

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Knowing Christ.....Making Christ Known

April 18, 2021

9:00 A.M. Traditional – Live Stream Worship

## GATHERING THOUGHT

### Alleluia

May God sparkle in all of us  
as sunlight upon water,  
May we radiate for each other  
compassion and hope,  
May our work be fruitful,  
our joys profound,  
our pain redemptive,  
May our discipleship be rooted  
in the very life of God.  
May we be for each other,  
for family, for friends, for those in need,  
for those especially whose faith has come to staleness  
and whose hope has died  
- a burgeoning ALLELUIA  
- light and peace and simplicity  
- full gratitude, full openness.  
May we take nothing less for granted  
than the life we seek  
to build up in common.  
May we suffer the pain of a  
fully generous love.  
May we remain steadfast  
in the shadow of the cross,  
And rise to meet the passion  
of this world  
Relying always  
on the untiring good Spirit of our God. Amen.

By Kathleen Hughes

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

April 18, 2021

9:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

arr. Chung

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (from Psalm 104)

*Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

**People: O Lord my God, I stand in awe of Your greatness.**

*Leader: You are clothed with honor and majesty, and robed in light.*

**People: You stretch out the heavens like a tent, making the winds Your messengers.**

*Leader: How great are Your works, O God! In wisdom You created the earth and all that is within it.*

**People: In thanksgiving, let us worship and praise the Lord our God!**

**HYMN #248**      *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Christ is risen, shout hosanna, celebrate this day of days  
Christ is risen, hush in wonder, All creation is amazed.  
In the desert all surrounding, See a spreading tree has grown  
Healing leaves of grace abounding, bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen, raise your spirits from the caverns of despair  
Walk with gladness in the morning, See what love can do and dare  
Drink the wine of resurrection, Not a servant, but a friend  
Jesus is our strong companion, joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen, earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same  
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus "Christ is risen, get you gone"  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing hosanna everyone.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, You called us and creation into being. Yet all too often we have ignored Your lordship of the land entrusted to our care. We confess our part in the devastation of our planet home, mirrored in the violence of cities, and the brokenness of hearts. Forgive our greedy grasping. Nurturing God, remind us of other ways to live, where creation reflects Your goodness, and each thing lives in harmony with all others. Teach us to see what love can do and dare.....*(time for us to offer silent prayers of confession.)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Pastor: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.*

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love,

God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still. Thanks be to God! Amen.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

### PASSING THE PEACE

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

### OFFERTORY

*On Eagle's Wings*

arr. M. Hayes

*You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in His shadow for life, say to the Lord, "My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!" And He will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.*

*The snare of the fowler will never capture you; and famine will bring you no fear; under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield. And He will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.*

*For to His angels He's given a command to guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up lest you dash your foot against a stone. And He will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you, and hold you, and hold you, in the palm of His hand, of His hand.*

## **DOXOLOGY**

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

## **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (from *Feasting on the Word*)

Lord God, we offer to You only a portion of what You have given us. All that we have is from Your creative hand. All that we can give away we do through Jesus' love. Bless these gifts, so others may have joy and peace; in Jesus' name. AMEN.

## **SCRIPTURE LESSON**      Luke 24: 36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

*Pastor:*            *The Word of the Lord.*

**People:**            **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

*"Witnesses of These Things"*

Ann Hatfield

## **HYMN #23**

*God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*

God You spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain,  
Mold the mountains fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine wind and rain.  
We, created in your image, would a true reflection be  
Of Your justice grace and mercy and the truth that makes us free

You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.  
We respond in grateful worship joined in one community.  
When we blur Your gracious image, focus us and make us whole.  
Healed and strengthened as Your people, we move onward toward Your goal.

God, Your word is still creating, calling us to life made new.  
Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do.  
Keep us clear of all distortion. Polish us with loving care.  
Thus, new creatures in Your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere

## ANNOUNCEMENT

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Tuba Tune*

Lang

The **Sacrament of Baptism** is administered this morning at the 9:00 am traditional service to Kenzie Evelyn Fisher, daughter of Sica vonPlato and Thomas Fischer and at the 10:30am contemporary service to Marleigh Grey Saling, daughter of Lindsay and Robert Saling.

\* \* \* \* \*

## A FEW NOTES

**TASK FORCE UPDATE:** Pastor Don's update from the Task Force a few weeks ago indicated we would consider inviting small groups into the building the week of April 11 and small numbers in for worship on April 18 – **if the numbers in Chester County did not head in the wrong direction.** Unfortunately, the metrics we are watching went the wrong way. Therefore, the Task Force is postponing any in-person activities until the week of April 25 at the earliest, and it could be later. Whether we start in-person activities will depend on the COVID numbers in the county. The Task Force meets again tomorrow night – April 19 – to assess the current circumstances.

**PRESCHOOL UPDATE:** Westminster's Preschool **has openings in the 2 ½, 3 and Pre-K 4 classes** for the 2021-2022 school year. Call 610-399-3910 or [email at preschool@westminsterpc.org](mailto:email@preschool@westminsterpc.org) if you are interested in enrolling your child. The preschool also **has openings for part-time teachers and teacher aides** for the 2021-2022 school year. Call or email using the above information if you would like to know more about the positions that are available.

### Happening Today:

**Journey Class - Sundays, April 18-June 13, 11:30am via Zoom. How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice.** An eight-week DVD class by Jemar Tisby, [How to Fight Racism](#) provides a practical framework for pursuing racial justice with hands-on suggestions bolstered by real-world examples of change. Participants are encouraged to get a copy of Tisby's book, to read along with the 8-week DVD series. However, even without having a copy of the book, all are welcomed to join in all or any sessions as able.

**Hymns and Their Stories, Sunday, April 18, 7:00pm live streamed.** Hymns have long been used to eloquently express our faith in words and music and ground us in Word. Join Ron and Joan Giles for an hour of "*Hymns and Their Stories.*"

### Upcoming Events:

**NEW BOOK STUDY, Saturdays, April 17-May 22, at 6:00pm via Zoom.** Join this six-week book study and discussion of "*Be the Bridge, Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation*" by Latasha Morrison. Questions or to sign up, contact Sue Kelly at [SMK\\_449@msn.com](mailto:SMK_449@msn.com).

**Tuesday Morning Fellowship, 10:00am via Zoom.** This week's speaker is Joe Combee presenting "*Progress Report of the Church's Vision Team.*" Type the following in your browser to join the discussion: <http://bit.ly/3r0e25x>.

**Are You Graduating?** We would like to honor your graduation from high school, tech school, college, graduate school, or the military by including you in a digital Westminster yearbook and recognizing your future plans. Please email a photo and brief bio to Susanne Perkins at [flipflops@comcast.net](mailto:flipflops@comcast.net).

**Pray in the Sanctuary, Fridays, 9:30am-3:00pm.** You may reserve 30 minutes to come and pray in the sanctuary. To sign up type the following in your browser: <https://bit.ly/2KtqbjI> or contact Barb Drain at [bdrain@westminsterpc.org](mailto:bdrain@westminsterpc.org).

**Red Cross Blood Drive, April 27 & 28, 12:00-5:00pm in Spellman.** Sign up at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) with sponsor code WPC.

**Rise Against Hunger Packing Event, Friday, April 30, 2:00-7:00pm and Saturday, May 1, 9:00-4:00pm in Spellman Hall.** Join us for a weekend meal packaging [process that is safe and effective](#). You will work in short shifts with small groups of volunteers and every family unit can work at their own individual packaging station. While the process looks different than other years, we are certain that we are able to provide a fun, and safe experience, while packaging over 35,000 meals. Type the following in your browser: <https://sforce.co/2RaPE4K> to sign up. If you prefer to make a donation to help package more meals type <https://sforce.co/2RaPE4K> in your browser. A \$75 donation will pay for a box of meals that will feed a child for an entire school year! Questions? Contact Angela Emrich at [ang.emrich@gmail.com](mailto:ang.emrich@gmail.com).

**World Vision's Global 6K for Clean Water.** Join us again this year on Saturday, May 22, as we walk/run to help raise funds for clean water. This year's goal is \$50,000. To register type the following in your browser: <http://bit.ly/2QajIwF> and use code CleanWater this week for \$15 off.

### **Outreach Opportunities during April:**

**Safe Harbor Lunches and Dinner Volunteers Needed!** We're looking for volunteers to help prepare and deliver meals for Safe Harbor in 2021. To sign up for lunches type the following in your browser: <https://bit.ly/2Pwm7kX>. To sign up for dinners: <https://bit.ly/2P5hoad>. Questions? Contact Angela Emrich at [ang.emrich@gmail.com](mailto:ang.emrich@gmail.com).

**Prayer Shawls Available:** We've been home. We've been knitting. Now our shelves are overflowing and we'd like to know if you know someone who could benefit by receiving a Prayer Shawl. Our guidelines state that Prayer Shawls may be donated to church members or their immediate family, who are facing serious surgery or experiencing extreme physical or emotional turmoil (men, women and children.) Contact Pastor Ann at [ahatfield@westminsterpc.org](mailto:ahatfield@westminsterpc.org) if you know someone who might like a shawl.

**FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS  
APRIL – CEREAL  
DROP OFF UNDER THE FRONT PORTICO**

**Financial Update**  
**March 2021**  
 General Fund – Missions and Church Operations

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% vs. Budget</u>
YTD Tithes and Offering	\$699,053	\$614,983	14%
YTD Expenses	\$487,349	\$566,862	-14%

*We want to sincerely thank you for keeping your General Fund pledges up to date; as you can see, this month tithes and offering is ahead of budget. We encourage you to keep up consistent giving, so that we can achieve 100% of our pledged support. Please consider electronic giving. Setting up your giving is simple through the “Donate” button on the “Give” page on the church website, or request an authorization form by contacting the church office.*

*Thank you for your commitment to the mission and ministry of Westminster.*

**Worship Schedule**  
**Live Streaming Weekly Worship Schedule**

Sundays: 9:00am – Traditional Worship  
 10:30am – Contemporary Worship  
 Wednesdays: 9:10 – 9:30am – Service of Prayer and Communion

\* \* \* \* \*

Ministers of Jesus Christ  
 Pastors  
 Pastor Emeritus  
 Director of Music  
 Associate Director of Music/Organist

All the Members of the Congregation  
 Jennie Clark, Jon Frost, Ann Hatfield, Don Lincoln  
 Robert D. Young  
 Bob Morris  
 Glenn Kinckner