

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

October 5, 2025

World Communion Sunday



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 “Two Spiritual Reflections: *Steal Away & Jacob’s Ladder*” arr. John Carter
Willa Foster Jones, organist

Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Session Update Jaime Hemmerling

Choral Introit Halleluya! Pelo Tsa Rona
Hallelujah! We sing Your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness. Christ the Lord to us said: “I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger.”

***Call to Worship** (adapted from St. Teresa of Avila)

Deacon Claire Titus

One: Christ has no body on earth now but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours.

Many: Ours are the eyes through which Christ looks out with compassion on the world.

One: Ours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.

Many: Ours are the hands with which he is to offer blessing now.

***Hymn #388**

Come All You People

***Call to Confession**

Deacon Claire Titus

***Prayer of Confession**

As we come today to your great table, O God, we realize how small we have made our own. Our vision of your grace is too narrow. Our awareness of your mercy is too limited. Our understanding of your kingdom always falls short. We fail to measure up to the people you have called us to be. Hear our prayers and forgive our shortcomings. Raise our eyes, lift our hearts, and inflate our spirits, so that we may live joyfully and abundantly in the manner of Jesus. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

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

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

... Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise #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!

***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. At this time, children in K-5th Grade are invited to be dismissed to Faith Village, our children's education time.

May the peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

Offering & Choral Anthem

"We are One in the Lord" - Joseph M. Martin

Sebastian Aracena, Flute

Gathered from every nation and language, we celebrate our unity in Christ as one family, joined together at one table in faith and love.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Epistle Lesson

2 Timothy 1:1-17

N.T. pg. 211

Gospel Lesson

Luke 17:5-10

N.T. pg. 80

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

What's an epistle? Simply, an epistle is a letter. The term comes from ancient languages, including Greek *epistole*, “message, letter, command, or commission.” It is similar to the word “apostle,” meaning a “messenger.” (etymonline/word/epistle)

Sermon

“Those Who Need Help”

Rev. Chris Peters

Hymn #372

O For a World

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Mtakatifu (Sanctus)

Mtakatifu (Sanctus) · GIA Artists · M. Roger Holland II · GIA Publications Inc. · GIA Artists Voice of My People © GIA Publications, Inc.

***Hymn #606**

Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Deacon Claire Titus

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Rev. Chris Peters

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.

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

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Prayer After Communion

*Hymn

To Christ Our Hearts Now Given
(verses 1, 3 & 4; in the back cover of your hymnal)

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Postludium in D Major” by William Mathias
Willa Foster Jones, organist

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's Call to Worship is adapted from St. Teresa of Avila in Rodger Housden, *For Lovers of God Everywhere: Poems of the Christian Mystics* (NY: Hay House Inc., 2009), 52.

The Prayer of Confession and surrounding parts comes from, “Presbyterian Outlook Liturgy: World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2025” by Rev. John Wurster, Pastor and Rev. Keatan King, Associate Pastor, St. Phillip Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX.

The Call to Offering and Prayer of Thanksgiving are written by Pastor Chris, inspired by our gospel lesson. Communion Liturgy is adapted from *A Wee Worship Book, Fifth Incarnation* (Glasgow, Scotland: Wild Goose Publications, 2015). Used with permission; www.ionabooks.com

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. All kids and their families are welcome to pick up a Children's Worship bag or blue Infant Bag in the Narthex (Sheridan Blvd. foyer). A nursery is available for kids under 5. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available at the north end of the Narthex.

Giving to Westminster's Mission and Ministry

At Church: We have resumed giving through an offering in our worship service, leaning on the theology of offering as a response of gratitude to God's word in worship. Checks may be made out to Westminster Presbyterian. General donations go to support the annual budget of the church, which includes Children/Youth support, staffing, building use, worship, and mission. You may also place an offering in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located near the exits. 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

Liturgist: Deacon Claire Titus

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer **Organist:** John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Kelly Braswell & Stephan Biheng

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

Dishwashers: Kelly Braswell & Dorrie Gage

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Dale Minter & Stephan Biheng

Communion Servers: Karen Hoffman, Marilyn Hood, Jim Kinkennon, Paul Korslund, Tom Welstead





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

The week of Oct. 5, 2025

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

A Little Goes a Long Way: A Sermon Series Focused on Jesus

Journey with Jesus.

Live and Give Well.

Value Your Neighbors.

When we join the church as members, we say we *trust in Jesus Christ*. But what can trust look like in our lives 2,000 years after he walked the Earth? What did Jesus really have to say about being a follower in this one life we get to live? Explore these questions and more in this eight-week sermon series that’s all about Jesus!

All are welcome to join us in worship! Sundays at 10:00 a.m.!

Church History Series for Westminster Adult Education

Sundays at 11:15 a.m., Lounge

October 5 An overview of “St. Francis of Assisi – the proto-reformer” Presented by Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn

October 12 “Joan of Arc: Her Life and Afterlife”
Presented by Dr. Carole Levin, UNL History Professor Emerita

“All Families” Included

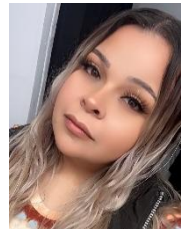
Westminster’s Session has committed to support all of God’s children, as a basic belief of our faith is that all people are made in the image of God. This month is LGBTQIA History Month, and so we will be displaying our “All Families” Inclusion sign on the 27th Street sign starting this Friday. Speaking of history, Westminster has been a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians since its founding in 1997! This displays a commitment to broad inclusion in the church and world for nearly 30 years! Follow this link to learn more about the history of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians.

<https://www.covnetpres.org/history>

Explorers Bible Study | 11 AM on Mondays | Library

A group of curious Bible explorers begins their study this fall with *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. Evans' goal is to explore some of the challenging stories in the Bible to help the reader discover the Bible in a new way. As Amazon describes the book...."If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she embarked on a journey to better understand what the Bible is and how it's meant to be read. What she discovered changed her--and it can change you, too." The book is available on Amazon as an electronic download or a paperback hard copy. Stop by the library at 11 a.m. on Mondays to join us for the discussion. We look forward to seeing you.

We are excited to welcome Araseli Gonzalez to the WPC staff. She will participate in the care of our building and in the room set-ups requested for our gatherings, as well as many other duties. She will work 20 hours a week, primarily in the evenings and on Sunday mornings. Be sure to say hello and make her feel welcome!



Giving Continues to Fill the Barrel

Our contributions continue as we fill the second barrel for the Lincoln Hygiene Network. Dustin Oltman, Executive Director for the organization, was astonished at the number of items Presbyterian Women delivered to their warehouse. The project continues through October. Every bar of soap, toothbrush, razor, or deodorant stick helps someone in Lincoln find dignity.

Let's Celebrate Our Beloved Pets



We extended it another week, so you can still enter your pet in the contest today. Place your photos in the Paw Box in the Garden Room. No frames, please.

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded on October 26 after the service in Fellowship Hall. Don't have a pet? Join us at the awards ceremony for special human treats, anyway. You won't have to do a trick, roll over or beg.



Lunch Bunch will meet at Granite City on Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 11:30 AM. No program, no agenda, just fun. Please RSVP to jimkinkennon@gmail.com or text to 402-290-5888.

Prairie Readers will meet on October 15 at 1 PM in the lounge. This is a special gathering since Pat Leach, the host of *All About Books* and former head of the Lincoln City Library system will be our guest. Pat will review selected fiction and nonfiction titles from the American Library Association Notable Books for Adults list. Everyone is welcome.

Faith and Cancer Support Group

Author and cancer survivor, Lynn Eib, describes the feeling of hearing the diagnosis of cancer like "driving down the road and hitting a patch of 'black ice.' I am out of control--scary!" The Westminster Cancer Support group is an informal place of safety from 'black ice' where we share laughter, burdens and blessings. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday each month at 10 AM in the Church Library. All are welcome. Bruce Sheffield 402-303-2363.

October tips from Presbyterians for Earth Care and Green@Heart:

Eco-friendly Celebrations and Traditions in a Season of Giving

We are a consumer-driven society and oftentimes, in our attempts to celebrate with decorations, parties, and gifts, we damage, even desecrate, creation. As we conscientiously work to conserve natural resources by using eco-friendly products, sustainable and local foods, we use less water, impose less on our land, and use fewer minerals. Remember the three Rs, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle that contribute to treading more gently? The first of these is reduce, which is to make less, so we want to make less our impact on creation in all that we do, less in our consuming, especially throughout our upcoming holidays of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

How can we start?

Use natural products for decorations, such as hay bales, pumpkins, and sheaves of corn, to decorate your home. Decorate the table with a cornucopia with fruits and veggies that you can use later in the kitchen.

These pillars of creation care begin with making less, making less stuff, imposing fewer demands on the earth, spending less time buying things, while creating thoughtful, welcoming hospitality for friends and family.



Mission/Outreach is pleased to bring Equal Exchange Coffee and Equal Exchange Organic Chocolate to Westminster friends. 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.

Week Beginning October 5

<u>Sun. (Oct. 5)</u> Equal Exchange Coffee Available 10 AM Worship—Communion; Faith Village 11:10 AM Caramel Apple Bar, Garden Room 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship	4:30 PM Foundation Marketing, Library 4:30 PM Foundation Finance, Lounge 5 PM Foundation Board Meeting, Lounge 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities, Youth Areas 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
<u>Mon. (Oct. 6)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 6:30 PM Circle 4, Parlor 6:30 PM Scouts Den Meeting, Cole Hall, Youth Cafe 7 PM Recovery Group	<u>Thurs. (Oct. 9)</u> 9 AM Friendship Home Staff Meeting, Fellowship Hall 6 PM Lincoln Continentals Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30 PM Scouts Committee Meeting, Youth Cafe
<u>Tues. (Oct. 7)</u> 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 5 PM Adult Education, Conference Room	<u>Sun. (Oct. 12)</u> 10 AM Worship; Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 7 PM Youth, Roca Scary Farm
<u>Wed. (Oct. 8)</u> 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library	

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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