

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Commit your way to to the Lord.

Trust him!

**He will act and will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
your justice like high noon.**

Psalm 37:5-7 (CEB)

Please rise in body or spirit for the parts of worship with an asterisk () before the title.
Parts of worship that are *bolded and italicized* are for all worshippers to read together aloud.

Prelude

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Call to Worship (Psalm 37:2-7a adapted)**

Rev. Chris Peters

One: Trust the Lord and do good;

Many: live in the land, and farm faithfulness.

One: Enjoy the Lord,

Many: and God will give what your heart asks.

One: Commit your way to the Lord!

Many: Trust in God!

One: God will act and will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,

Many: God will make your justice like high noon.

One: Be still before the Lord,

Many: and wait for God.

***Hymn #10**

Sing Glory to the Name of God

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, you have commanded us to love you above all and to have no other gods. You have called us to love others as you love them. But we are personally and socially deformed by the love of other “gods” — the false gods of selfish prosperity, racial privileging, gender exclusivity, and nationalism. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit so that we might learn to love as you love and live as people baptized as your own children. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

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

***Response to 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

Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise #468**

In My Life (v. 1)

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.

In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

***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

Rev. Chris Peters

Scripture

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

O.T. pg. 510

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27-38

N.T. pg. 64

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

Sermon

“Commit Your Way to the Lord”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #390**

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!

Litany Affirmation of Faith (The Belhar Confession; section 4 excerpts)

One: Christians, what do we believe?

Many: We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

One: that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;

Many: that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right

One: that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice,

All: so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream...

Moment of Gratitude

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anthem

“A Breathing Place” by Heather Sorenson
Westminster Choir

Deep within that sacred space
You take me in your warm embrace
There, I find my breathing place

Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

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 #79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

Today's Call to Worship is inspired by the Common English Bible translation of the Psalm for the day. Other parts of today's worship service are adapted from *The Presbyterian Outlook: Order for Worship: February 2, 2025* by Rev. Dr. Roger Gench, Theologian in Residence, Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, 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

Greeters: Joyce Douglas & Marilyn Hood

Ushers: Martha Kingsbury, Becky Bockrath, Bruce & Margaret Sheffield

Dishwashers: Lisa & Steve McConnell

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Stephan Biheng and Dale Minter





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

The week of Feb. 23, 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 23—Rhonda Obermeier will tell us about "Sleep in Heavenly Peace," an organization that builds and delivers beds to children in need of a bed and a safe place to sleep. Rhonda is Co-chairman of the Lincoln Chapter.

March 2—You are invited to a Shrove Sunday pancake brunch after the service, provided by Westminster Youth. No Adult Ed class will be held.

Youth Group Murder Mystery

The Youth Group will meet today from 5-8 PM for a murder mystery party. Dress in your very finest and enjoy an elegant dinner and chocolate fondue but be prepared to unravel the mystery. Contact Bailey for character options.

Opportunities for Study and Fellowship During Lent

1 - Book Study

Marijane England will lead a study during Lent using the book, "Lent in Plain Sight" by Jill J. Duffield. The class will meet on Thursdays at noon in the Lounge, beginning on March 6, meeting weekly throughout Lent.

2 - Adult Ed During Lent

Jumping Off from Hebrew Scriptures into Lent is the topic of the Adult Ed sessions during Lent. They will be taught by Pastor Jimmy and will meet in the Lounge at 10:40 AM on Sundays, beginning on March 9. Watch for more information in the Messenger.

March 9 Deuteronomy 26:1-11

An exploration of how this proto-creed in Deuteronomy is a precursor for kerygmatic proto-creeds in the New Testament (e.g. 1 Cor. 15:3-7)

Food Pantry

We think of February as a month of love because of Valentine's Day. One way you could show love is by helping with our food pantry. Since Covid we have been unable to have groceries delivered to the church that were used for the pantry. Approximately 270 items are packed each week and delivered to the Peoples' City Mission. Consequently, we do lots of shopping and buying of food. We are so appreciative of your monetary gifts. There is a list of items that we send to the Mission on the side of the large wooden box that is located in the church office. It would be so helpful if you could bring a few items and place them in the box. We realize canned goods are very heavy, but any amount would help us with our long shopping lists. Thanks to all of you who have helped unload our trunks and carry the food to the pantry after church. Soon there will be an article about your wonderful Food Pantry in the Messenger. Thanks so much to all of you who have helped with this wonderful mission of our church.

Nora Hinrichs and Marilyn Smith

Ladies' Night Out

Join us this month at Billy's Restaurant, 1301 H St., Thursday, February 27 from 5 – 7 PM. As always, it promises to be a fun time of catching up. Feel free to bring a friend!

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, March 4, 11:30 AM, at The Mettle Grill, 5500 S. 56th Street. R.S.V.P. to jimkinkennon@gmail.com or text 402-290-5888.

An Opportunity to Speak Up

"Green Team" representatives of sixteen different Lincoln churches got together on a Sunday afternoon in January to consider the possibility of collaborating on some climate-worthy project. After a good discussion of options, the group reached consensus on supporting a bill in the Nebraska legislature. LB137 seeks to protect homeowners' rights to install solar panels and plant pollinator gardens for their own homes. Specifically, it bars HOAs (Home Owners Associations) from prohibiting them.



Westminster's Green@Heart is fully in support of this legislation, and we encourage you to look up the bill and see if you would like to send the legislature a comment online. We are called to tend and to keep God's creation. Both practices protected by this bill—helping pollinators and generating clean energy—make important contributions to the care of our one and only planet and to the future of its inhabitants.

Commenting is a fairly quick and easy process.

- Go to nebraskalegislature.gov to access the legislature's homepage. In the upper right corner enter the number of the bill (137) and Return.

- This will take you to a page with information about the bill and a “Submit Comment” button.
- That button takes you to the comment page where you can fill in the usual blanks (name, address, etc.) and enter your position on the bill.
- Your written comment may be as simple as “I support/ oppose this bill” or a longer statement about the bill.
- You will receive a return email with a link to press that confirms your comment.
- Note that comments are due no later than 8 AM Thurs. Feb. 27.

One of the most important things we can do to care for creation is to speak up. Green@Heart hopes you will seize this opportunity to use your voice!

Presbyterian Advocacy Hour

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US and bring a friend!

Wednesday, February 26 at 11 AM in the WPC Lounge

There will be coffee and cookies!

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will begin hosting a series of advocacy conversations on the fourth Wednesday of each month on Zoom. “Presbyterian Advocacy Hour will bring together committed people of faith each month to fuel up with information on the most pressing issues.” The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, PC(USA) advocacy director, will be the featured speaker for the first installment, which will focus on the theology of advocacy and getting to know the staff of the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness (OPW) and how the office works.

Topics will vary each month, with immigration being the focus in March. Topics being considered for subsequent installments include the environment, Israel-Palestine, foreign aid, gun violence and Christian nationalism. What a great opportunity to start Westminster Advocacy Hour with WPC brothers and sisters in Christ.

Schedule of Worship Services for Lent and Easter

Ash Wed., March 5	6 pm
Maundy Thursday, April 17	5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Good Friday, April 18	6 pm
Palm Sunday, April 13	9:30 am
Easter Sunday, April 20	8 am & 10 am

Staff Schedules

Joanne Gabriel will be out of the office on March 3 and 4.

Week Beginning Feb. 23

<p><u>Sun. (Feb. 23)</u> 9:30 AM Worship, Faith Village 10:45 Adult Ed., Lounge 10:45 AM Confirmation Class, Youth Cafe 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Feb. 24)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 6 PM Scouts Pack Meeting, FH</p> <p><u>Tues. (Feb. 25)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge 6 PM Mission & Social Witness, Library</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Feb. 26)</u> 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 6 PM Wednesday Night Children & Youth, Youth Areas 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Feb. 27)</u> 5 PM Ladies' Night Out, Billy's 6 PM Lincoln Continentals Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge</p> <p><u>Sun. (Mar. 2)</u> 9:30 AM Worship, Faith Village 10:45 AM Equal Exchange Coffee Available, Garden Room 10:45 AM Shrove Sunday Pancake Brunch 10:45 AM Confirmation Class, Youth Cafe 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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