

Westminster At Worship

15th Sunday after Pentecost



September 13, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

†Those who are able to stand may do so

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to worship the God of our mothers and fathers.

People: We come with our hope and our memories — and our concerns.

Leader: For here we find the forgiving God, revealed by Jesus.

People: Here we find the empowering God, poured out in Spirit.

Leader: So let us praise God who is not only waiting —

People: Let us praise the God who journeys with us on all our ways.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION - JUDY

Giving and forgiving God, we are often quick and tenacious in asking for your patience and understanding for ourselves, while we too often fail to

extend to others what we seek from you. We demand immediate restitution from those whom we perceive to wrong us, and withhold forgiveness even when it is sincerely sought from us.

Forgive us when we take advantage of another's weakness and vulnerability, demand more than we need, or make it virtually impossible for others to correct their mistakes. Purge our desire for vindication and dominance, and fill us with your spirit of forgiveness which knows no limit.

**Hear us now as we come to you in silent confession...
We ask all this through Christ, our Lord and savior.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again and again. So let us live, believing the good news of the gospel,

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MUSIC

***"How Great Thou Art"*
Dawn, Judy, & Nikelle**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / DEDICATION OF BIBLES

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ROMANS 14:1-12 (CEB)

Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion.

² One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.

³ Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them.

⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servants? They stand or fall before their own Lord (and they will stand, because the Lord has the power to make them stand).

⁵ One person considers some days to be more sacred than others, while another person considers all days to be the same. Each person must have their own convictions.

⁶ Someone who thinks that a day is sacred, thinks that way for the Lord. Those who eat, eat for the Lord, because they thank God. And those who

don't eat, don't eat for the Lord, and they thank the Lord too.

⁷ We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves.

⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God.

⁹ This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ But why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister? We all will stand in front of the judgment seat of God.

¹¹ Because it is written,

As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God.

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

²² Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.

²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold.

²⁵ Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment.

²⁶ But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, 'Please, be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.'

²⁷ The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

²⁸ "When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred

coins.^[c] He grabbed him around the throat and said, 'Pay me back what you owe me.'

29 "Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.'

30 But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

31 "When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened.

32 His master called the first servant and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me.

33 Shouldn't you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?'

34 His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don't forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

SERMON *"Four Hundred Ninety Times? Really?!?"*

Rev. Linda Williams

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - from *The Wired Word*, Frank Ramirez

Leader: We believe in the Jesus who healed the sick, reaching out to those who were isolated and alienated, and restoring them not only to health, but to their communities of family and faith.

People: We believe in the Jesus who not only preached peace, but lived it, challenging us to love our enemies, turn the other cheek, and to respond with nonviolence and forgiveness to those who dared to lay hands on and murder him.

Leader: We believe in the Jesus who comforted the grieving widow and the women who lamented his impending crucifixion, who bantered with the ostracized Samaritan woman, heard the challenge of the Syro-Phoenician woman, and honored the extra effort of the paralytic's friends who interrupted Jesus' teaching by lowering their friend through the roof.

People: We believe in the Jesus who challenged the powerful with a refusal to let them frame the conversation with their loaded questions, who was unafraid to offend them when they victimized the poor, the widow, the orphan and the suffering.

Leader: We believe in the Jesus who tells stories grounded in our lives, who speaks our language, knows our joys and sorrows, and can out-Bible anyone who

tries to justify wrong behavior with a few quotations from scripture.

People: We believe in the Jesus who grieves over the rich young man who turned away and rejoices that no greater faith is found in our church than the Centurion who is the outsider.

Leader: We believe in Jesus, the gardener who asks the landowner for yet one more year to bring us back to life!

People: We believe in Jesus, who suffered, died, and was buried, and on the third day rose from the dead, who lives and reigns, and at whose name someday every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.

MUSIC

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”
Dawn, Judy, & Nikelle

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

People: 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.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

†DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of infinite love and forgiveness, you have given to us your spirit of compassion and understanding. In offering our material gifts today, we also offer ourselves as your servant. Bless and multiply these gifts through the power of your Holy Spirit, that many might experience your abundance. For it is in Christ's name we pray and serve. Amen.

MUSIC

***"What a Mighty God"*
Dawn, Judy, & Nikelle**

CHARGE

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

FLOWERS TODAY are given by Christine Thurman in memory of Dean and Helen Schroer.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: The Rally Day / Back-to-School Ice Cream Social will take place TODAY following the worship service. We will meet outside in the lawn along Vermont Street.

BOOK CLUB: The Book Club will meet Tuesday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss “the five people you meet in heaven” by Mitch Albom. Contact Nikelle at [**cedirector@wpcbc.org**](mailto:cedirector@wpcbc.org) for Zoom information.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: The Bible study on the Book of James will meet via Zoom on Thursdays beginning at 7:00 p.m. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at [**parishassoc@wpcbc.org**](mailto:parishassoc@wpcbc.org).

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC): Check out a PNC video update on the front page of Westminster’s website, [**wpcbc.org**](http://wpcbc.org). This video was also posted to Facebook (Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City) on Wednesday, September 9.

JOIN US AND LIVE STREAM ON FACEBOOK: Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City.

LIVE STREAM ON YOUTUBE: Westminster Presbyterian Church Live Stream.

This Week at Westminster

Today, Sunday, September 13, 2020

- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Ice Cream Social (outside along Vermont St.)

Monday, September 14, 2020

- 6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

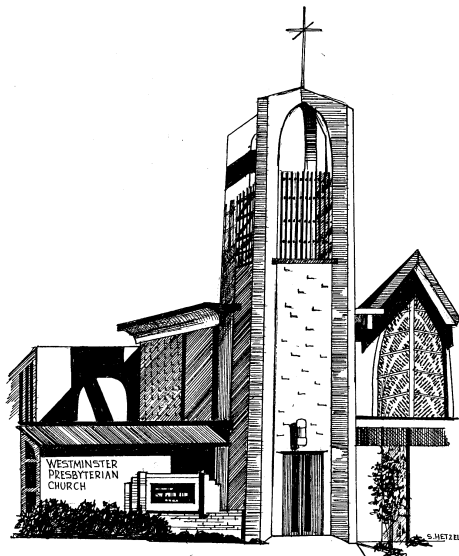
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2020

- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study on the Book of James (via Zoom)

Next Sunday, September 20, 2020

- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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989-686-1360

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website: wpcbc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

lunch 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Friday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

