

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



**July 5, 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.

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 Duet on "Melita" Arr. John Innes
Valerie Thorson, piano Bob Carlyon, organ

*Call to Worship Harriet Chapman

Beloved of God, the winter is past,
the flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come.
Let us lift our voices in praise to our Creator.

*Hymn 564 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies MATERNA

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed true grace on thee,
And grant thy good be understood
From sea to shining sea!

2. O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat, Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!
3. O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!
4. O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed true grace on thee,
And grant thy good be understood
From sea to shining sea!

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Jesus said: Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we marvel at the thought of a well-fitted yoke, a burden scaled to match our frames; we do not know how to rest in the promise of such labor. Some of us are weary from unceasing responsibility; others find no welcome in the marketplace. We confound your vision for our common life. Forgive our blind striving, our stifled concern, the judgments we cast on others. Make yourself known to us in the silence. Shape your children for the commonwealth of your love. In Jesus' name we pray. 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, hear this gospel word: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. I declare to you now, in the name of Jesus Christ, that your sin is forgiven. You have been freed for service in his name.

*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 from Genesis 24:58

When Rebekah's family asked whether she would yield her life to God's purposes, she answered, "I will." Every day each of us is challenged by that same question. May the offerings we now bring symbolize our yielding.

Musical Reflection Let There Be Peace on Earth Sy Miller
Elizabeth Crabtree and Paul Stewart, soloists

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, The peace that was meant to be.*

*With God, our creator, Neighbors all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me, Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally,
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

*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

Merciful God, in this moment of stillness, wash us clean of our presumptions. Receive us as your weary children. Then, by the power of your Spirit, bless us with a word that revives, for we pray in the name of Jesus, your living Word.
Amen.

The First Lesson

Psalm 145:8-14

Old Testament

8 The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **9** The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. **10** All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you. **11** They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, **12** to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. **13** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. **14** The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

The Second Lesson

Matthew 11:25-30

New Testament

25 At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; **26** yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. **27** All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. **28** "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

Sermon "The Yoke of Freedom"

The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

from Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in

the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the Lord. “Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Prayers of the People

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire us to care for our environment and be attuned to where the earth is crying out for care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our ruler and guide, as we celebrate our nation’s independence, grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties with righteousness and peace, and work together for the common good. Inspire those in positions of authority to act with compassion, hearing and responding to the voices of those who live on the margins of society. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of grace, through the yoke of freedom that is Jesus Christ, set us free from our bondage to self, finding our true freedom in growing in the knowledge and love of you, and pursuing the goodness and well being of our neighbor. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are sick, lonely, or grieving, that in you they may find rest for their souls.

We pray for for all whom we name in our hearts. (*Silence*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died, whom we remember now in our hearts. Keep us steadfast in our faith, and renew our trust in your promise that nothing can separate us from your love, which will always have the last word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 562 Eternal Father, Strong to Save MELITA

1. Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm has bound the restless wave,
 Who bade the mighty ocean deep Its own appointed limits keep:
 O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.
2. O Savior, whose almighty word The wind and waves submissive heard,
 Who walked upon the foaming deep, And calm amid its rage did sleep:
 O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.
3. O Holy Spirit, who did brood Upon the chaos wild and rude,
 And bade its angry tumult cease, And gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
 O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.
4. O Trinity of love and power, All travelers guard in danger's hour;
 From rock and tempest, fire and foe, Protect them where-so-e'er they go;
 Thus evermore shall rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

*Charge and Benediction

Voluntary Duet on "The Battle Hymn" Innes

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby

We are pleased to welcome The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby to Westminster's pulpit today. Sandy serves as the Pastor of Furnace Street Mission. She worked for BFGoodrich for 18 years before following the call to ordained ministry.

The Flowers In The Chancel are given by Eleanor Humphrey and family in loving memory of Ed Humphrey. The second bunch of flowers in the chancel is donated by Rosemary Wright to commemorate her husband, Larry Zarrilli's July 9 birthday. He was born in 1915 and was a longtime member of Westminster Presbyterian church until his death in 2011.

July/August Script We are currently preparing a Script church newsletter for July 15 through August 31. To have your articles included in this publication, we ask that you provide submissions by Wednesday, July 8 to Claudine at wpcoffice1250@gmail.com.

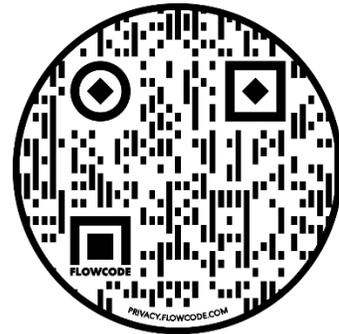
Thursday Bible Study A second series of Zoom Bible studies will be offered at 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays in July, beginning July 2. Our topic will be the short story of Ruth who was the great-grandmother of King David. Now would be an excellent time to treat yourself to a summer Bible study. 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. [Note: if you have been attending the June Thursday Bible Study, you do not need to contact Rae. She will send you a link on Wednesday.]

Renew Your Wedding Vows Love is in the air at Westminster! We invite you to renew your wedding vows with Pastor Jon during our livestream service on Sunday July 26 at 10:30 am. All couples are invited to participate in this virtual renewal. Valerie will be playing wedding music for the opening and closing Voluntaries, and Paul and Valerie Stewart will sing a special duet. We also encourage you to send us pictures of your wedding and/or special Anniversaries. Please let us know if you have a milestone anniversary approaching, so we can share in your joy. We will post the pictures on the WPC website so that we may all enjoy them on this special Sunday. For those of you who may have lost your partner/husband/wife, we still would love to see and share your pictures! Send your pictures to Mallory Gray at wpcsmmedia1250@gmail.com

First Sunday Drive-In/Drop-Off Food Collection First Sunday Food Collection will resume today, July 5 between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., as a "Drive-in/Drop-off" event. We hope to collect enough non-perishables to pack grocery bags with items to prepare a complete meal serving families of 2 to 4

individuals for distribution on the third Sunday. The Outreach Committee is requesting the following non-perishable items: spaghetti, canned spaghetti sauce, boxed macaroni and cheese, canned tuna and chicken, peanut butter (plastic jar), vegetable and chicken noodle soup, canned beef stew, beans and franks, and canned fruits and vegetables. [Note: No glass containers please.] Please share your blessings with a donation to serve the "least of these." Our Youth Group will be waiting in the driveway to accept your donation. If you are picking up VBS materials, feel free to drop-off your food donation at your scheduled pick up time. Thank you in advance for your generosity on behalf of VBS, WPC Youth Group, and the Outreach Committee.

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. 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.



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