

24th Sunday after Pentecost



**November 15, 2020
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

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

COME

Opening Voluntary

Simple Gifts

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.

*Call to Worship

Psalm 118:24

Brad Hall

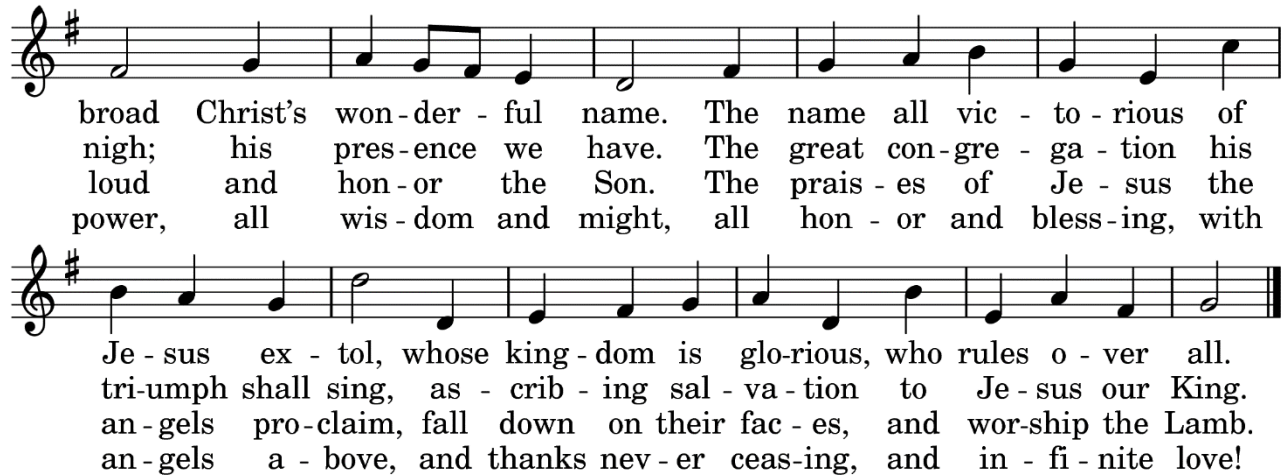
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Hymn 477

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

HANOVER

1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a -
2 As-cend-ed on high, al-might-y to save, he still re-mains
3 "Sal-va-tion to God, who sits on the throne!" Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a-dore and give him his right: all glo-ry and



ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus and his righteousness. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin that we might find forgiveness and new life in Christ.

Prayer of Confession

Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the font of all that is good. In the name of Jesus 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

Hear the good news: Nothing in life and or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Believe the gospel! 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

Freely we have received; freely we give, with gratitude and joy.

Anthem Simple Gifts Arr. Mark Schweizer

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a gift to come down where we ought to be; And when we find ourselves in a place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

'Tis a gift to be loving, 'tis a gift to be kind, 'tis a gift to leave our bitterness behind; And when we find ourselves in a place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend, we shan't be ashamed, To turn, turn, will be our delight, till by turning, turning, we come round right.

'Tis a gift to be thankful, 'tis a gift to forgive, 'tis a gift to find out how we ought to live; And when we find ourselves in a place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

*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

Lord, to whom should we go? You have the words of eternal life. By the power of your Holy Spirit, speak to us of your promises that we might hear your truth and enjoy you forever; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4,6-7

Old Testament

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

6 For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. 7 Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, "How shall we return?"

The Second Lesson

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-15

Old Testament

1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors — Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor — lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. 3a Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

14 "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

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

Sermon

Choosing the Way

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for us according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

God of life, you created the world and called it good. In Jesus Christ you came to redeem us; his resurrection is our promise of eternal life.

By the power of your Spirit you claim us, strengthen us, and prepare us to live with you in glory. In sure and certain hope, we pray for your world, that we may live into your coming reign of justice and peace.

For the church, wherever it thrives and wherever it struggles - keep us faithful to your gospel...
Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who govern - grant them wisdom and commitment to justice...
Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For planet Earth - heal its wounds and make us better stewards of its wonders and gifts...
Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are dying - calm all fears and welcome them into your peace...
Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer from anxieties and ills - give them relief...
Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who endure the days and nights without food or shelter - feed and protect them...
Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in silence - comfort those who carry secret sorrows...
Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

With thanks that you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken, we entrust all of life to you, gracious God, our Alpha and Omega, our only hope in life and in death; through Jesus Christ we pray. **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: 391

Take My Life, and Let It Be

HENDON

1 Take my life and let it be con-se-crat-ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on-ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil-ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;
take my mo-ments and my days; let them flow in
take my feet and let them be swift and beau-ti-
take my lips and let them be filled with mes-sa-
take my in-tel-lect and use ev-ery power as
cease-less praise; let them flow in cease-less praise.
ful for thee, swift and beau-ti-ful for thee.
ges from thee, filled with mes-sa-ges from thee.
thou shalt choose, ev-ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

*Charge and Benediction

Keep awake, for Christ is coming to gather us to his welcome table, where we will feast in joy.

May the grace of Christ surround you,
the love of God uphold you,
and the Holy Spirit inspire you
as you wait and work for the kingdom to come.

Postlude

Rondeau

Jean Joseph Mouret

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers in the Chancel are given by Joan Buehl and family in loving memory of Phil Buehl.

PW Fall Gathering/PW Evening Circle The fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held Monday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. If you have not received a link and would like to attend please contact Kristy Yates at 330-807-6228 or ksjyates@gmail.com.

Children Services Needs for Christmas 2020 In recent years, on Pageant day we bring gifts forward to help supply the Toy Room for Children's Services foster parents. Instead, this year, because of the pandemic they have requested gift cards in \$25.00 and lower denominations for department stores and online retailers. We will be collecting the cards on December 6 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. during the 1st Sunday Food Collection. Please be generous and bring your food contribution and gift cards that day!

Email Scam Your Pastor's email address was targeted by scammers pretending to be Pastor Jon Hauerwas. He was "spoofed". The bogus emails often include the name of the local pastor and a legitimate looking email address. But a closer look should raise some red flags! For example, the email address isn't the one normally used by your Pastor, and the service provider is different, too. The message may begin with a simple "Hi," but doesn't include a recipients' name. There also may be spelling errors, including the pastor's name. Thanks for remaining vigilant.

Monthly Financial Report

October 2020	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$42,368	\$55,725	\$482,020	*\$520,895
Total Expenses	\$46,037	\$51,555	\$410,986	\$513,566
Net	(\$3,669)	\$4,170	\$71,034	\$7,329

*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 October 31, 2020.

Today Food Distribution starts at 1:00 p.m. & the Free Hot Meal Dinner for the community is at 5:00 p.m.

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of November 15–21, 2020

Sunday, 11/15

9:15 am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 9:45 am Tween Sunday School via Zoom
 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live
 1:00 pm Food Distribution
 with Youth Group
 5:00 pm Free Hot Meal Distribution
 7:00 pm Zoom Worship Committee

Monday, 11/16

6:30 pm Zoom PW Fall Gathering &
 Evening Circle
 7:00 pm Bible Study Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, 11/18

6:00 pm Zoom Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday 11/19

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

Saturday 11/21

8:00 am Food For Life in the 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.



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