

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

**March 22, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**



***Mebasseret* (Isaiah 40:9) translates to “she-who-bears-good-news”**

(Dr. Wil Gafney, A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church Year A, Lent V)

\*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**

“Lift Up the Gates Eternal”

**Welcome**

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

Carolyn Harp

**\*Call to Worship (Psalm 68:4-5, 11a adapted from Dr. Wil Gafney Translation)**

Deacon Joan Roberts

One: Sing to God; sing praises to her Name;

***Many: Praise God who rides upon the clouds***

One: Mother of orphans and defender of widows, is God in her holy habitation!

***Many: God, the author of life, gave the word.***

**\*Hymn #364**

**Lift Up the Gates Eternal**

**\*Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**\*Prayer of Confession**

***God, our Shepherd, it is easy for us to lose sight of your way for us. We seem to have more faith in ways to harm than ways to bring hope. We seek peace through war and find security in weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even still, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you! Therefore we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin. 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 #544**

**Bless the Lord**

***Bless the Lord, my soul,***

***and bless God's holy name.***

***Bless the Lord, my soul,***

***who leads me into life.***

**\*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. At this time, children in K-5<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Epistle Reading

Romans 16:1-6, 14-16

N.T. pg. 164

Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 40:6-11

O.T. pg. 667

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

**Sermon**

“Redefining: Mebasseret”

Rev. Chris Peters

**\*Hymn #434**

**Restore in Us, O God**

**Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer**

Deacon Joan Roberts

***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.***

**100 Years Snapshot: WPC Education Wing**

Laurel Van Ham

**Invitation to the Offering**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**Offering & Choir Anthem**

“Lamb of God” by Twila Paris  
and arranged by Lloyd Larson

*Isaiah 40 shows us God as a gentle shepherd who gathers and carries God's lambs. Our choir anthem, Lamb of God, echoes this message, singing of Christ's mercy and love. In this Lenten season, it reminds us that even in our weakness, we are carried and held by God's enduring grace.*

**\*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**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

\*Hymn #441

**Hear the Good News of Salvation**

\*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

**Postlude**

“O Blessed Spring” by James Biery

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Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Year A Vol 1.*, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor. The Call to Worship is adapted from Psalm 68 as translated by Hebrew Scholar Dr. Wil Gafney, in *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year A, Fifth Sunday of Lent.*

**The flowers are in honor of Rev. Ellen Davis's birthday, from her family.**

**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 Joan Roberts

**Music Director:** Wes Hansmeyer

**Organist:** John Ross

**Handbell Director:** Christopher Boilesen

**Director of Children & Youth:** Trish Souliere

**Greeters:** Megan & Jason Woita, Josh Swanson

**Ushers:** Rohn Loyd, Debra Schleining, Bruce & Margaret Sheffield

**Dishwashers:** Lisa & Steve McConnell

**Sanctuary Audio & Livestream:** Dale Minter



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

**The week of Mar. 22, 2026**

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

### **ADULT EDUCATION LENTEN SERIES**

#### **“Encounters on the Way to Jerusalem”**

**A curriculum written by and taught by Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn**

**Sundays at 11:15 a.m., Lounge near the Reception Desk**

Mar 22 Lent 5 “Sympathetic Pharisees” Luke 13:31-35

Mar 29 Palm Sun. “The Last Scribe to Dare Ask a Question”  
Mark 12:28-34

### **Presbyterian Advocacy Hour | Wed., March 25 | 11 AM | Lounge**

Join us in the lounge for a zoom presentation and discussion afterwards. This month's topic is Christian Nationalism. All are welcome.

### **Palm Sunday Processional | March 29 | 10 AM**

All young members of our congregation are invited to take part in the joyous Palm Sunday palm waving processional, a beautiful tradition that marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Key Details for Participants:

- **Gathering Time and Location:** We ask that all participating children meet promptly in the narthex (the entrance area) near the west doors of the church. The designated gathering time is approximately 9:55 AM. This early meeting time is essential to allow our volunteers to organize the children, distribute the palms, and provide brief instructions before the service begins.
- **Processional Start:** The procession will commence at 10 AM.
- **Processional Route and Activity:** As the service begins, the children will proceed down the main, middle aisle of the church. Each child will be given a palm branch to hold and wave enthusiastically, reenacting the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Following the processional, children will join their parents until dismissal to Faith Village.

### **Request for Cereal on Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday, March 29, is a very special day. It is also the fifth Sunday in March and there are only 4 months that have five Sundays. In recognition of this special day, the Mission and Social Witness Committee is asking our church members to bring a box of cereal to church to help supply Westminster's pantry. The cereal may be placed in the large wooden box in the office. Hunger is such a huge issue and our church strives to reach out to others in need. Thank you and enjoy Palm Sunday. -Mission and Social Witness Committee

### **Palm Sunday Crane-apalooza: 1000 Birds of Peace**

#### **March 29 | 11 AM in Fellowship Hall**

All WPC children, youth, and families are invited to participate in a meaningful community art project immediately following the worship service on Palm Sunday, March 29. We will be folding origami peace cranes that will become a vital part of "1000 Birds of Peace," an inspiring and significant work of public art.

### **Swanson Scholarship Applications Due March 31**

Established in 1999 by the Swanson Family, this scholarship provides \$500 financial support per recipient for one academic school year. Full-time undergraduate students and high school senior members of Westminster are encouraged to apply. Renewal of the scholarship for subsequent years is not automatic but will be considered by the selection committee. Applications are available on the church website (<https://westminsterlincoln.org>) under the GIVE tab or in the church office. The scholarship is open to individuals in all courses of study; however, preference will be given to applicants demonstrating an interest in Education and Community Service. Application deadline is March 31, 2026.

### **Call for Donations | April 1**

Our annual Easter Eggstravaganza egg hunt is on Wed., April 1, featuring the popular "Eggs for Points to the Prize Store" format we successfully launched last year. Children will collect eggs, exchange them for points, and then spend those points at our "Eggstravaganza Store" to choose prizes they want. To stock the store, we urgently need donations of simple, fun toys, crafts, games, and candy for toddlers through elementary schoolers. Sought-after items include plush toys, sports equipment (balls, jump ropes), building sets (LEGOs), art supplies (sidewalk chalk, coloring books), and individually wrapped candy.

Please drop off donations in the **collection tote** at the top of the steps near the **East entrance** of the church by **Monday, March 30**. For questions, contact Trish Souliere at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org). Thank you for helping us make this year's event a success!

### **Lunch Bunch in April**

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, April 7, 11:30 A.M., at The Watering Hole East, 8300 Northwoods Drive. Note this is the East location. Please RSVP to [jimkinkennon@gmail.com](mailto:jimkinkennon@gmail.com) or text 402-290-5888.

### **Prairie Readers April Meeting**

Prairie Readers will meet on April 15 at 1 PM in the lounge. Lisa DeBuse will lead the discussion of *My Friends* by New York Times bestselling author Fredrik Backman. The discussion promises to be lively. Come join us!

### **Summer Special Music**

This summer, we invite members of the congregation to share their musical gifts during worship! Special music will be provided by a Summer Choir, which will sing occasionally, as well as by individuals and groups from the congregation.

You might choose to sing, play the piano or another instrument, ring bells, or gather a small group to offer music together. You do not need to currently be singing or playing in a church group to participate—everyone is welcome! We especially encourage youth and families to consider sharing their gifts.

Summer special music is a wonderful way to offer praise to God and enrich our worship together. Please consider participating yourself, encouraging your children, or even sharing music as a family.

**Summer music runs from May 31 through Labor Day.**

**To sign up, please email [wes@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:wes@westminsterlincoln.org).**

I'm excited to hear from you and look forward to the many ways our congregation will share their musical gifts this summer! 🎵

### **Volunteer Opportunity: Stuff the Bus for Friendship Home**

Westminster members are invited to help support *Stuff the Bus*, a community event benefiting Friendship Home and the survivors of domestic violence they serve. The event will take place Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. outside all Lincoln Walmart and Sam's Club locations.

Volunteers will help by handing out needs lists to shoppers and collecting essential items such as laundry detergent, bedding, ethnic hair care products, and gift cards. If you are able, please consider signing up for a 2-hour shift. It's a simple and family-friendly way to serve our

community and support individuals and families working toward safety and freedom from domestic violence. Learn more and sign up here: <https://friendshiphome.org/stuff-the-bus/>

**Week Beginning March 22**

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| <p><b><u>Sun. (Mar. 22)</u></b><br/>10 AM Worship, Faith Village;<br/>Sanctuary<br/>11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge<br/>12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>       | <p>5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities<br/>Youth Areas – All<br/>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal,<br/>Sanctuary</p>  |
| <p><b><u>Mon. (Mar. 23)</u></b><br/>11 AM Lenten Bible Study—<br/>Pastor Ellen, Library<br/>6 PM Session, Lounge<br/>7 PM Recovery Group, Library</p> | <p><b><u>Thurs. (Mar. 26)</u></b><br/>5 PM Bell Ringers Rehearsal, First<br/>Plymouth</p>  |
| <p><b><u>Tues. (Mar. 24)</u></b><br/>9:45 AM Staff Meeting<br/>5 PM Ladies’ Night Out, Napoli’s<br/>5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge</p>                       | <p><b><u>Sun. (Mar. 29) Palm Sunday</u></b><br/>10 AM Worship with Palm<br/>Processional, Faith Village;<br/>Sanctuary<br/>11 AM Crane-apalooza, Fellowship<br/>Hall<br/>11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge<br/>12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> |
| <p><b><u>Wed. (Mar. 25)</u></b><br/>11 AM Presbyterian Advocacy<br/>Hour, Lounge<br/>1 PM Hearts &amp; Hands, Library</p>                             |  |

**Worship services are available on-line at this link:**

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