



WELCOME

5th Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020
10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship

COME

To set a more worshipful tone while watching this service from home, we encourage you to find a quiet space and light a candle.

Opening Voluntary Traditional Spiritual *Valerie Thorson, piano*
Robert Carlyon, organ

*Call to Worship Isaiah 41:10 and Exodus 15:26

Kara Hauerwas

Scripture teaches us: Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
For I am the Lord who heals.

*Hymn 356 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Romans 8:39

We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, so many of the psalms show a heart out of tune, sighing, crying, and breaking with sorrow, yet still clinging to faith in you. So too, O Lord, are our hearts. In Jesus Christ, you have given us what we need most: the cross makes our forgiveness possible, and God's Spirit tunes our hearts again to sing your praises. Humbly we ask your pardon for our sins.

Silence is observed.

Response 574 Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 30:2 and Jeremiah 17:14

O Lord my God, I cried out to you, and you healed me. Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.

Response HYMN 223, verse 1 O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

O my soul, bless your Redeemer; All within me bless God's name; Bless the Savior, and forget not All God's mercies to proclaim.

*Passing the Peace

Greet both friends and strangers saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

Anthem

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Traditional Spiritual

Elizabeth Crabtree, Zachary Troyer, & Joel Rhoads, soloists

*Response 592 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow *Doxology*

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

Time with Young Disciples

Sheila Svoboda

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

We pray, Lord, that you will open the door of our hearts to receive you within our hearts. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The First Lesson Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Pew Bible, Old Testament

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
2 will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.”
9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,
10 no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
12 On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
13 You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
14 Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
15 When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
16 With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

The Second Lesson Matthew 9:18-26

Pew Bible, New Testament

18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” **19** And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. **20** Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, **21** for she said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” **22** Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. **23** When Jesus came to the leader’s house and

saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, **24** he said, “Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. **25** But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. **26** And the report of this spread throughout that district.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon Doing the Impossible

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

We light this candle of Hope to dispel the darkness of discouragement and despair.

Let us pray for those who have serious illnesses of mind and body. (Silent prayer)

We light this candle of Grace to dispel the darkness of guilt, blame, and loss.

Let us pray for those with broken lives and broken relationships. (Silent prayer)

We light this candle of Truth to dispel the darkness of stigma and misinformation.

Let us pray for ourselves and others as we learn more about their journey.
(Silent prayer)

We light this candle of Justice to dispel the darkness of inequities and injustice.

Let us pray for those who are incarcerated and untreated with mental illness. (Silent prayer)

We light this candle of Faith to dispel the darkness of doubt and discouragement.

Let us prayer for those who have lost hope and are in despair.
(Silent prayer)

We light this candle of Peace to dispel the darkness of trauma and torment.
Let us pray for those who have experienced violence or abuse.
(Silent prayer)

We light this candle of Love to dispel the darkness of indifference and judgment.
Let us pray for ourselves, family members, care givers, health professionals, church leaders and lay counselors. (Silent prayer).

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 85 What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

*Charge and Benediction

I invite you now to go forth, remembering who you are and to whom you belong.

May the love of God the Father, the faithful creator,
the peace of Christ, the wounded healer,
and the joy of the challenging Spirit,
the hope of the Three in One
surround and encourage you
today, tonight, and forever.

Voluntary

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ANNOUNCEMENTS

One Great Hour of Sharing Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, and educational opportunities. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Development of People. These all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. We are the house of God. Let us invite those without enough to eat to God's table. Let us invite those who thirst to God's fountain. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. Checks may be mailed to the church office, please write OGHOS in the memo, or give online through the church website. Thank you.

Flowers For Palm Sunday & Easter Though we may not be able to worship together in person on Palm Sunday and Easter this year, we continue to give thanks for God's abundance. Our world is filled with beauty and our community exists to serve and love one another. The church universal and we, as individual members of it, will continue to live in grace. We are grateful for the presence of flowers for the purpose of our online services and we look forward to Palm Sunday and Easter. The palms will decorate the worship space and hope to provide the opportunity for church members to pick up palms in our church parking lot following the Palm Sunday service.

Your contributions to our Easter flowers, given as memorials of loved ones, will enable to the Flower Committee to provide a beautiful setting for our Easter celebration. A list of the donors together with the names of loved ones will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin which will be made available online. Please make your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and send it to the attention of Debby Evrard. There is no set amount.

You can give electronically on Westminster's website at:
www.westminsterakron.org under "online giving."

The deadline is Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

Options are:

In Loving Memory of

In Memory of

In Honor of

Your Name: _____

You may email your choices to Debby Evrard at
wpcfinance1250@gmail.com.

During these difficult times, the church remains grateful for your faithful support of our ministries through your financial contributions.

Please help us continue to serve the WPC family and our neighbors by ensuring that our staff is supported, our facility remains operational, and the "least of these" are served.

To give, click under the tab "online giving."

New Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



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