, Ruckersville, VA.

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

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

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Liturgist: Deacon Claire Titus **Greeters:** Kathy Phillip & Josh Whitfield

Ushers: Diana Wild, Debra Schleining, David Anderson, April Douglas

Dishwashers: Kelly Braswell-Burbach and Dorrie Gage

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Stephan Biheng

Communion Servers: Dave Arunski, Marybell Avery, Sarah Baltensperger, Stephan Biheng, Sebit Deng





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

The week of Feb. 2, 2025

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

Adult Ed | 10:45 AM | Lounge

February 2, 2025

Thinking Ahead—Reflections on Memorial Services

Pastor Chris will discuss aspects of memorial services from theological and practical points of view, intended to prepare attendees to reflect on preferences for their own service, or to consider aspects of planning for loved ones.

February 9, 2025

Thinking Ahead—“The Top Ten Mistakes Made in Estate Planning and how you can avoid them,” presented by Andrew Loudon. Mr. Loudon is well known in our community for advocating wise consideration on pre-planning for one’s estate. Expect an enlightening session packed with practical advice based on extensive experience.



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.

Meeting of the Congregation | Feb. 16

The Annual Stated Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16, following the worship service. The agenda includes the presentation of the 2024 annual reports, presentation from Foundation, the election of Nominating Committee At-Large members, the presentation of the 2025 budget and the approval of the pastor’s terms of call for 2025. The February Messenger, which contains annual reports from the committees at Westminster as well as other information, will be available on the church’s website—westminsterlincoln.org.

Lunch Bunch

We will meet at Toast, 570 Fallbrook Blvd, Tuesday, February 4, 11:30 AM. Please R.S.V.P. to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

Prairie Readers

Prairie Readers will meet on February 19 at 1 PM in the Lounge. Marijane England will lead the discussion of Hernan Diaz's novel *Trust*. Everyone is welcome.

California on a Plate: A Community Effort to Support Wildfire Relief Friday, February 7 from 6 to 8:30 PM.

“California on a Plate” is an exciting potluck-style event inspired by the U.S. version of “World on a Plate.” This is a chance to come together as a community and share dishes that represent California’s vibrant culinary landscape, including favorites like fish tacos, avocado toast, California sushi rolls, and sourdough bread. The idea is to bring people together through food, celebrate the unique flavors of our state, and raise support for wildfire relief.

The event will also provide an opportunity to learn more about the ongoing efforts of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the work they’re doing to support those affected by the fires. We’ll have a “bread basket” available where attendees can make a monetary donation to support the PDA’s wildfire relief efforts. Please bring your own tableware (plates, utensils, etc.) to help make the event as environmentally friendly as possible. This is a great way to show that we are all part of the mission to help those affected by the fires while enjoying fellowship and good food.

Styrofoam Update and Thanks

The collection site for Styrofoam will stay in place through Sunday, February 9. We are on our fourth giant bag and expect to fill a fifth.

Session Work Summary

January 2025

Your Westminster Session would like to share the following highlights of the annual retreat for elders and deacons. The Administration & Planning committee assisted Pastor Chris and Pastor Jimmy in planning and leading the weekend activities. The meetings were designed for continuing elders and deacons to welcome newly elected elders and deacons and meet the requirements of the Book of Order for a “period of study and preparation” prior to assuming office.

Friday, January 24th - Session met at the Venue restaurant for team building activities and dinner funded by the Westminster Foundation.

Saturday, January 25th - Deacons and elders met together in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. Approximately 60 participated in activities designed to learn a little about each other. Pastor Chris and Pastor Jimmy conducted a joint leadership session that included Presbyterian traditions and theology in addition to principles of polity or governance. The Book of Confessions was presented as a small group activity. Following lunch, the deacons and elders met separately to learn more about their specific roles and responsibilities. The elders also held a called meeting of Session for the purposes of approving the 2025 Communion and Session meeting schedules and examining and approving the new elders to be ordained.

Sunday, January 26th - During worship the service of ordination and installation of elders and deacons was held.

VBS: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace

June 2-6, 2025, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

8300 E Pointe Rd.

Family drama. Lies and subterfuge. A faked death.
Palace intrigue. Natural disaster. A national hero.

These aren't plot elements in the latest binge-worthy show. These large-than-life events are just part of the amazing life of Joseph, son of Jacob. You can read about Joseph's journey from the prison to the palace in Genesis 37-50, or you can bring them to life at this year's Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace VBS! At Egypt, everyone gets to explore first-hand the culture of Joseph's world. Alongside Joseph, kids will experience the heartbreaking trials, joyous victories, and tear-filled celebrations of this unique Bible hero.

Register now! <https://vbspro.events/p/gspcwpc25>

Concerned about Climate Change? Say So!

The vast majority of U.S. citizens are worried about the threats of climate change, but such an enormous problem requires enormous solutions. How do we as individual Christians respond to God's call to care for creation? Our environmental justice action for February is to Speak Up! Your phone calls, emails, or letters can help important decision makers understand our concern.

Week Beginning Feb. 2

Sun. (Feb. 2)

9:30 AM Worship with
Communion, Faith Village
10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge
10:45 AM Confirmation Class,
Youth Cafe
12 Noon Sudanese Worship

Mon. (Feb. 3)

11 AM Explorers Bible Study,
Library
6:30 PM PW Circle #4, Lounge
6:30 PM Den Meetings, Youth
Areas

Tues. (Feb. 4)

9:45 AM Staff Meeting
5 PM Adult Education,
Conference Room

Wed. (Feb. 5)

10 AM PW Circle #3
1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library
6 PM Wednesday Night Children
& Youth, Youth Areas
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thurs. (Feb. 6)

7 PM Lincoln Continentals
Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Fri. (Feb. 7)

6 PM California on a Plate, FH
6 PM Confirmation Class Retreat

Sat. (Sat. Feb. 8)

9:30 AM Confirmation Class
Retreat, Youth Cafe

Sun. (Feb. 9)

9:30 AM Worship, Faith Village
10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge
12 Noon Sudanese Worship

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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