

Remembrance Sunday



**November 1, 2020
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

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

COME

Prelude

Shall We Gather at the River?

Dale Wood

Bob Carlyon, Guest Organist

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.

*Prayer of Adoration

Harriet Chapman

God of all ages: we thank you for the faithful witness of your apostles, prophets, and martyrs throughout the history of your church and through the world even today.

Through their witness we see and hear your truth.

We bless you for all who bless your name through their writing, speaking, art, and music.

Through their work we glimpse your beauty.

We praise you for all who serve you without recognition or honor, offering encouragement to the lonely, the sick, and the fearful.

Through their lives we see your faithfulness and sense your comfort.

Now we pray that you will use even us to reflect the glory we see in Christ.
May the voices of all your saints, made holy in Christ, swell in joyous praise to you, the giver of all good gifts, through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Hymn

Shall We Gather at the River

TRADITIONAL



1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod;
2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3. Ere we reach the shining riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4. Soon we'll reach the shining riv - er, Soon our pil - grimage will cease;



With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?
 We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.
 Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.
 Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - tiful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

In the face of God's goodness we recognize our failings. Yearning for God's mercy, let us tell the truth about our lives, that we might receive grace in time of need.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you call us your own children and cover us with your love. We would seek to be merciful as you are, and to show compassion as you do, but we fail to live the life to which we have been called. Where we ought to forgive, we condemn; the evil we should shun, we embrace. Forgive our sinful ways, tame our

wayward wills, and make us more like Christ, until we are raised in perfection on the last day. 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, no one who takes refuge in God will be condemned. Believe the good news! In Jesus Christ, we 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. 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

How can we withhold our gifts of gratitude in the face of such wondrous love? With glad and generous hearts, let us bring our offerings to God.

Anthem Abide with Me Arr. Malcolm Archer

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide; When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, Its glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes. Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies; Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Lord abide with me.

*Response 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

In your Word, O God, show us heaven. By your Spirit; show us truth; through Christ, the Living Word, in whom we see your face. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Revelation 7:9-12, 16-17 New Testament

- 9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.
- 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
- 11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
- 12 singing,
“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”
- 16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
- 17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The Second Lesson Matthew 5:1-12 New Testament

- 1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
- 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Sermon

To Be a Blessing

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

The church is a gathering of forgiven sinners called to be holy. Saved by the patient grace of God, we deal patiently with others and together confess our need for grace and forgiveness. Restored in Christ’s presence, shaped by his life, this new community lives out the ongoing story of God’s reconciling love, announces the new creation, and works for a world of justice and peace. We long for that day when our bodies are raised, the Lord wipes away our tears, and we dwell forever in the presence of God. We will take our place in the new creation, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, and the Lord will be our light.

Prayers of the People

Loving and faithful God, we bless you for calling us to be a holy people, living for you in service to each other for the sake of your world. We pray that our congregation will experience the rich and free sharing of the gifts you have generously given us. Knowing that we are called to be saints, we humbly ask that you will work powerfully through us to accomplish your purposes in the

world. We pray for the courage, the patience, and the generosity of spirit that comes from imitating the love you have shown us in Christ. We long for your Spirit's power to make us more Christlike in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Help us to think of others and their needs even now as we pray for creation, in its groaning... the world, in its suffering... our nation and city, in their need of healing... We pray in the name of Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.**



Service of Praise and Remembrance

Today, we celebrate the saints of our church by reading the names of church members who have died in the past year, and by placing a stone on the Communion table in their honor.

*Hymn 526

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

***Singing: For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee, by faith, before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;***

**Thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight;
Thou in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and the sea was no more. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying:

See the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be God’s people, and the Lord will be with them; God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. For death will be no more.”

Almighty God, you alone are good and holy. Purify our lives and make us brave disciples. We do not ask you to keep us safe, but to keep us loyal. Inspire us, by the remembrance of those faithful who went before us, that even in their sin and shortcomings they turned to your throne of mercy and found in you the grace that was sufficient for their day.

We give you thanks for all your servants and witnesses from times past: for Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Aaron, Samuel and Hannah, David, Isaiah, and all of the prophets. We give you thanks for Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, John the Baptist and the Twelve Disciples; for Mary and Martha, and Mary Magdalene.

For Stephen and for all who have given their lives for Christ throughout the ages. For Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin, and John Knox; for all reformers and evangelists of our faith.

And now, O Lord, for all those from this Body of Christ, known as Westminster Presbyterian Church, who have fought the good fight, finished their race, and to whom there has been given the crown of glory in your holy presence.

Singing: O blest communion, fellowship divine!
**We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Great God we give you thanks for those from our fold who this past year entered into your Church Triumphant. In the light of your eternal Spirit we remember:

The carillon will ring for each person.

Mary Ann StrassburgJanuary 23, 2020
 Charles J. PearsonMay 16, 2020
 Mary Jo StasellJune 25, 2020
 The Reverend Dr. Harry W. Eberts, Jr.July 12, 2020
 Martha Dixon NelsonAugust 7, 2020
 Robert Hebert Pierson, Sr.August 9, 2020
 Harriet Yount CutlerAugust 21, 2020
 William Eugene (Gene) DickersonAugust 24, 2020
 Regina (Gina) Rheinegger DickersonSeptember 21, 2020

God Eternal, we celebrate the Communion of the Saints in all ages and give thanks for the ties with which you bind us to the ones who have gone ahead, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Singing: From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Charge and Benediction

United as one body in Christ, our Lord, turn your minds and hearts toward each other in love so that you may rest in God's eternal love, at peace with those who have gone before us, at peace with those around us, and trusting in God's peace for those yet to come. Receive now this blessing from our God, the God of the past, the present, and the future:

Grace and peace to you, from him who is, who was, and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Postlude

Voluntary in D Major

J.K.F. Fischer



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Carlyon's bio

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. In addition he taught music for 35 years, retiring from Revere Local Schools in 2014. He is now a happy member of the Westminster choir!

Children Ministries on Saturday, October 24. The children decorated Pumpkins and had a parade to Rockynol.





The Flowers in the Chancel are given by Loren and Rebecca Pool in celebration of their 46th wedding anniversary.

First Sunday Food Drive-In/Drop-Off Collection is today, November 1 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thank you for your generosity!

Today Sunday, November 1st daylight saving time ends.

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of November 1–7, 2020

Sunday, 11/1 Remembrance Sunday
Daylight Saving Time Ends

9:00 am Youth Meeting via Zoom
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
9:45 am Tween Sunday School via Zoom
10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live

Monday, 11/2

7:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday 11/5

9:30 am Staff Meeting via Zoom
7:00 pm Adult Education via Zoom

Friday 11/6

9:00 am Membership Meeting via Zoom

Saturday 11/7

8:00 am Food for Life (Kitchen)

Giving Online During these difficult times, the church remains grateful for your faithful support. To give electronically on WPC website click under the tab "online giving" and use this QR Code.



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, Adam Kalcic, and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, and Adam Kalcic.



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