

# 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter



**May 24, 2020  
at 10:30 a.m.  
on Facebook **Live****

**or in the afternoon on our church  
website at [westminsterakron.org](http://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](http://westminsterakron.org), under Sermons/Bulletins or by clicking on the red "Updates" banner at the top of the home page.*

Opening Voluntary      From *L'Ascension*

Olivier Messiaen

The Majesty of Christ Beseeching His Glory from the Father:  
*"Father, the hour is come. Glorify Thy Son that Thy Son may also glorify Thee."*

*Olivier Messiaen (1908 - 1992) was a French composer, organist, and ornithologist. He said, "My faith is the grand drama of my life. I'm a believer, so I sing words of God to those who have no faith...and paint colors for those who see none."*

\*Call to Worship

Let the righteous be joyful! Let them rejoice before God.  
**Let us all be jubilant with joy!**

Sing to God, all people of the world. Sing praises to God most high.  
**From the sanctuary of heaven, God gives life and renews the face of the earth.**

Let the righteous be joyful! Let them rejoice before God.  
**Let us all be jubilant with joy!**

\*Hymn 483    Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above    MIT FREUDEN ZART

1.    Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation, The God of power, the God of love, The God of our salvation; With healing balm my soul is filled, And every faithless murmur stilled: To God all praise and glory!
2.    What God's almighty power hath made, God's gracious mercy keepeth; By morning glow or evening shade, God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth; Within the kingdom of God's might, Lo! All is just and all is right; To God all praise and glory!
3.    The Lord is never far away, But through all grief distressing, An ever present help and stay, Our peace, and joy, and blessing; As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band: To God all praise and glory!
4.    Thus all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud Thy praises That all may hear the grateful song My voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and body take your part: To God all praise and glory!

## ENCOUNTER

### Call to Confession

Brothers and sisters, God not only desires our repentance, but longs to offer us forgiveness. Therefore, cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you eternally.

### Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, we confess that we do not always bring honor and glory to your name. We are rebellious and weak; we flee before your goodness. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us by the grace and mercy of Christ, that we may rise up again in peace to love and serve your world. 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, the Spirit of God is resting on you, to restore, support, and strengthen you. Therefore, be at peace in the One who forgives and loves you; rise up and give God thanks.

\*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. 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

Jesus said to the Father, all mine are yours, and all yours are mine. Therefore, let us offer to God this day our lives and labors in service of Christ's love.

Anthem                      Nigra Sum (*The Song of Songs*)                      Pablo Casals  
*Elizabeth Crabtree, Laurel Labbe, & Valerie Stewart, soloists*

*I am dark, but comely, O daughters of Jerusalem. Therefore I have pleased the Lord, who called unto me and said, "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers have appeared on our land, the time of singing has come." Alleluia.*

\*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

## GROW

#### Prayer for Illumination

Spirit of Glory, Spirit of God, bless us with a word of life this day to restore, support, and strengthen us as we seek to be one with you. Amen.

The First Lesson

John 17:1-11

New Testament

1 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 6 “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The Second Lesson

Acts 1:6-14

New Testament

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

## SERVE

### \*Affirmation of Faith

**God holds this world with fierce love, and keeps the ultimate promise by sending Jesus into the world, pouring out the Holy Spirit, and announcing good news: those who repent and believe in Jesus live anew as members of the family of God - the first fruits of a new creation. As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears. Come, Lord Jesus. Our world belongs to you.**

### Prayers of the People

Redeeming God, you call us to devote ourselves constantly to prayer for the sake of Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us offer our prayers this day on behalf of your church and the world, saying, fill us with your Spirit's power,  
**that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.**

Rescuing God, parent of orphans and protector of widows, you give the desolate a home to live in and lead out the prisoners into prosperity. Help us to order the patterns of our common life to support the health of your human family and the welfare of your world.  
Fill us with your Spirit's power,  
**that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.**

Steadfast God, you have given to your church the inheritance of faith in Christ alone, and bestowed your Spirit's love upon us to make us one in you. Help us to grow in strength and courage to witness to this hope: that all may find your saving love eternally in Christ.  
Fill us with your Spirit's power,  
**that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.**

Life-giving God, you send rain in abundance to relieve the parched crops and thirsty land, and make clean the winds of heaven. Help us to find sustainable solutions as we seek to honor and care for the well-being of your creation.  
Fill us with your Spirit's power,  
**that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.**

Loving God, you heard the sufferings of your people, listened to our cries, and sent a Son into our world that was no stranger to our pain. Help us to offer your healing and compassion as we minister to others in the mercy of your Christ.

Fill us with your Spirit's power,

**that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.**

Resurrecting God, you draw near to those who are sick and dying, and you call them home to you. May we all know the joy of life eternal shared with you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We pray silently.

*Moment of Silent Reflection in Observance of Memorial Day with Musical Accompaniment.*

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 262      God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand      NATIONAL HYMN

1.      God of the ages, whose almighty hand Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.
2.      Thy love divine hath led us in the past; In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;  
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.
3.      From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase; Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.
4.      Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way, Lead us from night to never-ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

\*Charge and Benediction

Sisters and brothers, God loves and cares for each of us. Therefore, cast all anxiety on God, and keep alert, so that we may remain steadfast in faith with Christ, who supports and strengthens us in all things.

May the abundance of God bless you, the strength of Christ keep you, and the Spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, shine upon you forever.

Voluntary

Voluntary on "Duke Street"

Robert J. Powell

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Office Closed on Memorial Day, Monday May, 25  
No Monday Zoom Bible Study.*

**The Flowers In The Chancel** are given by Harriet Chapman in honor and in loving memory of John D. Chapman on the week of his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday and in gratitude for all active and deceased U.S. Marines. SEMPER FIDELIS!

**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?"

**Study Leave** Pastor Jon will be on study leave next week. For pastoral care needs, please contact our main office. On Sunday, May 31, Reverend Doctor Sandy Selby will be preaching.

**Let Us Know Your Favorite Hymns** I am inviting you all to fill out the online form you will find on our website under Current Updates page, listing your top five favorite hymns (in order of preference). When I've received all the forms, I'll tally up the totals for each hymn selected, and make a chart listing the favorite hymns for WPC. The forms will then go to Pastor Jon for his files. Be sure to put in your name. During worship on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, we'll have an old-fashioned "hymn sing," in which we'll sing the top ten hymns of the congregation. It should

be fun! I look forward to seeing (and hearing) your favorites!  
Faithfully, Valerie Thorson, Director of Music & Organist.

**Pentecost** Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults. The Pentecost Collection supports four primary goals:

- 25% goes to support Young Adult Volunteers,
- 25% supports ministries with youth ages 12 to 18.
- 10% supports “Educate a Child, Transform the World” and
- 40% remains at Westminster to assist local programs that serve at risk children, youth and young adults.

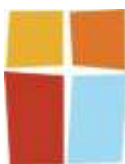
This year RAHAB Ministries Minor Safe House for youth fleeing human trafficking is our beneficiary. More information about the RAHAB programs and the RAHAB Minor Safe House is available at

RAHAB Ministries <https://youtu.be/I1-ghGJGzJo>  
Minor Safe House <https://youtu.be/ShOeLYT5wT8>

**Please join in supporting our youth globally and locally with your contribution on Sunday, May 31.**

*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.



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