

[illegible]

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

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.

COME

*Call to Worship Harriet Chapman

With thanksgiving, praise the Lord!

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither, and perish, but naught changeth Thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to the Lord of all, who is generous to all who call upon God's name.

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we call upon you. Save us! We are intimidated by our circumstances, distracted from your purposes, drowning in doubts and fears. We are presumptuous about your will, belittling others and magnifying ourselves. We envy the blessings of others, secretly despising their dreams. We have hardened our hearts to the suffering of our brothers and sisters, feeding ourselves in the face of injustice that holds them captive. Lord Jesus, who searches our hearts, lift us from sin and help us to walk with you in faith, humility, and brotherly-sisterly love. 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

Our God sees all, knows all, forgives all, restores all through our Lord Jesus Christ. No one who believes in him will be put to shame, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

*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

Musical Reflection Come unto Him (*Messiah*) G.F. Handel
Valerie Niese Stewart, soloist

Come unto Him, all ye that labor; Come unto Him, ye that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

*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 our present troubles and promised triumph, open our eyes to see you in the midst of our struggles. Open our ears to hear your words of invitation and assurance. Open our minds to recall your wonderful works and miracles. Open our hearts to glory in your name and seek strength in your Word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
 - 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
 - 3 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
 - 4 Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
 - 5 Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
 - 6 O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
the ruler of the peoples set him free.
- 45b Praise the Lord!

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." 28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

Invitation

Come to this table: you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

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 Christ.

We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and calling us to be your people. We thank you that you did not abandon us in our rebellion against your love, but sent prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. Above all we thank you for sending Jesus, your Son, to deliver us from the way of sin and death by the obedience of his life, by his suffering upon the cross, and by his resurrection from the dead. We praise you that he now reigns with you in glory and ever lives to pray for us.

Together let us say: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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

We thank you for the Holy Spirit, who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and out of every people unites us into one holy church. God of all power, send your Holy Spirit among us, that in sharing the bread we may share in the bread of life, and that in sharing the cup we may share in the cup of salvation. Grant that, being joined together in Christ Jesus, we may become united in faith and in all things grow in discipleship to the glory of Christ, our Lord.

Spirit, come - come and live in us: **in this bread, in this cup, in your people, one with Christ, one in ministry, in this place, in every place; in this world, in the world to come.**

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 Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

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

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 538 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing SICILIAN MARINERS

1. Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
 Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
 Let us each, Thy love possessing,
 Triumph in redeeming grace.
 O refresh us, O refresh us, Traveling through this wilderness.
2. Thanks we give and adoration
 For Thy gospel's joyful sound;
 May the fruits of Thy salvation
 In our hearts and lives abound.
 Ever faithful, Ever faithful to the truth may we be found.
3. So that when Thy love shall call us,
 Savior, from the world away,
 Let no fear of death appall us,
 Glad Thy summons to obey,
 May we ever, May we ever Reign with Thee in endless day.

*Charge and Benediction

Keep alert,
stand firm in your faith,

be courageous, be strong.
let all that you do be done in love.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Voluntary

Allegro from Sonata in B Minor

G.F. Handel

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Westminster is saddened to announce the death of Martha Nelson on August 6.

A beloved member of our congregation for 62 years, Martha has now entered eternal life. Our prayers are with her husband, Roger, in addition to the extended Nelson family. Information regarding a memorial service will follow at a later time.

The Flowers In The Chancel are given by Cathy, Kevin, and Zoe Melver in honor of Zoe's grandparents, the Wards and the Melvers.

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>

Mallory's Farewell

Dear WPC Family,

It comes with both sadness and excitement I share with you that I have been unexpectedly offered a full-time position. To quote my husband's favorite movie, it's an offer I can't refuse. As such, I will be stepping down as Youth and Media Coordinator at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Westminster has a vibrant group of youth and children. I have thoroughly

enjoyed watching them grow and grow in faith. Pre-pandemic, we were lining up to do more great things for our community and others. As members and parents, now is the time to keep your children connected. When in-person worship and activities are back up and running, volunteering to help our children make an impact on the world will be rewarding for both you and them!

As both a member and a parent, I plan to do the same.

I will miss working with all of the wonderful staff here at WPC, though happy to still see you once we return to church! I am grateful for my time as an employee of Westminster and feel blessed to have been part of such a wonderful team.

Many blessings

Mallory D. Gray, Youth Director & Media Coordinator

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.

Last update from Session on COVID-19

On July 22, our Session met to discuss the possibility of resuming in-person worship. At that time, the determination was made that we would not meet face-to-face until the State of Ohio reports a significant decrease in new COVID-19 cases for an extended period of time. For more information regarding the specifics, please visit our church website. While this long wait has been very difficult for all of us, we have chosen to pursue the present course because we wish to preserve the health, safety, and well-being of everyone in our fellowship. Westminster's leadership does not want our congregation to be known as a place of tragedy, but of hope. As Paul writes in Romans 8:24-25, "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." May God be with us in our hoping, Jon.

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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