

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost



**July 12, 2020
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

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

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. Today, we will be celebrating The Sacrament of Holy Communion together. Please have your bread and juice nearby and be prepared to partake at the appropriate time.

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.

COME

Opening Voluntary Simple Gifts Arr. Virgil Fox

*Call to Worship Matthew 11:28-29 Kara Hauerwas

Come, all you who carry heavy burdens, and Christ will give you rest.
**For he is gentle and humble in heart: in him we will find rest for
our souls.**

*Hymn 267 All Things Bright and Beautiful ROYAL OAK

REFRAIN All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

1. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings:
 God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings.

REFRAIN

2. The purple-headed mountain, The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning That brightens up the sky.

REFRAIN

3. The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden: God made them every one.

REFRAIN

4. God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well.

REFRAIN

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Psalm 145:14

God upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. Therefore let us confess our sins with every confidence that we will be lifted up.

Prayer of Confession

Matthew 11:28

Holy One, we confess to you and to each other that we are tired and weighted down by the mistakes we have made, even in our closest relationships with our friends, our spouses, and our partners. We give this burden to you, mindful of Jesus' promise that he will give us rest. We trust in you. 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

Psalm 145:8-9

Friends, hear the good news of our faith: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, showing compassion to all. Forgiven and freed, let us rise up with joy and share our peace with one another.

*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

Sisters and brothers, God is faithful and gracious to us, upholds us, and raises us up. Let us show our thanksgiving by giving generously to support ministries that ease burdens and give rest to those in need.

Musical Reflection *Panis Angelicus* (Bread of Heaven) César Franck
Elizabeth Crabtree and Ben Hayes, soloists

The Bread of Heaven is made the Bread of humankind today; the Living Bread from heaven does away with symbols. O miraculous thing! The body of the Lord will nourish the poor and humble servant.

Thee, therefore, we implore, O Godhead, One in Three, So may Thou visit us as we now worship Thee; And lead us on Thy way, That we at last may see The light wherein Thou dwellest eternally.

*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

Comforting God, by your Holy Spirit lift the burdens from our souls through the reading of your Word for us, that we may learn how easy it is to live in a loving relationship with you. **Amen.**

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.
107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
108 Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.
109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.
110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.
111 Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.
112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 Let anyone with ears listen!"
18 "Hear then the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

SERVE

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister offers thanksgiving for the work of God in creation and for the work of the Holy Spirit.

Generous God, overflowing fountain of good, you made room for creatures, creating life through the mediating Son and the hovering Spirit, pouring out value on all that you made.

You honored human beings with the breath of your life, making us in your image and likeness, to care for the earth in stewardship and love, to live together in hospitality as a daily reminder of your abundance.

You crowned us with virtue and honor and are now renewing us in your image through the work of your Son. You bless inside a world of curses. You heal inside a world of wounds. You save inside a world bent on being lost. We thank, praise, and honor you.

Together let us say: **Holy, holy holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

The minister offers thanksgiving for the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Holy God, you are mighty in power yet abounding in mercy. You made a covenant with your people. You promised to renew your creation. You promised to give hope amid the sorrow, healing in place of sickness, wholeness in place of emptiness.

You stepped into our darkness in the person of Jesus Christ. Our Lord and Savior lived among us. God from the beginning of time, Jesus willingly came to live at a specific place in a specific time. He came quietly to a young unwed mother through the power of your Holy Spirit. He experienced our human joys and sorrows. The Lord of the universe became a helpless boy. He ate, he drank, he grew. He was like us but without sin.

Then the King of kings showed us how to live. He healed the sick, cared for the least of society, and took time for children. He forgave sins and performed miracles. He loved, and he served. He gave up his very life for his friends. He died the death of a criminal. Yet you raised him out of the tomb. He triumphed over death so that we too may live.

Christ is the bread of life: **When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your life, ministry, death, and resurrection, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

In one voice, let us offer the words of 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.

Words of Institution

"The bread of life." "The cup of salvation."

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer following Communion

O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace, that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills, and our works, a continual thank-offering to you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 414 As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought FOREST GREEN

1. As those of old their first-fruits brought Of vineyard, flock, and field,
 To God, the giver of all good, The source of bounteous yield.
 So we today our first-fruits bring, The wealth of this good land:
 Of farm and market, shop and home, Of mind and heart and hand.
2. A world in need now summons us To labor, love, and give,
 To make our life an offering To God that all may live.
 The church of Christ is calling us To make the dream come true:
 A world redeemed by Christ-like love, All life in Christ made new.

3. With gratitude and humble trust We bring our best to you,
Not just to serve Your cause, but share Your love with neighbors too.
O God who gave Yourself to us In Jesus Christ Your Son,
Help us to give ourselves each day Until life's work is done.

***Charge and Benediction**

Sisters and brothers, sow the gospel wherever you go -
not judging the soil on which you stand -
for God brings forth fruit from unexpected places.

May God, whose forgiveness is boundless,
the Christ, whose charge is freedom,
the Spirit, which grants us life and peace,
keep our minds and hearts in grateful communion
as we seek to serve.

Voluntary *Allegro* (Sonata No. 3 in D Major) Georg Philipp Telemann

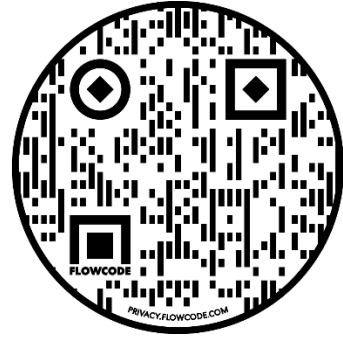
*Funding for today's soloists was provided by the
Seiberling Music Endowment fund.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers In The Chancel are given by Phil Fry in memory of his parents,
Foster H. and Beverly Jeanne Fry.

Thursday Bible Study A second series of Zoom Bible studies is offered at 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays in July, beginning July 2. Our topic is the short story of Ruth who was the great-grandmother of King David. Now would be an excellent time to treat yourself to a summer Bible study. Contact Rae Leonard at leonardrae4@gmail.com or 330-256-9316 so she can send you the link. Please forward this to anyone else we may have missed that you know might be interested.

Giving 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" and use this QR Code.



From Session

On June 23, Session voted to approve resuming in-person on site activities, indoors or outside for groups of up to ten individuals. Individuals are asked to wear a mask when in the church building, observe social distancing guidelines, and utilize hand-sanitizing stations. In-person worship services will continue to be suspended through August 31. Bible studies, committee, staff and Session meetings will continue via Zoom. Small groups may meet if everyone in the group agrees to an in-person meeting and proper social distancing is maintained. If you are a committee moderator, please contact Claudine in our main office regarding scheduling a meeting.

The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Staff schedule in the office: **Monday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Tuesday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, Mallory Gray and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, Mallory Gray, 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