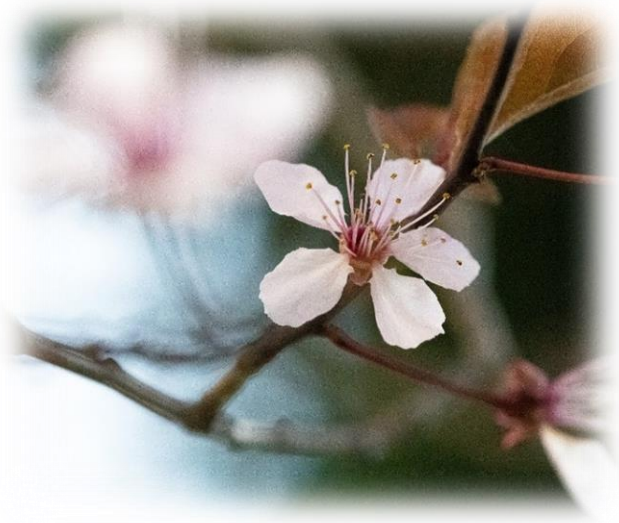


2nd Sunday of Easter



**April 11, 2021
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

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

COME

Opening Voluntary

Come, Ye Faithful

Wilbur Held

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

Steve Harp

Peace be with you.

How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity.

Receive the Holy Spirit.

It is like precious oil on the head, the blessing of the Lord.

*Hymn 119

The Strife Is O'er

VICTORY

Refrain (before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)



1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; the vic - to - ry of
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their le - gions
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped; Christ ris - es glo - rious
 4 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread sting thy
 life is won; the song of tri - umph has be - gun.
 hath dis - persed: let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead: all glo - ry to our ris - en Head!
 ser - vants free, that we may live, and sing to thee:

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast out our fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' name. 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

We have an advocate with God - Jesus Christ, the righteous one - who offered his life in love to save the world from sin. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*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

Remember the first believers - who shared one heart and soul, held their possessions in common, and distributed them to all in need. In that same spirit, let us present our offerings at the feet of the risen Lord.

Anthem

Down to the River to Pray

Arr. Daniel Fortune

Elizabeth Crabtree, Valerie Niese Stewart & Paul Stewart

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, sisters let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, sisters let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, brothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, brothers let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, fathers let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, fathers let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, mothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, mothers let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, sinners let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, sinners let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray...

*Response 592 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

I Doubt It

Valerie Thorson

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

God of all who doubt and believe, by the gift of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands your Word of life - Jesus Christ - our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Acts 4:32-35

New Testament

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.

33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.

35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Second Lesson

John 20:19-31

New Testament

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Sermon

The Thread of Faith

The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

Westminster Confession

God was pleased, in God’s eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus to be the mediator between God and human beings. As the mediator, he is the prophet, priest, and king, the head and Savior of the church, the heir of all things, and the judge of the world. God gave to him, from all eternity, a people to be by him, in time, redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified. The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself - has purchased not only reconciliation but also an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those whom the Father has given to him.

Prayers of the People

Living God, giver of life, hear us as we pray, saying,
Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us your Spirit of peace.

We pray for the church...

Let your church be a living sign of the woundedness and healing of Christ, sharing the gift of forgiveness and gospel of reconciliation.

Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us your Spirit of peace.

We pray for the earth...

Help us to see the scars of death that mark your good creation, and to seek the blessing of life that you offer to all creatures.

Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us your Spirit of peace.

We pray for all nations...

Show us how good and pleasant it is when people live together in unity, and anoint us with your wisdom so that we may seek the ways of life.

Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us your Spirit of peace.

We pray for this community...

Give us a vision of the common good: not clinging to our own possessions but seeking the fullness of life for all as a testimony to Christ's resurrection.

Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us your Spirit of peace.

We pray for loved ones...

Be near to those who walk in darkness and lead us all into Christ's light so that our fellowship may be true and our joy may be complete.

Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us your Spirit of peace.

By the blessing of your Spirit, help us to live as we pray so that the world may come to know the gift of life in Christ our Lord. **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.

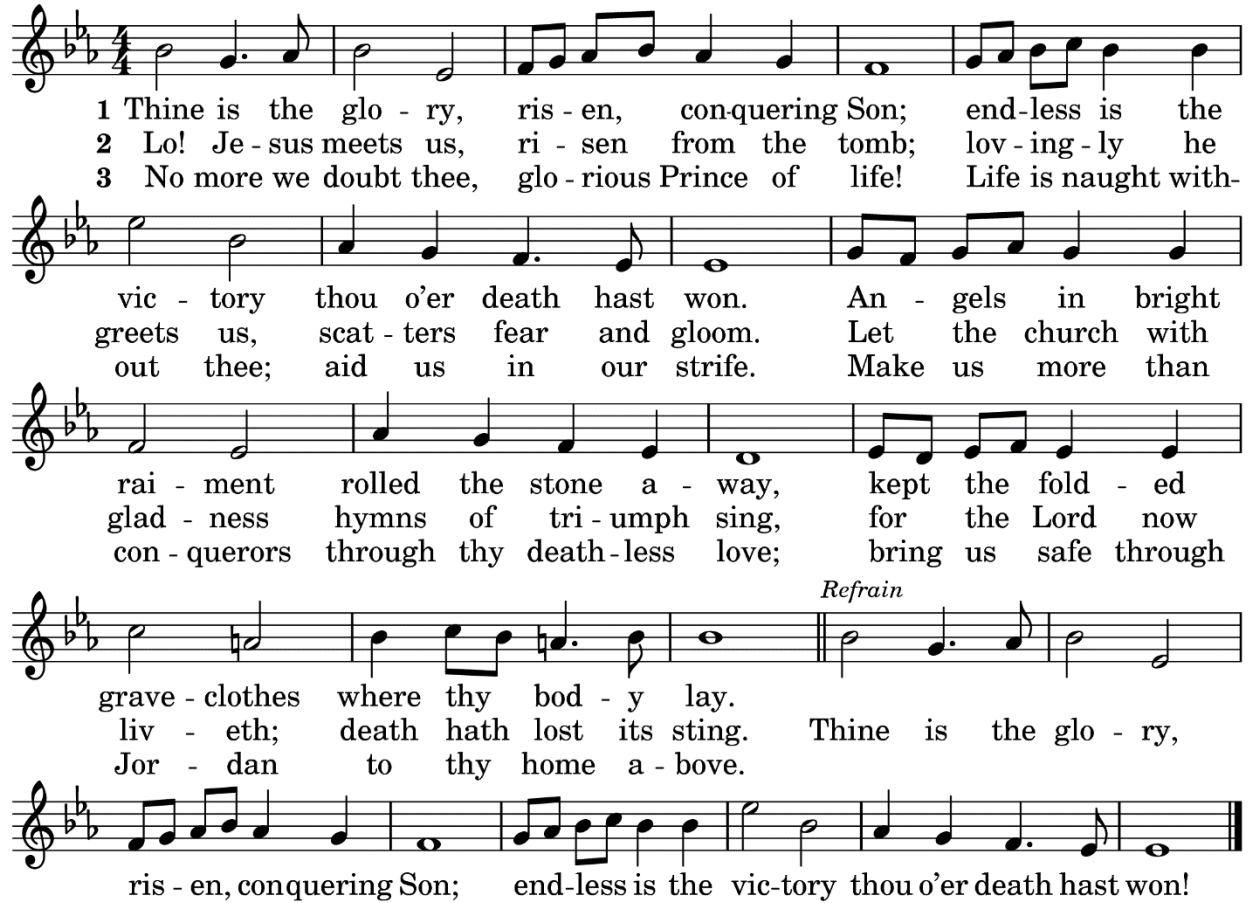
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

*Hymn 122

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son; end - less is the
2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ri - sen from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught with-
vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright
greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with
out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than
rai - ment rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed
glad - ness hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now
con - querors through thy death - less love; bring us safe through
Refrain
grave - clothes where thy bod - y lay. Thine is the glo - ry,
liv - eth; death hath lost its sting. Jor - dan to thy home a - bove.
ris - en, conquering Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won!

*Charge and Benediction

Let your life be a sign of Christ's life
so that others may come to believe
that the Lord is risen indeed. **Amen.**

This is the blessing of the Lord:
life forevermore. **Alleluia!**

Voluntary

The Strife Is O'er

Wilbur Held

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby is Pastor of Furnace Street Mission.
She worked for BFGoodrich for 18 years before following the call to
ordained ministry.**

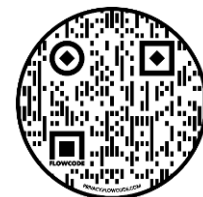
The flowers In The Chancel are given by Rebecca Mullin Cardina and family with loving memories of her parents, Marjorie Mullin (with the fabulous hats) and Bill (big Stetson) Mullin. LOVE LASTS AS LONG AS WE REMEMBER.

Time Off Pastor Hauerwas will be on study leave next week. For pastoral care needs, please contact our main office. The Reverend Sandy Selby will be preaching on April 18. There will be no Bible study on Monday, April 12.

There will be no choir rehearsal, Sunday, April 18, 2021.

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of April 11–17, 2021	
<p>Sunday, 4/11 9:00 am Youth Zoom Conversation 9:45 am Tween Sunday School via zoom 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live with Sandy Selby Preaching 11:30 am Zoom Worship Committee Meeting</p> <p>Monday, 4/12 7:00 pm Book Discussion via Zoom</p> <p>Tuesday, 4/13 6:00 pm Endowment Committee Meeting via Zoom</p>	<p>Wednesday, 4/14 6:00 pm Outreach Committee via Zoom 7:00 pm Discipleship Zoom Meeting</p> <p>Thursday, 4/15 9:30 am Zoom WPC Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Zoom Adult Education</p> <p>Saturday, 4/17 8:00 am Food For Life in the Kitchen</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. 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.