

5th Sunday after Epiphany



**February 7, 2021
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

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

COME

Opening Voluntary

Balm in Gilead

Mark Patterson

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

Alec Works

We gather today to name our sorrows and share new visions.

We gather to heal our pain and rekindle our hope.

We gather because the journey is long.

We gather because we long for a new day.

May this gathering serve to strengthen, encourage, and renew us.

1 O wor-ship the King, all glo-rious a-bove! O grate-ful-ly
2 O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace, whose robe is the
3 The earth with its store of won-ders un-told, Al-might-y, your
4 Your boun-ti-ful care what tongue can re-cite? It breathes in the
5 Frail chil-dren of dust, and fee-ble as frail, in you do we
sing God's power and God's love: our shield and de-fend-er, the
light, whose can-o-py space, whose char-iots of wrath the deep
power has found-ed of old; es-tab-lished it fast by a
air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills; it de-
trust, nor find you to fail; your mer-cies, how ten-der, how
An-cient of Days, pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor and gird-ed with praise.
thun-der-clouds form; and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.
change-less de-cree, and round it has cast, like a man-tle, the sea.
scends to the plain, and sweet-ly dis-tills in the dew and the rain.
firm to the end, our Mak-er, De-fend-er, Re-deem-er, and Friend.

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Let us open our lives to God's healing presence, forsaking all that separates us from God and neighbor.

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in whom we live, and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. 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

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. **Amen.**

*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

Anthem The Light Within Steven Sametz

Glory dwells in each of us--God's treasure in jars of clay. Gloria. So it is when we lose heart, we are renewed each day. Gloria.

Look not to the things we see, our sight obscured by sin. We are but vessels of the Lord, whose light we hold within.

*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 Zack Troyer

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Ever-present God, by the power of the Holy Spirit may we find strength and hope in your holy Word. **Amen.**

- 21 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- 23 who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- 24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in
the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- 25 To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.
- 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
- 29 He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
- 30 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
- 31 but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

- 29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.
- 32 That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door.
- 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.
- 35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” 38 He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.”
- 39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

Sermon

Healing Grace

The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby

SERVE

Ceremony of Healing and Light

God, our creator, your will for us and for all your people is health and salvation; **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of God, you came that we might have life and have it in abundance; **Have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, you make us temples of your presence; **Have mercy on us.**

The pastor lights the first candle.

Compassionate God, you are good to all. Help us to trust in you and to share what we have with a hungry world. We pray for your church universal, that our relations with other religions may be respectful and abounding in steadfast love. Enable us to join with people of all faiths to work for the well-being of all your children.

Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The pastor lights the second candle.

We pray for the earth and all the creatures who look to you for their food in due season. May we do our part in restoring the balance of your creation and deepen our commitment to follow Jesus in ministries that feed and serve others.

Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

The pastor lights the third candle.

We pray for all the people of the world, for all nations, ethnic groups, and leaders, that wars will cease, that the hungry will be fed, and that refugees will return home in safety and peace.

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

The pastor lights the fourth candle.

We pray with thanksgiving for all who during this COVID pandemic have worked tirelessly on the front lines, with courage and compassion, for the benefit of others. Grant them wisdom, patience, and protection.

Bless and protect them, gracious God.

The pastor lights the fifth candle.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world.

Hear us, O God of life.

The pastor lights the sixth candle.

To the Holy One, the Everlasting God, the Ancient of Days; to the Source of all love and all life, let us offer our prayers. For all who are in need of healing,

[Silence]

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For all those who are disabled by injury or illness *[Silence]*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For all who have died, and for all who mourn *[Silence]*

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

The pastor lights the seventh candle.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." May the light of Christ, and the Spirit of the living God that is present with us now, enter your body, mind and spirit, and heal you of all that may stand in the way of the abundant life that is yours in Jesus Christ, in whose name 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.

1 Our God, our help in a-ges past, our hope for years to come, our
 2 Be-neath the shad-ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se-cure; suf-
 3 Be-fore the hills in or-der stood, or earth re-ceived its frame, from
 4 A thou-sand a-ges in thy sight are like an eve-ning gone, short
 5 Time, like an ev-er roll-ing stream, bears all our years a-way; they
 shel-ter from the storm-y blast, and our e-ter-nal home:
 fi-cient is thine arm a-lone, and our de-fense is sure.
 ev-er-last-ing thou art God, to end-less years the same.
 as the watch that ends the night be-fore the ris-ing sun.
 fly for-got-ten, as a dream dies at the o-pen-ing day.

*Charge and Benediction

May the God of hope fill you with every joy in believing.

May the peace of Christ abound in your heart.

May you know the fullness of God's healing grace through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Voluntary

Postlude on "St. Anne"

Page C. Long

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby to the pulpit this Sunday.
Reverend Dr. Selby is Pastor of Furnace Street Mission. She worked
for BF Goodrich for 18 years before following the call
to ordained ministry.

The Flowers In The Chancel are given by Kate Clark in loving memory of her mother and aunt, Frances Ruth Gillis Clark and Janet Elaine Gillis Hansen.

The 2 White Roses in the Chancel Today One is in memory of Mary Swartzlander who entered eternal life on January 31, 2021, and the other one is in memory of Dianne Allison who entered eternal life on February 4, 2021.

Corrections: In the last Script the date for Food Collection in March was wrong. It should say Sunday, March 7. This Sunday, not the Tweens but the Youth will help to receive the food donations.

First Sunday Food Collection Today, February 7, the Youth 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.

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of February 7 - 13, 2021	
<p>Sunday, 2/7</p> <p>9:15 am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:45 am Tween Sunday School via Zoom</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live/The Reverend Sandy Selby is preaching</p> <p>12:30 pm Confirmation Make up Class with United Presbyterian via Zoom</p> <p>1:00 pm Food Collection with the Youth</p> <p>Monday, 2/8</p> <p>7:00 pm Zoom Book Discussion</p> <p>7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>Tuesday, 2/9</p> <p>9:00 am West Area Collaboration via Zoom</p> <p>6:00 pm Endowment Committee Meeting via Zoom</p> <p>Wednesday, 2/10</p> <p>6:00 pm Outreach Committee Zoom Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Discipleship Zoom Meeting</p> <p>Thursday, 2/11</p> <p>9:30 am Zoom Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Zoom Adult Education</p>

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.