

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent



"CROSS"

Image used with permission via Canva Pro.

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 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Special Announcement: Communications/Outreach

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 27:4) Deacon Diana Wild

One: The psalmist sings, "One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after:

Many: To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

One: to behold the beauty of the Lord,

Many: and to inquire in God's temple."

One: Hopeful siblings, God is good,

Many: In love and mercy, God greets us here.

***Hymn #165** *The Glory of These Forty Days*

***Call to Confession** Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession** (ref. Phil. 3:20-21)

Merciful God, you have made us citizens of heaven, but we confess that we have set our minds on earthly things. We have let our desire for security restrain our commitment to serve the poor. We have let our fear of danger curb your command to love our neighbor. We have let our love of things dull our generosity to those in need. We have let our craving for public status prevent our honesty about injustice. Yet, you know the desires of our heart, and nothing is hidden from you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, conform our sin-weakened bodies to the glory of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for the world. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

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

Response to Confession: Kyrie Eleison (see bulletin insert)

***Assurance of Forgiveness** (ref. Rom. 10:12,13) Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise #205**

Live in Charity

**Live in charity and steadfast love.
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.**

***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

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:31-35

N.T. pg. 77

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

N.T. pg. 198

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

Sermon

“Cross”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #213**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory (verses 1-4)

***Affirmation of Faith (Apostles’ Creed – Traditional Language Version)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Moment of Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anthem

Agnus Dei from Robert Ray’s *Gospel Mass*

(Dylan Anderson, solo. Kent Hemmerling, percussion.)

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us

Amen

Prayers of the People

Deacon Diana Wild

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 #846**

Fight the Good Fight

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

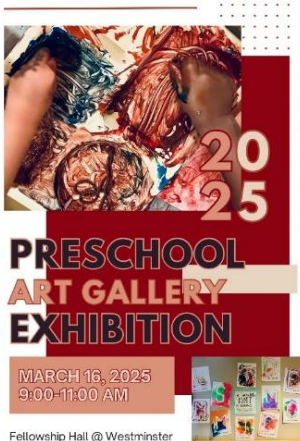
Postlude When I Survey the Wonderous Cross with “A Walk to Calvary” arr. Bob Walters

Today’s words for worship, or “liturgy,” are adapted from the resource *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1.*, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, editor. Dr. Long is currently the editor of *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts*, the PCUSA’s liturgy journal. She is an ordained PC(USA) minister and served as professor of sacramental and liturgical worship at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA. (A Fun Fact since you’ve read this far:, Pastor Chris took an elective course on Occasional Services in our tradition taught by Dr. Long while a student at Columbia.) Scripture references in our liturgy are from Feasting on the Word and from the day’s Common Revised Lectionary readings.

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.



Gallery open for viewing March 17th-18th

2025

PRESCHOOL ART GALLERY EXHIBITION

MARCH 16, 2025
9:00-11:00 AM

Fellowship Hall @ Westminster

- Ministers:** The whole congregation
- Pastors:** Rev. Chris Peters & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn
- Liturgist:** Deacon Diana Wild
- Music Director:** Dr. Mary Young
- Organist:** John Ross
- Director of Children & Youth:** Trish Souliere
- Greeters:** Joyce Douglas & Marilyn Hood
- Ushers:** Leslie Miner, Robyn Uebele, Barb Andersen, David Anderson
- Dishwashers:** Tom Pappas & Laurel Van Ham
- Sanctuary Audio & Livestream:** Stephan Biheng & Dale Minter

Preschool Art Gallery Exhibition Today in FH



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

The week of Mar. 16, 2025

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Cross

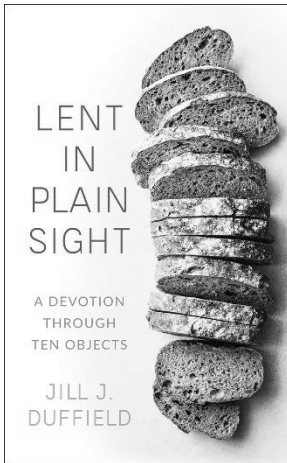


As we continue our Lenten encounter with the life of Jesus in Luke, today we'll hear a story of Jesus coming under threat by the Empire's governing leaders! As Luke 4 tells us, Jesus said his ministry would be marked by sharing good news, bringing healing and wholeness, and empowering liberation. We'll hear how Jesus responds to those threats, and how Paul later viewed the Cross and those who opposed the Cross of Christ in the early church. How will we respond as people called to “take up” our own cross in life today? That's the question that will send us!

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.

March 16—Exploring how a “broad” understanding of the Abrahamic covenant is reflected in both the O.T. and the N.T.



Book Study

Marijane England is leading a study during Lent using the book, "Lent in Plain Sight" by Jill J. Duffield. The class meets weekly on Thursdays at noon in the Lounge throughout Lent.

For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. (Matt. 25:35)

You are invited to join the Westminster Mission team as we live the gospel of Matthew. A team of volunteers cook, serve, and clean up for Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach the first Friday on even numbered months. We arrive around 5 PM and are ready to leave by 7 PM. If you have questions or would like to be part of the team, please contact Gary Haller or the church office.

Prairie Readers

Join Prairie Readers Wednesday, March 19 at 1 PM in the lounge to learn what secrets *The Secret Keeper of Main Street* is keeping. The author, Tricia Thomas, writes about a small but wealthy oil boom town in Oklahoma. Dale Minter will lead the discussion.

Interested in receiving notifications about upcoming children and/or youth events by text?

Add your number to our texting service by texting "children", "youth", or "both" to (833) 403-5011.

Gratitude Card Shower & Reception for Julie Fowler

Please join us on Sunday, March 23rd as Westminster will recognize and thank Julie for her many years of loving care for Westminster's "little ones" in the nursery on Sundays and during many special events. If Julie has helped care for your child/ren, or if you'd like to share in saying "thank you!" please bring a card on the 23rd or mail it to the Westminster Church, attn: Julie Fowler, 2110 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, 68502. There will be a cake reception following the service.

Youth Group: Chopped, Feeding of the Five(ish) Judges

March 23, 5 - 7:30 PM

Get ready for the return of Chopped, Feeding of the Five(ish) Judges! We invite you to save the date and get your aprons, mixing bowls, and best creative ideas ready!

Chopped: The Feeding of the Five(ish) Judges IV is almost here! Brush up on your kitchen skills and get ready to whip up a masterpiece out of an array of secret ingredients on Sunday, March 23, at 5 PM.

Westminster Advocacy Hour

Join us for the next Westminster Advocacy Hour from 11 AM to 12:15 PM on Wed., March 26 in the Lounge. The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness (OPW) Zoom will be on immigration. We'll watch the one-hour Zoom and follow up with 15 minutes of group discussion.

Economic Climate Justice

Seems it would be fair if the greenhouse gases Americans generate—almost three times the global average—just stayed within our country's borders. But climate change doesn't work that way. So the next best way to be fair is to reduce our reliance on combustion of fossil fuels. Starting at home, we can switch to solar panels, heat pumps, electric vehicles, even induction cooktops. On a larger scale, we can urge government and industry to face up to climate change. As people of faith, our collective voices and actions make a difference.

Earth Care Opportunity

Thursday, March 20th, 7:00-8:30, Lincoln City Council Candidates Environmental Forum, the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street.

Our Earth Care Congregation Pledge calls on us to “encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people.” This is an excellent opportunity to do that!

VBS Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace | July 14-18 |

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

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 larger-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.

When? July 14-18, 2025 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Where? Good Shepherd Presbyterian 8300 E Pointe Rd

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

Questions? Contact Trish by email at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or by phone or text at 402-570-0163. We can't wait to explore Egypt together!!

Week Beginning March 16

<p><u>Sun. (Mar. 16)</u> 9 - 11 AM Preschool Art Gallery Exhibition, FH 9:30 AM Worship, Faith Village 10:45 AM Confirmation Class, Youth Cafe 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Mar. 17)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Lib. 5:30 PM Preschool Art Show Opening, Fellowship Hall</p> <p><u>Tues. (Mar. 18)</u> Preschool Art Show Open, FH 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10 AM Faith & Cancer Support Group, Library 6 PM Communications & Outreach, Lounge</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Mar. 19)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 6 PM Children & Youth 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Mar. 20)</u> 12 PM "Lent in Plain Sight" Study, Lounge 6 PM Lincoln Continentals Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30 PM Scouts, Youth Café 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge</p> <p><u>Sun. (Mar. 23)</u> 9:30 AM Worship, Faith Village 10:35 AM Cake Reception for Julie Fowler, FH 10:45 AM Confirmation Class, Youth Cafe 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 5 PM Chopped, Feeding of the Five(ish) Judges</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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