



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

**March 14, 2021  
at 10:30 a.m.  
on Facebook **Live****

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

### COME

Opening Voluntary

*An Chuilfhionn* (The Coolin)

Trad. Irish  
*Sarah Husak, violin*

*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.*

*Today, we will be celebrating The Sacrament of Holy Communion together. Please have your bread and juice nearby and be prepared to partake at the appropriate time. The music today is all of Celtic/Irish origin, in honor of St. Patrick's Day.*

*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

Psalm 103

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise God's holy name.

**Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not God's benefits.**

Praise the Lord, you angels, you mighty ones who do God's bidding, who obey God's word.

**Praise the Lord, all God's heavenly hosts, you servants who do God's will.**

Praise the Lord, my soul.

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet  
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

## ENCOUNTER

### Call to Confession

The light has come into the world, for people loved darkness rather than light. Let us uncover our sin before the liberating light of Christ.

### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor. We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them. Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace. Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways that we may know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ, in whose name 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

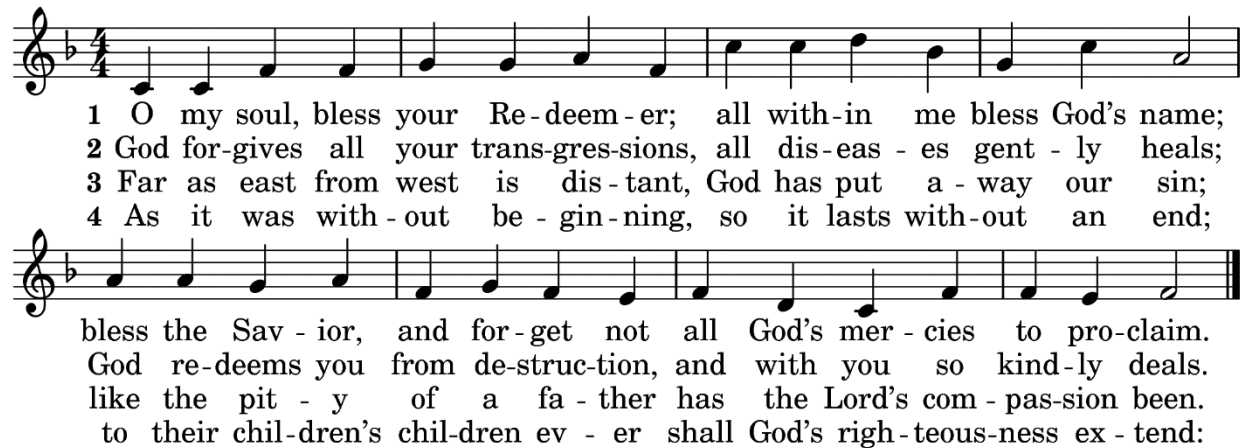
Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**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

As recipients of abundant life in Christ, we now offer our gifts to God.

Anthem

I'd Rather Have Jesus

Arr. Tom Fettke

*I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold. I'd rather be His than have riches untold. I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands. I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.*

*He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom. He's sweeter than honey from out of the comb. He's all that my hungering spirit needs. I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead.*

*I'd rather have Jesus than fine applause. I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause. I'd rather have Jesus than world-wide fame. I'd rather be true to His holy Name.*

*I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold.*

\*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

Almighty God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, open your Word and illumine our darkened world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Ephesians 2:4-10

New Testament

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us  
5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with  
Christ — by grace you have been saved — 6 and raised us up with him and seated  
us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come  
he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in  
Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not  
your own doing; it is the gift of God — 9 not the result of works, so that no one  
may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good  
works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Second Lesson

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Old Testament

- 1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
- 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble
- 3 and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the  
north and from the south.
- 17 Some were sick through their sinful ways,  
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

- 18 they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.  
19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he saved them from their distress;  
20 he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.  
21 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.  
22 And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,  
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

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

Sermon

When Grace Appears

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

## SERVE

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Luke 13:29

From east and west, from north and south, people will come and take their places  
at the banquet in the kingdom of God.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The minister offers thanksgiving for the work of God in creation and for the  
work of Christ.*

We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature.  
We praise you for forming us in your image and calling us to be your people. We  
thank you that you did not abandon us in our rebellion against your love, but sent  
prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. Above all, we thank  
you for sending Jesus, your Son, to deliver us from the way of sin and death by  
the obedience of his life, by his suffering upon the cross, and by his resurrection  
from the dead. We praise you that he now lives and reigns with you in glory and  
ever lives to pray for us. We thank you for the Holy Spirit, who leads us into truth,  
defends us in adversity, and out of every people unites us into one holy church.



Together let us sing:

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y! ear - ly in the  
morn - ing our song shall rise to thee; ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!  
mer - ci-ful and might-y! God in three per-sons, bless-èd Trin - i - ty!

*The minister offers thanksgiving for the work of the Holy Spirit.*

Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the bread of life and the cup of salvation. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom.

God's Spirit is with us still: **Through him, with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

In one voice, let us offer the words of 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.**

Words of Institution

"The bread of life." "The cup of salvation."

Hymn 171                      The King of Love My Shepherd Is                      ST.COLUMBA  
(verses 1-2; sung by the choir)

Prayer following Communion

**O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace, that in everything we may yield**

**ourselves, our wills, and our works, a continual thank-offering to you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn      We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection      LONDONDERRY AIR

1. We shall go out with hope of resurrection, We shall go out, from strength to strength go on; We shall go out and tell our stories boldly; Tales of a love that will not let us go. We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted; we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed; we'll weave a cloth of all the world united, Within the vision of new life in Christ.
2. We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken; We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed; We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer; Expressive love alive in every heart. We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping, raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief, we'll leap and dance the resurrection story, including all in circles of our love.

\*Charge and Benediction

Church, we have received the immeasurable riches of God's grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Go forth to share this gift with others.

May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the light of the Spirit bless you and keep you in the way of truth.

Voluntary      *Tabhair dom do Lámh* (Give Me Your Hand)      O'Cahan

*Funding for today's violinist was provided by the Seiberling Fund for Music Enrichment.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Flowers In The Chancel** are given by James Cole in memory of his grandmother, Ellen Arnold.

**All Church Zoom Fellowship Event** will be today at 4:00 p.m. Join Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83152975600?pwd=ODkvS2hSYmV5elZqMoFVcFhCZUswdzo9> - Meeting ID: 831 5297 5600 - Passcode: 088619.

**Women's Evening Circle** will meet Monday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Please contact Kristy Yates at [ksjyates@gmail.com](mailto:ksjyates@gmail.com) to get the link to connect.

**Congregational Zoom Meeting** Westminster's Annual Congregational Meeting and Election of Officers will take place via Zoom on Sunday, March 21 at 11:45 a.m. To access the meeting you may use the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81282376143pwd=YWlKdEp0L3BWRTFwcGl6Zit5MGIzQT09> with Meeting ID: 812 8237 6143 and Passcode: 215456. You may also participate in the meeting via phone at +1 929 205 6099 with Meeting ID: 812 8237 6143 and Passcode: 215456.

**Easter Flowers** Your contributions, given as memorials of loved ones, will enable the Flower Committee to provide a beautiful setting in the Sanctuary for our Easter celebration. A list of the donors together with the names of loved ones will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please make your check payable to WPC and send it to the attention of Debby Evrard. There is no set amount. Email your options "In loving Memory" or "In Honor" to Debby, at [wpcfinance1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpcfinance1250@gmail.com). You can also give electronically on WPC's website at [www.westminsterakron.org](http://www.westminsterakron.org) under "online giving." The deadline is March 26.

### *Daylight Saving Time Begins Today*

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of March 14–20, 2021	
<b>Sunday, 3/14</b> 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary 9:45 am Tween Sunday School via Zoom 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live 4:00 pm Fellowship Event via Zoom 7:00 pm Confirmation Class via Zoom <b>Monday, 3/15</b> 6:30 pm Women's Evening Circle via Zoom 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study	<b>Tuesday, 3/16</b> 7:00 pm Zoom Properties Committee Meeting <b>Wednesday, 3/17</b> 3:00 pm Zoom Thriving Class #3 6:00 pm Zoom Finance Committee Meeting <b>Thursday, 3/18</b> 9:30 am Zoom Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Zoom Adult Education <b>Saturday, 3/20</b> 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's 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.