

# 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost



**October 25, 2020  
at 10:30 a.m.  
on Facebook **Live****

**or on our church website at  
[westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org)**

## COME

Opening Voluntary

Now Pray We Christ

Dietrich Buxtehude

*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](http://westminsterakron.org).*

\*Call to Worship

Jacquie Mabry

People of God, worship the living God today! Remember that out of nothing God created the heavens and earth.

**Remember that God raised Jesus from the powerlessness of death to the power of God's right hand.**

Nothing can stand against God's purposes.

**Behold your God, who reigns now and forever!**

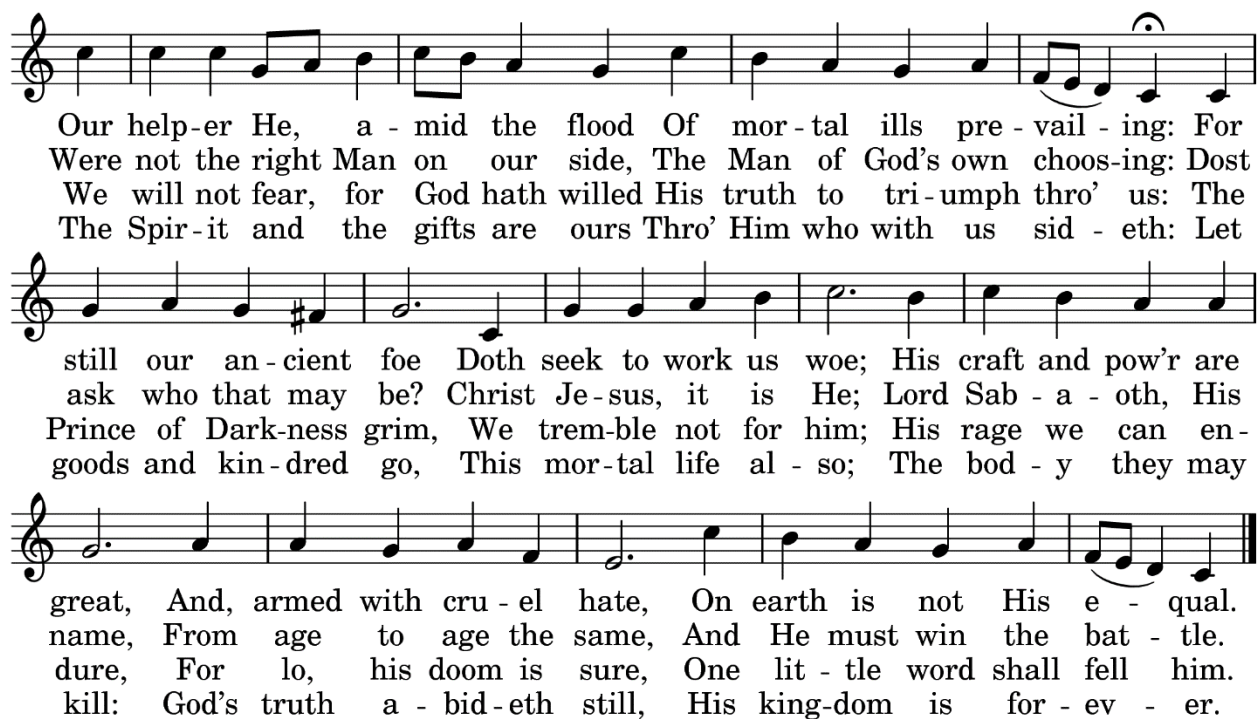
\*Hymn 260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG



1. A might-y for - tress is our God, A bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los - ing;
3. And tho' this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat-en to un - do us,
4. That word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help-er He, a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: For  
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos-ing: Dost  
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri-umph thro' us: The  
 The Spir-it and the gifts are ours Thro' Him who with us sid - eth: Let  
 still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and pow'r are  
 ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is He; Lord Sab - a - oth, His  
 Prince of Dark-ness grim, We trem-ble not for him; His rage we can en-  
 goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al - so; The bod - y they may  
 great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not His e - qual.  
 name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.  
 dure, For lo, his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 kill: God's truth a - bid-eth still, His king-dom is for - ev - er.

## ENCOUNTER

### Call to Confession

In the presence of God's holiness, we recognize our own lack of holiness. God is light and truth, yet we often live among shadows and lies. People of God, let us acknowledge who and whose we are; let us ask our powerful God to illumine us with grace and truth in Jesus, our Lord.

### Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated that involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalist than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. 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

Beloved ones, believe again the gospel, that in Christ we are accepted as we are. Believe that we are forgiven, loved with the delight of a nursing mother cherishing her child. Believe that we are the church, the body of Christ, called to love one another as gentle children of God. Friends, be at peace and know that in 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.**

Moment for Ministry    Stewardship/Marcia Holcomb

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

Trusting in God's providence, we share not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. May the offerings of our lives be acceptable and pleasing to you, O God, our Rock and our Redeemer.

Anthem                                      Thy Perfect Love                                      John Rutter

*Jesu, my joy, my love, my rest, Thy perfect love close in my breast, That I thee love and never rest; And make me love thee of all things best, And wounde my heart in thy love free, That I may reign in joy evermore with thee. (15<sup>th</sup> century)*

\*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

Lord Jesus, your understanding of Scripture astonished and humbled all around you. Send your Spirit to illumine this Word that our understanding and wisdom may be increased. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Matthew 22:34-40

New Testament

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35 and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” 37 He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 and a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The Second Lesson

Romans 12:9-18,21

New Testament

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Sermon

Genuine

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

# SERVE

\*Affirmation of Faith

from Westminster Confession

**God was pleased, in God's eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, to be the mediator between God and human beings. As the mediator, he is the prophet, priest, and king, the head and Savior of the church, the heir of all things and the judge of the world. God gave to him, from all eternity, a people to be by him, in time, redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified. The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, purchased not only reconciliation but also an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those whom the Father has given to him.**

Prayers of the People

Holy God, you have provided all we have needed. You have walked alongside us as we have journeyed through wilderness and valley and climbed the heights of the mountain.

We have glimpsed the promised land, here, but not yet.

We lift up those who live in the shadow of disappointment, having seen the promise but not the realization.

We lift up those who live with the weight of responsibility, having carried the burden of another person's pain.

We lift up those who live in the obscurity of loneliness, having survived a torment that cannot be explained.

Empower us, empowering God, that we may be the church for them, through Christ who sustains us. **Amen.**

We pray silently.

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 555

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who  
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with  
3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven, to  
wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices; who,  
ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and  
Father and to Son and Spirit now be given: the  
from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way with  
keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed, and  
one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, the  
countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

## \*Charge and Benediction

Beloved family of God, be gracious and kind to all, modeling the love of Christ in all that you say and all that you do.

May the Lord bless you, that you may be strengthened to continue to walk in the faith that others have passed on to you, as we move forward together into the places that God has promised. Amen.

Voluntary

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Wilbur Held

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Flowers in the Chancel** are given by Sophia Louise Zito in memory of her father, Barney Barnard's birthday, and in honor of her sister, Alet Barnard's birthday.

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

## Monthly Financial Report

September 2020	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$42,243.80	\$56,657.70	\$439,652.10	*\$465,170.45
Total Expenses	\$34,423.24	\$47,551.21	\$364,949.18	\$462,011.08
Net	\$7,820.56	\$9,106.49	\$74,702.92	\$3,159.37

\*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 September 30, 2020.

## CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of October 25–31, 2020

### Sunday, 10/25

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

### Monday, 10/26

7:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom

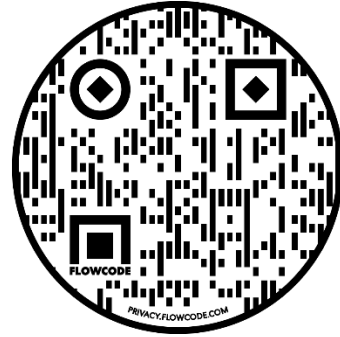
### Tuesday, 10/27

7:00 pm Session Meeting via Zoom

### Thursday 10/29

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

**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.



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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