



2nd Sunday in Lent

**February 28, 2021
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

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

COME

Opening Voluntary

I Need Thee Every Hour

Richard Elliott

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

Barb Shriner

Hear and believe the good news: God has called us "my people"!

God has set up a covenant, over and over again, choosing us even before we can choose, faithful even when we are faltering.

In the flood, in the wilderness, in exile; in certainty and doubt, abundance and scarcity; God's promise is true to the thousandth generation.

We see the rainbow, we hear our names, we learn the commandments, we look up for our help, we know in our hearts: we love because God first loved us, we follow because God first came to us, we can be faithful because God is faithful.

Come, let us worship God together.

*Hymn The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove, the
2 Your spir-it still flows free, high surg-ing where it will. In
3 Your good-ly land we seek, with peace and plen-ty blest, a
4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul; your

An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love! The
proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still. Es -
land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest. There
love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll. We

Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed, we
tab - lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand, deep
milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound, and
praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name: the

bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
trees of life for - e - ver grow with mer - cy crowned.
first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Romans 4:21

Trusting in God's promise of salvation, let us confess our sin and repent.

Prayer of Confession

Covenant-making God, you call us by name, transforming our past into your future. We confess that sometimes we laugh at your call, believing it to be impossible. We protest, insisting that you should conform to our way. We ignore your voice, refusing to admit to anyone what we have heard, instead going about our lives as if we heard nothing. Forgive us, O God, and speak our names once again. Change our hearts and our lives, until we are able to trust your promise. We pray in the name of the One whose name is above all names, Jesus the Christ. 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

Romans 4:24

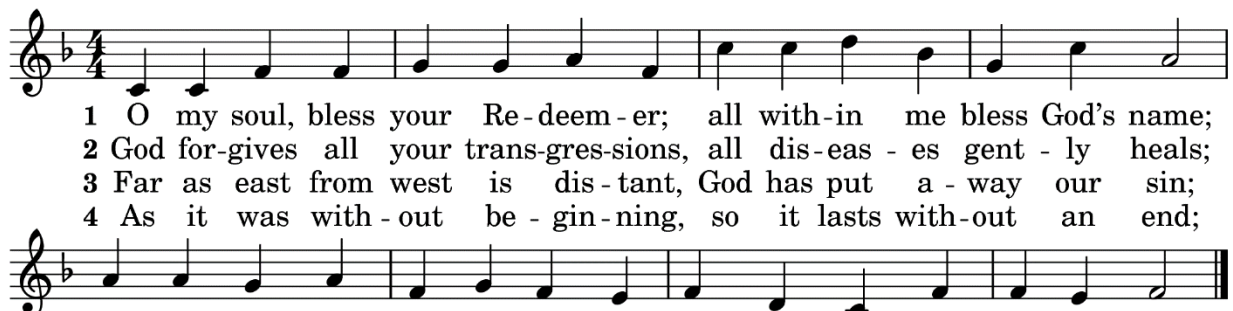
Hear the good news: God deems as righteous all who trust that Jesus has been raised from the dead for our salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.


*Response

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer, vs. 1*

STUTTGART



1 O my soul, bless your Re-deem-er; all with-in me bless God's name;
2 God for-gives all your trans-gres-sions, all dis-eas-es gent-ly heals;
3 Far as east from west is dis-tant, God has put a-way our sin;
4 As it was with-out be-gin-ning, so it lasts with-out an end;



bless the Sav-ior, and for-get not all God's mer-cies to pro-claim.
God re-deems you from de-struc-tion, and with you so kind-ly deals.
like the pit-y of a fa-ther has the Lord's com-pas-sion been.
to their chil-dren's chil-dren ev-er shall God's righ-teous-ness ex-tend:

*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

What will it profit us to gain the whole world and forfeit our life? With all humility let us make our offering to God, trusting not in worldly gain, but in God's sustaining grace.

Anthem

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Peter Matthews

*Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see and in thy presence rest.*

*Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the mem'ry find
A sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of mankind!*

*O hope of ev'ry contrite heart, O joy of all the meek, To those who fall,
how kind thou art!
How good to those who seek!*

*Jesus, our only joy be thou, As thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be thou our glory now, And thru eternity.*

*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

The Reverend Eric Dillenbeck

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word, reveal to us the good news,
and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Old Testament

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." 3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

15 God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Second Lesson

Romans 4:13-25

New Testament

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. 16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) — the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. 20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 23 Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

Sermon

This Far By Faith

The Reverend Eric Dillenbeck

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Prayers of the People

Trusting in God's promises, let us pray for the world and for our needs, saying,
Holy God, hear our prayer.

God, you blessed Abraham and Sarah and promised to make them ancestors of many nations. In Jesus Christ you have opened your covenant to everyone who lives by faith in you. For all the descendents of Abraham and Sarah, both Jews and Christians, that they may trust in your promise, dwell together in peace, and be a sign of your abiding love,
Holy God, hear our prayer.

God, Jesus your Son called disciples to follow his way of sacrificial love. For all the pastors and teachers, that they lead the church by humble example, take up their cross in faithful service, and live for the sake of the gospel,
Holy God, hear our prayer.

God, your reign encompasses all the earth, though many do not remember your gracious sovereignty. For peace among the nations and for integrity within governments, that your will be done on earth as in heaven,
Holy God, hear our prayer.

God, you hear the cry of the poor, and you satisfy the hungry with good things. For the poor and the oppressed, that they may find deliverance, and for all who voluntarily take up the cross of self-denial to serve the poor and alleviate human misery,
Holy God, hear our prayer.

God, you know the needs of the afflicted and you hear their cries. For those who suffer illness of mind or body, that they may find relief from suffering and be restored to wholeness,
Holy God, hear our prayer.

Grant these prayers, Holy God, by your grace. Stir up in us the will to seek out your kingdom with the dedication of our lives in ministry to the world, for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. **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 327

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high, O
2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine; and
3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold to
Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky: we
still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine. It
bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old; O
praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page, a
is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through, a -
teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace, till,
lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

*Charge and Benediction

Disciples of Christ,
do not shun the way of the cross,
but follow wherever our Lord may lead.

May the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
uphold you on the way.

Voluntary

Grand Choeur

Nicolas Gigault

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to The Reverend Eric Dillenbeck PC (USA). Eric currently serves as the Director of Work Experience Programs at Youth Opportunities Unlimited in Cleveland and as Executive Director at Heights Community Congress. A graduate of Clemson University and Columbia Theological Seminary, Eric served as Pastor Jon's first campus minister at the University of South Carolina. Eric has served Presbyterian congregations in Ohio, Georgia, and South Carolina.

The Flowers In The Chancel are given by Lisa and Carlton Boush in loving memory of Roy Boush, Cynthia Park Mapes, and Richard M. Park.

New “Thriving” Zoom Class The class will start on Wednesday, March 3 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome. Please connect on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88519550808?pwd=UFkxNmdXcGdReWNCakJCMElhQm1JZz09> Meeting ID: 885 1955 0808 - Passcode: 485638.

Script April/May Deadline is March 9. Please send your articles and pictures to Claudine Schooley at wpcoffice1250@gmail.com.

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

Canned Chicken Tuna and Hamburger Helper Rice Mixes like Knorr Pancake Mix Cereal (children's) Peanut Butter Bars of soap	Canned Tuna Canned Fruit, Applesauce Prepared Meals like Chef-Boyardee Pancake Syrup Soup Jelly Toilet paper
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Thank you for your generous donations to this ministry.

There is no Bible Study Class on Monday, March 1st.

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of February 28 – March 6, 2021	
Sunday, 2/28 9:00 am Youth Zoom Conversation 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary 9:45 am Tween Sunday School via Zoom 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live 7:00 pm Confirmation Class via Zoom	Wednesday, 3/3 3:00 pm Zoom Thriving Class Thursday, 3/4 9:30 am Zoom Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Zoom Adult Education Saturday, 3/6 8:00 am Food For Life in the kitchen

The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.



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