



3rd Sunday in Lent

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

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

COME

Opening Voluntary

Prelude in B Minor

César Franck

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

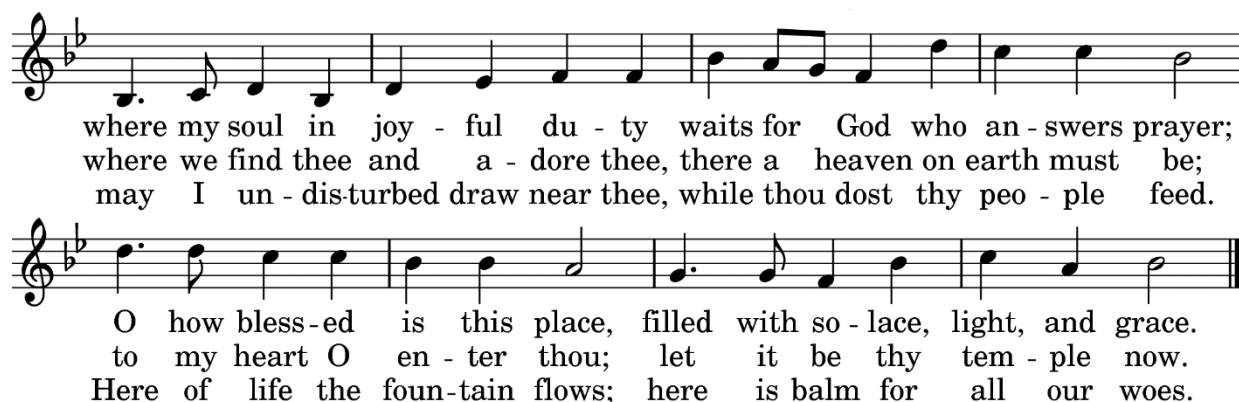
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Hymn 489

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSCHER

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra-cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be done in - deed;



ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly; we are still weak. In the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace. We confess our sins, trusting in God's wisdom and strength rather than our own.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, how fickle we are; we sin against you without even knowing it. Clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin, and save us from willfully ignoring your way. Let your commandments rule and guide us.

Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything except you; keep us faithful. Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships - with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors. Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness, rather than words that belittle or destroy. Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness.

Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power, for you are the God who made us, led us out of slavery, and has brought us into the community of faith. Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace. In Christ's 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.

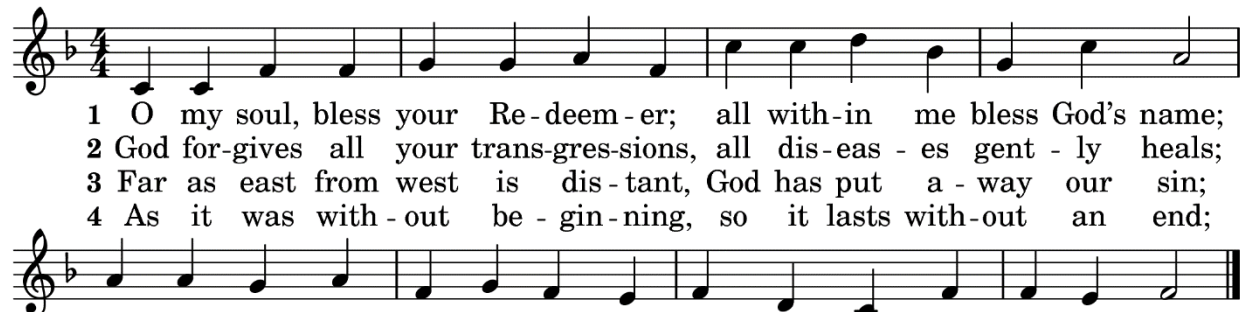
Assurance of Forgiveness

Brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness with God and with one another!
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

The house of God is not a marketplace for buying and selling. It is a house of prayer, a place of healing and restoration, a place where we bring before God our provisions to be used for present needs. Let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

Anthem

Bow Down Thine Ear

César Franck

Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, and hear me, I am poor and needy. For Thou art good, O Lord, and ready to forgive us our many transgressions.

Teach us Thy way, Lord God, I will walk in Thy truth. Incline my heart to love Thy Name evermore. Holy Lord most merciful, Save and redeem us, and be Thou forgiving, and plenteous in mercy. For Thy most holy Name's sake, O Lord my God.

Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, and hear me, I am poor and needy. For Thou art good, O Lord, and ready to forgive us our many transgressions. Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, and attend to the voice of my prayer, and save Thou Thy servant, O Lord, my God.

*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

Cleaning House

Valerie Thorson

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

God of Glory, we cannot hear the heavens proclaim your handiwork, though the speech of the skies must be magnificent. We cannot hear what day and night are singing about you, though their song must be both bright and deep. Yet, somehow you are made known to us through our own foolish proclamation. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that your Word can be heard in our words. Open our ears to what you are saying to us today, we pray; and perhaps we may also hear echoes of your glory in the broad firmament above. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Psalms 19:1-14

Old Testament

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
- 4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
- 5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
- 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

- 8 the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
11 Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
12 But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

The Second Lesson

John 2:13-22

New Testament

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money
changers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them
out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of
the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 He told those who were
selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house
a marketplace!" 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your
house will consume me." 18 The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show
us for doing this?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three
days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "This temple has been under
construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?"
21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22 After he was raised from the
dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the
scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Sermon

Preserving Justice

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Prayers of the People

Creator God, convenience and greed have outweighed concern for your world. Help your beautiful creation not only survive but thrive.

We need you, Lord; listen to our call for help.

Bread of Life, our world is full of people starving for food or attention. Satisfy their needs with your abundance.

We need you, Lord; listen to our call for help.

Great Physician, at times insurance or finances prohibit the treatment or prevention of disease. Free the sick from pain, from unanswered questions, and from nights of worry.

We need you, Lord; listen to our call for help.

Peacemaker, our world is torn by political and economic turmoil. May we, and your whole world, rest in your everlasting embrace.

We need you, Lord; listen to our call for help.

Help of the helpless, the rich and powerful cannot always hear the cries of the weak. Enable us - whether rich or poor, powerful or powerless - to bring comfort and relief to those in need.

We need you, Lord; listen to our call for help.

O God, you are forgiving and good, full of love for all who call to you.

You are our God. You alone can renew our world. 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 275

God of Our Life

SANDON

1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in
 2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us a -
 3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known we fol - low
 thee. In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy
 bide. Lead us by faith to hope's true prom - ised land. Be
 thee. When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone. Our
 hand we see. With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the
 thou our guide. With thee to bless, the dark-ness shines as
 ref - uge be. Be thou for us in life our dai - ly
 veil, we own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
 light, and faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.
 bread, our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

*Charge and Benediction

In the Lenten week ahead, study God's commandments, practice the way of life they teach, and see how God's laws revive your soul.

May God shine upon you, Christ fill you with true wisdom and strength, and the Holy Spirit guide you into all faithfulness, now and forever.

Voluntary

Postlude on "Unser Herrscher"

Dennis Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers In The Chancel are given by Carroll, Dave, Abby, Adam, Ansley, and Allie Polak in memory of Cathryn and Dave Taliaferro.

The White Rose in the Chancel Today is in memory of Edie Willoughby who entered eternal life on March 2, 2021.

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

Youth Group There is no youth group meeting on March 14. Instead, we will be engaging in a shared service project. We will write cards to homebound members of our congregation and, perhaps, others who have recently been on our prayer chain.

Fellowship Event Zoom in on Sunday, March 14 at 4:00 p.m. to clink glasses virtually with other WPC members and friends as we celebrate a socially distanced St. Patrick's Day.

First Sunday Food Collection is today from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of March 7–13, 2021	
Sunday, 3/7 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 11:30 am Worship Committee meeting via Zoom 1:00 pm First Sunday Food Collection 7:00 pm Confirmation Class via Zoom	Monday, 3/8 7:00 pm Zoom Book Discussion 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study Wednesday, 3/3 3:00 pm Zoom Thriving Class #2 6:00 pm Outreach Committee Zoom Meeting 7:00 pm Discipleship Zoom Meeting Thursday, 3/11 9:30 am Zoom Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Zoom Adult Education

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. 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.