

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany



**January 31, 2021  
at 10:30 a.m.  
on Facebook **Live****

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

## COME

Opening Voluntary

Nearer, My God, to Thee

Seth Bingham

*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

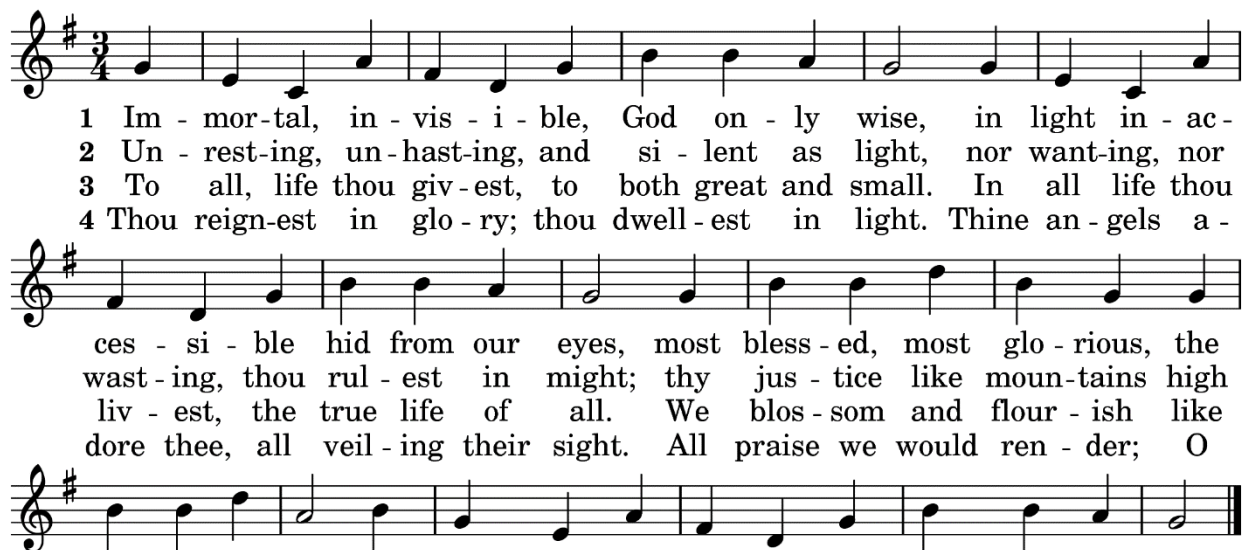
Kate Clark

Let us worship God who is the one in whom we trust.

**Let us confess with our mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead.**

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

**Let us call upon him in our heart, confess him with our mouths, and worship him in spirit and in truth.**



1 Im - mor-tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, in light in - ac -  
2 Un - rest-ing, un-hast-ing, and si - lent as light, nor want-ing, nor  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small. In all life thou  
4 Thou reign-est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light. Thine an - gels a -  
ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the  
wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; thy jus - tice like moun-tains high  
liv - est, the true life of all. We blos - som and flour - ish like  
dore thee, all veil - ing their sight. All praise we would ren - der; O  
An-cient of Days, al - might - y, vic - to-rious, thy great name we praise.  
soar-ing a - bove, thy clouds, which are foun-tains of good - ness and love.  
leaves on the tree, then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang-eth thee.  
help us to see 'tis on - ly the splen-dor of light hid - eth thee!

## ENCOUNTER

### Call to Confession

The One who pardons, heals, and strengthens all who repent calls us to name our failings and our hopes. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

### Prayer of Confession

**Holy and all-powerful God, who commands all spirits, comforts those in distress, and casts out destructive forces, we confess that we are unable to do your will. We protect what is familiar and reject what is unknown. We admire those with courage but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth. We forget that you are always with us, and that with you all things are possible. Forgive us, lead us, and make us new. Remove our desire to heed false prophets, and show us your way; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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

The God who made you and knows your every thought hears you now and forgives you all your sin. You have been redeemed through Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior, who is Alpha and Omega, all in all.

\*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

We are each in this journey together, that we might not let idols grow and multiply in our hands. So let us give of ourselves, our time, and our possessions out of love for this creation and honor toward what we have been given.

Anthem

Nearer, My God, to Thee

Arr. Charles C. Walker

*Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee! E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me; Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!*

*There let the way appear Steps unto heaven; All that Thou sendest me In mercy given: Angels to beckon me Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!*

*Then, with my waking thoughts bright with Thy praise, Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise; So by my woes to be Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee, Nearer to Thee!*

\*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

Holy Spirit, your people call out for understanding. Bring to our yearning hearts and minds the truth of your Word; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### The First Lesson

Psalm 111:1-10

Old Testament

- 1 Praise the LORD!  
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 Full of honor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.
- 4 He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.
- 5 He provides food for those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the heritage of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.
- 8 They are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever.

### The Second Lesson

Mark 1:21-28

New Testament

21 They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. 22 They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. 23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24 and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands

even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”<sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Sermon

Who You Are

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

## SERVE

\*Affirmation of Faith

Colossians 1

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things.**

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,  
**hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

For the healing of Earth and all its creatures;  
**hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

For the church’s willingness to cast out demons in its midst, for congregations that are in turmoil, for the healing of divisions between the followers of Christ Jesus;  
**hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

For leaders of nations, for those who have great wealth, for those who have too much power, for those who have destructive weapons, and for those who have none;  
**hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

For those who are victims of others’ idolatry, for children who have no one to listen to their cries for food and shelter, for parents who cannot answer the needs of their children, for peacemakers and diplomats, for those who give

through charities, and for those who use the law to make policies for the greater good;

**hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

For all who are in pain and in need of care, especially those we name in hearts before you now...

**hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

For the wisdom to fear you rightly, the power to withstand changes in our own lives that bring us closer to you, for the ability to give thanks for the people who have brought us to this time - our ancestors, our teachers, pastors, and the martyrs of every age;

**hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

Into your hands we commend all those for whom we pray and those it would be easy to forget. We ask your blessing on all your people, that we may come at last to the truth around your banquet table that has no end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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.**

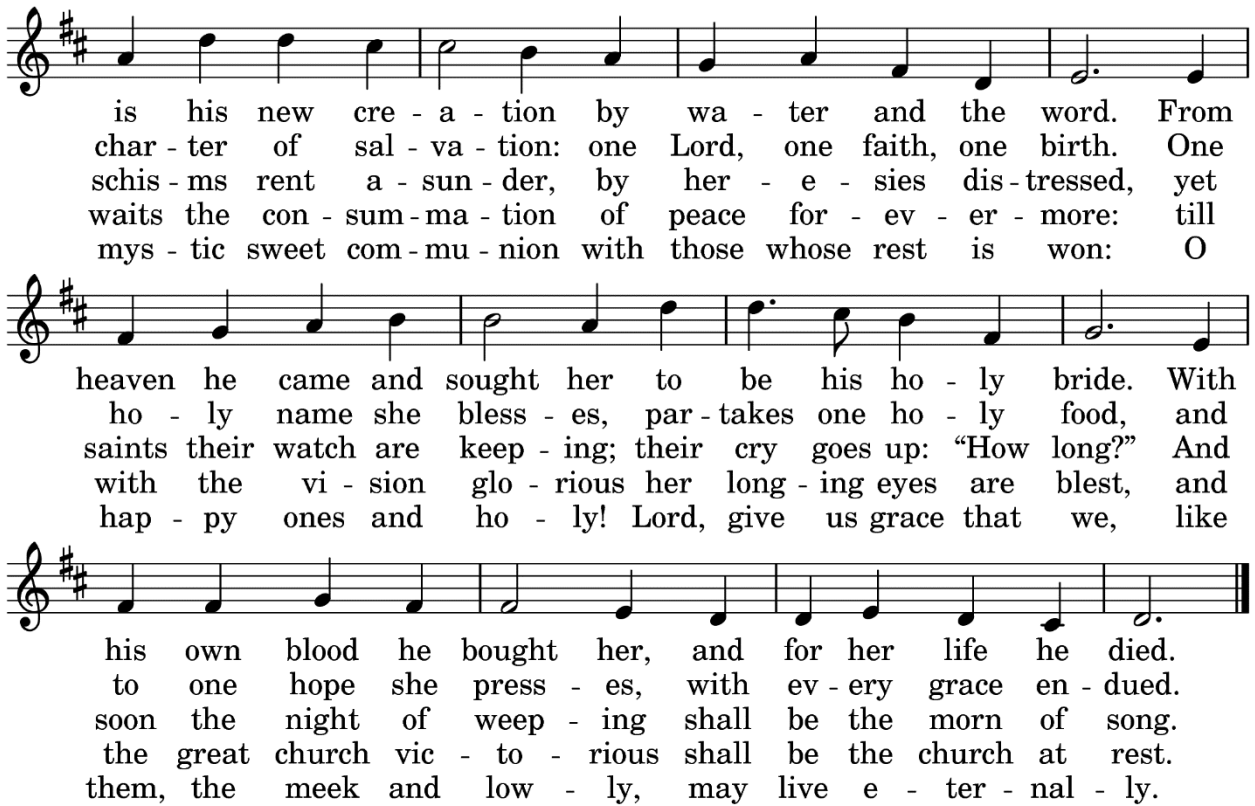
\*Hymn 442

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA



1 The chur-ch's one foun-da-tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord. She  
2 E - lect from ev - ery na-tion, yet one o'er all the earth, her  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op-pressed, by  
4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war, she  
5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One, and



is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word. From  
char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth. One  
schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed, yet  
waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more: till  
mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won: O

heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride. With  
ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food, and  
saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?" And  
with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest, and  
hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we, like

his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

### \*Charge and Benediction

We go into the world fully known by God.

Where there is fear, remember the authority of Christ Jesus.

Where there is need of love, give it.

Where there is pain, bring peace.

For you are loved by the One who redeems, and freed to live by the Word of life.

Go in peace with the knowledge that God's power is given to the church, the body of Christ, for the sake of the life of the world.

Voluntary

Postlude on "Aurelia"



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Sunday Food Collection** On February 7, 2021 the Tweens will be waiting to receive your food donation in the driveway behind the church from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Here is a list of our current needs:

- Canned Chicken
- Tuna and Hamburger Helper
- Canned Corn
- Rice Mixes like Knorr
- Pancake Mix
- Cereal (children's)
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit, Applesauce
- Canned Green Beans
- Prepared Meals like Chef-Boyardee
- Pancake Syrup
- Cocoa Packets
- Jelly

Thank you for your generous donations to this ministry. Your food donations support Good Neighbors in East Akron and the Christ Woodland food pantry in West Akron.

**Pastor on study Leave** Pastor Jon will be on study leave next week and there will be no Zoom Bible study on Monday, February 1. The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby will be preaching at Westminster on February 7.

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of January 31 - February 6, 2021	
<b>Sunday, 1/31</b> 9:00 am Youth Zoom Conversation 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 9:45 am Tween Sunday School via Zoom 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live 7:00 pm Confirmation Class via Zoom	<b>Wednesday, 2/3</b> 7:00 pm Deacon's Zoom Meeting <b>Thursday, 2/4</b> 9:30 am Zoom Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Zoom Adult Education <b>Saturday, 2/6</b> 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 the 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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