

11th Sunday After Pentecost



**August 16, 2020
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

**or on Monday on our church
website at
westminsterakron.org**

*We welcome you to Westminster's
online 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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

E.L. Diemer

*Call to Worship

Brad Hall

God has forgiven us and drawn us close,
reconciling us through Jesus Christ,
who lavished upon us the fullness of the blessed Holy Spirit.
With glad and grateful hearts, praise the Lord!

*Hymn 139

Come, Thou Almighty King

ITALIAN HYMN

1. Come, Thou almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise: O Lord, all-glorious,
O'er all victorious, Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of days.

2. Come Thou Incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend: Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success; Spirit of holiness,
On us descend.
3. Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour: Thou who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart, And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.
4. To Thee, great One in Three, The highest praises be,
Hence evermore! Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see, And to eternity
Love and adore.

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins without fear to the One who yearns to embrace us, forgive us, protect us, and bless us.

Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus. We are dismayed at your presence, anguished by the awful fallout of our own failures. We cannot take back what we have said or undo what we have done or atone for the agony we have caused. We are haunted by the past, plagued by the present, and fearful of the future. We shrink away from your gaze as strangers outside your circle of blessing. Yet the faith you have planted in us reaches out for your favor, returns to your presence, and hungers for your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence is observed.

Response 574	Lord, Have Mercy	<i>Kyrie</i>
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.		

Assurance of Forgiveness

Our God forgives our sins, preserves our lives, and restores our souls through the abundant provision of our Lord Jesus Christ. Receive now that for which faith has hungered: you are forgiven and healed in the name of Jesus the Christ.

*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

Christ has provided us with his own table of blessings. Abundance overflows! Let us offer our gifts together from the bounty God has given.

Musical Reflection I'll Walk with God Nicholas Brodsky
Joel Rhoads, soloist

I'll walk with God from this day on, God's helping hand I'll lean upon, This is my prayer, my humble plea, May the Lord be ever with me. There is no death, though eyes grow dim, There is no fear where'er I've been. I'll lean on God forever, the Lord will forsake me never. God will not fail me as long as my faith is strong, whatever road I may walk along; I'll walk with God, I'll take God's hand, I'll ask the Lord to understand; I'll pray to God, each day to God, to hear the words that I say. God's hand will guide my whole life long, And I'll never walk alone while I walk with God.

*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 Savior, your suffering has saved our lives, secured our future, and restored us to relationship with God. Remove the shame and fear that cause us to cower in your presence. By the power of your Spirit, open our eyes and

hearts to your Word of love, mercy, healing, and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Psalm 133:1-3

Old Testament

- 1 How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

The Second Lesson

Genesis 45:1-15

Old Testament

1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. 4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. 10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 I will provide for you there: since there are five more years of famine to come — so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ 12 And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. 13 You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” 14 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Sermon

Come Closer

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. The Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. The Spirit spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, **Lord help us. We trust in you.**

God of mercy and healing, you are the Lord of all, embracing the estranged, blessing the banished, reconciling the rejected. We cry out to you now, confident that your provision is abundantly more than enough to preserve the church, redeem the world, and deliver the tormented.
Lord help us. We trust in you.

For your people, the house of Israel, and the household of faith near and far.
Lord help us. We trust in you.
That the church may replicate your reconciliation, model your mercy, and herald your healing for all,
Lord help us. We trust in you.

For unity and harmony to flow freely among your creatures and throughout your creation,

Lord help us. We trust in you.

For reconciliation and new beginnings among estranged families, races, nations, and peoples,

Lord help us. We trust in you.

For healing for those who are tormented, rejected, marginalized, fearful, forgotten, cast off,

Lord help us. We trust in you.

For those whose names we now silently lift in your presence,

Lord help us. We trust in you.

For our ancestors of the faith, now kept in your care and never forgotten by you,

Lord help us. We trust in you.

We stand in your circle of favor, embraced by you, healed by you, blessed by you, remembered by you, secured by you, grateful for your loving care. **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 438

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

1. Blest be the tie that binds
 Our hearts in Christian love:
 The fellowship of kindred minds
 Is like to that above.
2. Before our Maker's throne
 We pour our ardent prayers;
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
 Our comforts and our cares.

3. We share each other's woes,
Each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.
4. From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

***Charge and Benediction**

The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
God has gifted you with forgiveness
and graced you with reconciliation.
Go now and share God's gifts
with the distressed and estranged.
Christ has called you close to him and healed you.
Go now and call others
to receive Christ's mercy and healing.

And may the God who forgives, reconciles, heals, and blesses be with you this day
and forevermore.

Voluntary

Toccata on "St. Anne"

Page C. Long

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers In The Chancel are given by Jim Mismas and Bruce Stebner in loving memory of Jim's mother, Ann Mismas.

White Roses Last Sunday, we had a white rose in worship in memory of Martha Nelson. The white rose on the pedestal today is in memory of Robert Pierson who entered eternal life on August 9. He was 96 years old.

Sunday's Worship Service On The Website Given Mallory's departure from our staff team, Sunday's worship service will be uploaded onto the church website on Monday mornings beginning August 17. If you have photographs of church activities to share for communication purposes, please continue to send them to wpcsmmedia1250@gmail.com.

All Adults Survey The Discipleship Committee invites all WPC adults to respond to this 2-question survey about socially distanced fellowship opportunities. We know many of our members are lonely and seeking connection, and we are exploring ways to make this happen safely. All responses are anonymous (unless you identify yourself in the second question).
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K7CL9RS>

Anna Marie Wilton's Farewell With sadness, we announce the departure of Anna Marie Wilton who is relocating to the Pittsburgh area on August 25 to reside near family. A tireless volunteer and long-time member of Westminster, Anna Marie was recently presented with a gift from the bell choir. Pictured in this image alongside her is Zack Troyer, our bell choir director. We all wish you much happiness for the journey that lies ahead. You will be deeply missed.



Anna Marie with Zack

Monthly Financial Report

July 2020	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$55,268.40	\$54,724.75	\$362,649.83	*\$372,205.05
Total Expenses	\$38,903.56	\$48,452.75	\$288,999.59	\$361,459.51
Net	\$16,364.84	\$6,272.00	\$73,650.24	\$10,745.54

*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 July 31, 2020.

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, and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon and Claudine Schooley.



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