

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost



**June 14, 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, then you can find a copy of today's bulletin on our church website at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org).*

Opening Voluntary      There Is a Happy Land      Arr. Dale Wood  
Bob Carlyon, Guest Organist

\*Call to Worship      Kate Clark

Jesus Christ summons us to answer God's call of mercy.

**Christ gathers us and gives us power to be healed and to heal,**  
to be forgiven and to forgive, to be freed from sin and to set others free,  
**to tell one another and the world: God's presence is at hand.**  
Let us worship God.

\*Hymn 488      The God of Abraham Praise      LEONI

1. The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above; The ancient of eternal days, The God of love!  
The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven confessed,  
We bow before Your holy name, Forever blest.
2. Your spirit still flows free, High surging where it will;  
In prophet's word you spoke of old And you speak still.  
Established is Your law, And changeless it shall stand,  
Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea, or land.

3. You have eternal life Implanted in the soul;  
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While ages roll.  
We praise You, living God! We praise your holy name;  
The first, the last, beyond all thought, And still the same!

## ENCOUNTER

### Call to Confession

The mystery of God brings the promise of life, but we doubt the Spirit's power to overcome death. The resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son, reveals that nothing is impossible with God. Let us confess our sin and receive new life.

### Prayer of Confession

**Triune God, Holy Three, Holy One, we confess that we do not know how to look for you. We do not sense your nearness, and if there are angels among us, we are unaware. We do not show the hospitality to strangers that Abraham showed to you. We do not trust that our hardships can be transformed by your Spirit. O Covenant-keeper, forgive us. Let us laugh with joy because your grace has made peace among us. Send us out with this good news so that others will also receive your blessing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

Christ gave his life to save us.  
**Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**  
Trust the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

\*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

Jesus gathered the disciples and gave them authority to heal the sick, cast out evil, and proclaim the good news. Let us present our offerings for the mission of the church, bearing witness to the kingdom of God.

Musical Reflection      Something for Thee

Craig Courtney  
Paul Stewart, Baritone

*Savior, Thy dying love Thou gavest me,  
Nor should I aught withhold, Dear Lord, from Thee:  
In love my soul would bow, My heart fulfill its vow,  
Some offering bring Thee now, Something for Thee.*

*At the blest mercy seat Pleading for me,  
My feeble faith looks up, Jesus, to Thee:  
Help me the cross to bear, Thy wondrous love declare,  
Some song to raise, or prayer, Something for Thee.*

*All that I am and have--Thy gifts so free  
In joy, in grief, through life, Dear Lord, for Thee!  
And when Thy face I see, My ransomed soul shall be  
Through all eternity, Something for Thee.*

\*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

God of redemption, summon us to Sarah's joy, Abraham's wonder, and Paul's confident hope through the word and work of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

1 The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. 2 He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. 3 He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. 4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on-since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." 7 Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. 8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. 9 They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." 10 Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" 13 The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' 14 Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." 15 But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

The Second Lesson

Genesis 21:1-7

Old Testament

1 The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. 2 Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. 3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. 4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. 6 Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." 7 And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

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

Sermon

Plot Twists

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

**SERVE**

\*Affirmation of Faith

from Heidelberg Catechism

**I believe that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son. I trust God so much that I do not doubt God will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity God sends upon me in this sad world. God is able to do this because he is almighty God and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.**

### Prayers of the People

Eternal, birthing God, you bring all things visible and invisible into being.

We pray for the earth you created... *[silence]*

Your Spirit brooded over creation like a mother bird. Heal the oceans' dead zones, the rain forests' slashed and burnt scars, and the gashed firmament. Lead your people to be good shepherds of your world's life.

We pray for all the people of the earth... *[silence]*

You placed Adam and Eve in your Eden to live together in happiness and mutual caring - creature and creator corresponding to one another and living in love with you. Bring your peace, justice, and compassion to every household, village, city, and nation. Bind up the wounds of racial hatred; break the bows of poverty, disease, and hunger; speak your "Be still!" to wars of religion and ideology.

We pray for women and children... *[silence]*

Eve bore Cain with your help and Sarah gave birth to laughter. Protect women during pregnancy, childbirth, and child rearing. Provide safe homes and safe workplaces, safe health care and safe nations, where life is received with joy and nurtured to maturity.

We pray for women whom you call to other missions... *[silence]*

You called the prophet Miriam to dance and sing on the shores of victory and Judge Deborah to lead Israel out of Canaan's grasp. The risen Lord called Mary Magdalene and sent her to be the first eyewitness apostle. Grant your people wisdom to respect the gifts you give for the common good.

We pray for you to bring the fullness of the age you promise... *[silence]*

Holy Trinity, giver of love, life, and future, we cannot dream what you see; we cannot imagine what you can do. Help us to be patient and faithful as we look forward to the new life you began and will complete through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

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 426      Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

CANONBURY

1.     Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
      In living echoes of Thy tone;  
      As Thou hast sought, So let me seek  
      Thine erring children lost and lone.
2.     O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
      The wandering and the wavering feet;  
      O feed me, Lord, That I may feed  
      Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.
3.     O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
      The precious things Thou dost impart;  
      And wing my words, that they may reach  
      The hidden depths of many a heart.
4.     O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,  
      Until my very heart o'erflow  
      In kindling thought and glowing word,  
      Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.
5.     O use me, Lord, use even me,  
      Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;  
      Until Thy blessed face I see,  
      Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

\*Charge and Benediction

Live without fear.  
Live in the peace of Christ.  
Live in the hope of the Spirit.

May the three persons of the Trinity surround you.  
The hand of God keep you from all harm;  
the Spirit of God guide you in all joy;  
and the Son of God deliver you to eternal life.

Voluntary

Trumpet Tune

Henry Purcell

*Funding for today's soloist was provided by the  
Brideweser Music Endowment fund.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Our Guest Organist Today**

*Bob Carlyon has been involved in church music for the past 55 years, retiring from the UU Church of Akron in December of 2019. Previously he served Fairlawn-West UCC as director of music for over 20 years.*

*He is now happy to be a member of the Westminster Choir!*

*In addition, he taught music for 35 years, retiring from Revere Local Schools in 2014. Bob is the vocal director for the Revere Players and has assisted in producing 25 musicals at Revere High School, most recently Shrek, which due to the pandemic never made it to the stage.*

**The Flowers In The Chancel** are given by Polly Fisher and family in loving memory of Tom Fisher for his birthday.

**Virtual VBS 2020** is going to happen! Won't You Be My Neighbor? Will be online and the link for it will be sent to you on Sunday, July 5. Register first at our website (look under education, children & teens). Once registered, sign-up for a time slot during which you will drive through the back-door church parking lot (on July 5 or 6) to collect the supplies and instructions you will need. We will be building virtual neighborhood, one building at a time. We will be sending a large box home with you that will be turned into a building in our neighborhood. Once created by your inventive child send a picture of it and we will "make" a neighborhood with all the pictures. We will also be thinking about what it takes to be a good neighbor through music, bible stories and added activities.

We remain a community even if we can't meet together now, and we look to leaders who show compassion and empathy, like Fred Rogers. We may be physically distant but we don't want to be socially distant. Join us online!

*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."*

When visiting the church, please remember that there is a two person limit for any activity, either indoor or outside. We ask that you observe appropriate social distancing guidelines by granting others at least six feet of space. We also request that you wear a mask while inside the church building. Hand sanitizer stations are available for your convenience. Thank you for your understanding as we seek to keep our community safe and healthy during the current pandemic.

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, Sheila Svoboda, Claudine Schooley, Mallory Gray and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Pastor Jon, Mallory Gray, 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](http://www.westminsterakron.org)