



5th Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook Live

or on our church website
at westminsterakron.org

COME

Opening Voluntary

If With All Your Hearts

Felix Mendelssohn
Ben Hayes, tenor

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

Suzanne Winland

Jesus said, "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself."

Blessed be the God of our salvation who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

*Hymn 298

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE



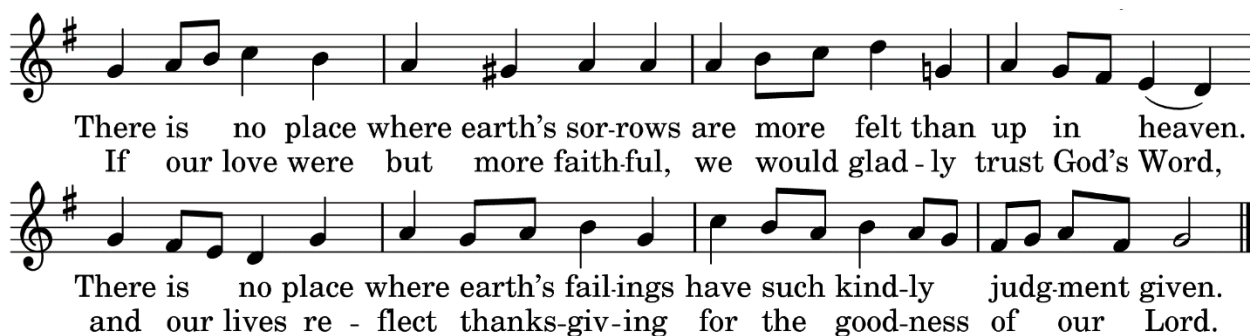
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea.

2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of the mind.



There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.

And the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven.
 If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word,
 There is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
 and our lives re - flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts, confessing our sins to the One whose mercy is everlasting.

Prayer of Confession

Redeeming God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and have not loved our neighbors as we ought; we have strayed from your commandments. Do not remember our sins, but forgive our iniquities, that we may fix our eyes on you and sin no more, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

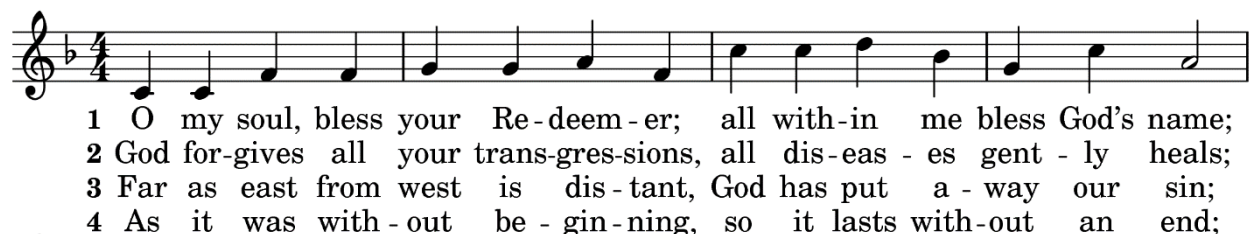
Silence is observed.

Response 574 Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

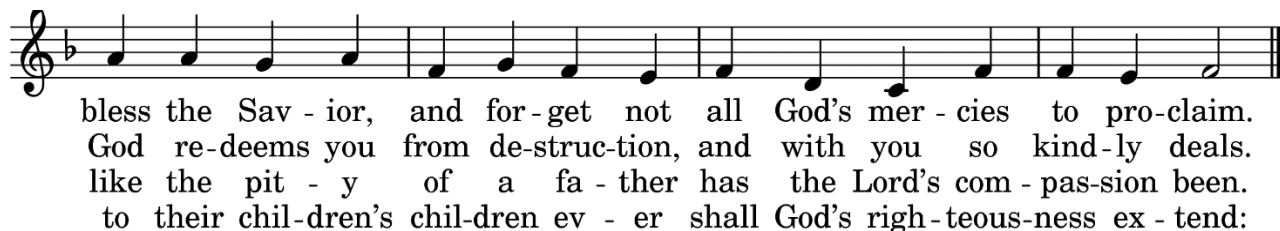
Assurance of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. May you delight in the joy of your salvation.

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;



***Passing the Peace**

We invite you now to greet one another saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

Moment for Ministry

Outreach/One Great Hour of Sharing
Suzanne Winland

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and takes on new life, it remains just a single grain. With grateful hearts, let us bring the fruit of our lives to God.

Anthem

To Thee O Lord

Sergei Rachmaninoff

To Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. My God, I trust in Thee.

***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

Your Word, O God, has power to change our lives and to create a whole new world. As we meditate on your word this day, fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may treasure your word with our whole hearts and fix our eyes on you.
Amen.

The First Lesson

Psalms 119:10-16

Old Testament

10 With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.

- 11 I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.
12 Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes.
13 With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.
14 I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches.
15 I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.
16 I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

The Second Lesson

John 12:20-33

New Testament

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.
21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir,
we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip
went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of
Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the
earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will
keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am,
there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.
27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this
hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.
28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified
it, and I will glorify it again." 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it
was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."
30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.
31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven
out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."
33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Sermon

Losing It

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

Remembering the promise to reconcile the world, God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ - the eternal Word made flesh. He is the long-awaited Messiah, one with us and one with God, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary. We are chosen in Christ to become like him. God's electing love sustains our hope. Christ will wipe away every tear; death shall be no more. There will be a new heaven and a new earth, and all creation will be filled with God's glory.

Prayers of the People

During the final days of his earthly life, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears, and in faithful obedience, he opened the way to eternal salvation. Let us open our hearts this day as we lift up our deepest needs and concerns to the One who is mighty to save.

We pray for all leaders and people, that by the power of your cross you would drive out all violence, domination, and injustice in our world as you draw us to your Christ.

We pray for our war-ravaged world, that you would teach us to walk together in your way of righteousness and peace.

We pray for the vocation of the church, that our prayers would bear the fruit of action as we hear the cries of pain and suffering of those in need.

We pray for the poor, the terrified, and the oppressed, and those who are too much alone, that they may find a home in you as we serve them in your name.

As your son anticipated his death on the cross in light of your steadfast love, may all who have died or who are dying be at rest in your eternal care.

Through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we glorify you, almighty God, with unending thanks and praise. **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 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious
bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y.
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,
Hold me with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of hea - ven,
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es
feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

*Charge and Benediction

John 12:26

Jesus said, "Whoever serves me must first follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also." Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

May the blessing of God, the giver of every good and perfect gift; and of Christ, who summons us to service; and of the Holy Spirit, who inspires generosity and love be with us all now and forever. Amen.

Voluntary

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

J.S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers In The Chancel are given by Nancy Keogh in loving memory of her husband, Jack.

The Red Rose In The Chancel is to celebrate the birth of Vaughn Edward Vuchak, son of Kathryn and Kyle Vuchak, born on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, weighing 9 lbs. 12 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Easter Flowers 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. You can also give electronically on WPC’s website at www.westminsterakron.org under “online giving.” The deadline is March 26.

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=YWlKdEpOL3BWRTFwcGl6Zit5MGIzQT09> 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.

One Great Hour Of Sharing Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food choices, clean water, sanitation and educational opportunities. The three programs supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Development of People. These all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. We are the House of God. Let us invite those without enough to eat to God's table. Let us invite those who thirst to God's fountain. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. Checks may be mailed to the church office. Please write OGHOS in the memo, or give online through the church website.

Monthly Financial Report

February 2021	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$40,908.43	\$34,835.16	\$132,415.47	\$88,982.82
Total Expenses	\$43,100.21	\$48,455.81	\$80,261.23	\$97,611.62
Net	(\$2,191.78)	(\$13,620.65)	\$52,154.24	(\$8,628.80)

Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the detailed financial report for the period ending February 28, 2021.

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 March 21–27, 2021

Sunday, 3/21

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
 11:45 am Zoom Congregational Meeting
 1:00 pm Food Distribution
 5:00 pm Third Sunday Dinner
 7:00 pm Confirmation Class via Zoom

Monday, 3/22

7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study

Tuesday, 3/23

7:00 pm Session Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, 3/24

3:00 pm Zoom Thriving Class

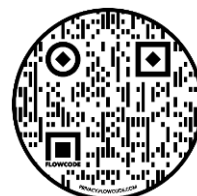
Thursday, 3/25

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

Saturday, 3/27

1:00 pm WPC Officer Training via Zoom
 ? Youth Fellowship Activity?

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.

Staff schedule in the office: **Monday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Tuesday** - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard, Claudine Schooley, and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley.



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