

6th Sunday of Easter



**May 17, 2020
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

**or in the afternoon on our church
website at westminsterakron.org**

COME

We welcome you to Westminster's virtual worship service this Sunday. To set a more worshipful tone while watching this service at home, we encourage you to find a quiet space and light a candle.

If you are joining us on Facebook Live, you can find a copy of today's bulletin by visiting our church website at westminsterakron.org, under Sermons/Bulletins or by clicking on the red "Updates" banner at the top of the home page. Don't forget to click on "Like" our page so next time you want to connect to our Live service it will prompt you faster.

Opening Voluntary Aria Flor Peeters

*Call to Worship Barb Shriner

Bless the Lord, O people, sing!
Let the sound of praise ring out.
Come and hear what the Lord has done,
the Lord who has made everything!

*Hymn 464 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee HYMN TO JOY

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above. Melt the
clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal
gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise. Field and
forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea, Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us
to rejoice in Thee.
3. Mortals, join the happy chorus Which the morning stars began; Love
divine is reigning o'er us, Joining in all heaven's plan. Ever singing, march
we onward, Victors in the midst
of strife, Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song
of life.

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Brothers and sisters, God not only asks us to repent, but also assures us of forgiveness. Therefore, let us confess our sins to the one who is steadfast love.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we do not always keep your commandments; we fail to love you; our conscience is not clear. Wash us in the water of life that we may live again through the grace and mercy of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.

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

Sisters and brothers, God forgives, restores, and strengthens us through the risen Christ. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

*Response 567 Glory Be to the Father *Gloria Patri*
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

We invite you now to greet one another saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

God, the divine giver, gifts us with life and breath and all that is. In gratitude, let us offer our gifts in return for the goodness and grace of God in Christ. Let us continue worshipping God.

Anthem If You Love Me

David Eddleman

*If you love me, keep my commandments. If you love me, keep ye my word.
And if you love me, love one another; In loving them, you love me, too.*

*If you love me, be tender-hearted; For in kindness you do my work,
With gentle spirit and ever loving, Therein you know my word is true.*

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all shall be opened unto you,
Seek ye first the purity of God, and God shall reward what you do.
In God's kingdom, find joy and peace, the peace that none can understand.
Lay your soul at the foot of God's throne, For this is God's holy command.*

*If you love me, keep my commandments; If you love me, keep my word.
And if you love me, love one another, For in such love my love is true.*

*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

Come Holy Spirit, our helper and advocate: Open our hearts and minds this day, entice us with your presence. Spark us with a word of life - a message that we may share with others as we seek to live Christ's love in the world. All this we ask in the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us. **Amen.**

The First Lesson 1 Peter 3:13-16a

New Testament

13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

The Second Lesson John 14:15-21

New Testament

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 18 “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

Sermon While There's Life, There's Hope

The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

Romans 8

If God is for us, who is against us? Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all of these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastoral Prayer

Let us join our hearts together in prayer, saying,
God of hope, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray that the whole Church may bear witness to your abiding love by living with faithfulness and hope.
God of hope, hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, we pray for the leaders of our nation and the world, that they may work with wisdom and courage for the well being of all people, and exercise stewardship of your creation.

God of hope, hear our prayer.

Creator God, bring forth abundance in the lands and waters of this earth, that all your creatures will be nourished with adequate food and water, and will glory in the beauty of your creation.

God of hope, hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all who are hungry, for all who are lonely, for all who are sick, for all who mourn, and for all who live in fear.

God of hope, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for those we love, whom we now name in our hearts, that they may feel your presence and strength.

God of hope, hear our prayer.

God of hope, open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to see you in our midst. May we live with confidence that nothing can separate us from your love, which will always have the last word.

God of hope, hear our prayer.

And finally, together as the people of God, let us offer the words of the Lord's Prayer, saying in one voice:

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 276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, Creator,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

REFRAIN: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord,
unto me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

REFRAIN

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

REFRAIN

*Charge and Benediction

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey along the way with us. O be swift to love, and make haste to be kind (Henri-Frederic Amiel).

And may the God of hope bless and keep you this day and always. Amen.

Voluntary Toccata in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers In The Chancel are given in loving memory of Richard M. Park on his birthday by Lisa Park Boush and Carlton Boush.

Monday Zoom Bible Study Pastor Jon is offering a new, virtual Bible study on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. If you might be interested in participating, then please contact our pastor.

Thursday Night Adult Education/Bible Study Join us for the Jonah Bible study, "A Lesson for Our Fractured World," using Zoom technology on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. beginning May 28. If you would like to participate, please contact Rae Leonard at leonardrae4@gmail.com or at 330-256-9316. You can connect by computer or by phone using the instructions she will send you. Jonah is an outrageous excuse of a prophet - he does the opposite

of what God commands, he wants his preaching to be a failure, and he pouts over the fact that God is loving and merciful. Be ready to laugh at the humor in this odd story. Watch how God teaches the leaders and people of Judah just how foolish are their insistence on isolationism and the exclusion of "the others." We will consider the question, "If God loves the outsider, shouldn't we?"

Monthly Financial Report

April 2020	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$41,217.89	\$55,724.75	\$240,797.48	**\$222,014.90
Total Expenses	\$40,224.57	\$55,273.78	\$171,460.87	\$212,890.36
Net	\$993.32	\$450.97	\$69,336.61	\$9,124.54

**Budgeted total revenues include anticipated withdrawals from Rowley investments necessary to balance the budget totaling \$20,969 for the year.

Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the detailed financial report for the period ending April 30, 2020.

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 online, click under the tab "online giving."

The church office remains open from 9:00 a.m. to noon, Monday-Friday. Staff schedule in the office: Monday - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. Tuesday - Debby Evrard, Mallory Gray and Dave Bodnar. Wednesday - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. Thursday - Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda and Dave Bodnar. Friday - Pastor Jon and Claudine Schooley.



Westminster Presbyterian Church
1250 West Exchange Street, Akron, Ohio 44313
westminsterakron@gmail.com - 330-836-2226
www.westminsterakron.org