

7th Sunday after Pentecost



**July 11, 2021
at 10:30 a.m.**

Follow us also on
You Tube
LIVESTREAM

or on our church website at westminsterakron.org

*At the ringing of the carillon please silence your conversations and prepare your hearts and minds for an encounter with the Living God. We also ask that you power off your cell phones to prevent interference with our live-streaming and recording equipment. **Bolded text is read or sung by all.** *Please rise in body or spirit.*

Today, we are celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion. During this time of pandemic, you are encouraged to take a pre-made Communion packet prior to the service, which will be distributed along with your bulletin.

COME

Voluntary

Plaintive Air

Laurence Lyon

*Call to Worship

Psalm 89:1-4

Gabby Gray

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
You said, "I have made my covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"
Praise the Lord!



1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove, the
 2 Your spir-it still flows free, high surg-ing where it will. In
 3 Your good-ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest, a
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul; your

An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love! The
 proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still. Es -
 land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest. There
 love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll. We

Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed, we
 tab - lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand, deep
 milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound, and
 praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name: the

bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 trees of life for - e - ver grow with mer - cy crowned.
 first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

The godliness of Jesus Christ calls us to be holy and blameless. The riches of God's grace promise forgiveness of our trespasses. Let us confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Holy, holy, holy Lord, you are the God of glory. We confess that we often forget that your holiness is dangerous. We take our impurities for granted, make excuses for the sins we commit, and expect you to overlook the harm we cause while still demanding justice from others. We do not deserve your mercy. Forgive us, and return us to a right relationship with you for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. You made us for the purpose of praising you; enliven

us with the Holy Spirit so that we can fulfill our calling in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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

According to the riches of his grace, which God lavished upon us and sealed for us by the promised Holy Spirit, hear this good news: In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

*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
Greet both friends and strangers saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

During this time of pandemic, a nod of the head and wave of the hand will suffice.

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

Consider what God has given to us in Jesus Christ; remember that, even now, the Holy Spirit dwells in us; rejoice that we are part of God's plan for all time. Let us present our offerings of thanksgiving.

Offertory There Is a Balm in Gilead arr. Mark Hayes
Elizabeth Crabtree, Soloist

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain;
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.
If you can preach like Peter, if you can preach like Paul,
Go home and tell your neighbor, "He died to save us all."*

*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

Following the Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to remain with their families or to visit with our childcare staff in the nursery.

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Spirit of the living God, seal in us your Word of truth, the gospel of salvation, so that we can faithfully follow and joyfully serve our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is in his name that we pray. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Psalm 24

Old Testament

- 1 The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;
- 2 for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.
- 3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?
- 4 Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.
- 5 They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation.
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.
- 8 Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.
- 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

The Second Lesson

Mark 6:14-29

New Testament

- 14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him."
- 15 But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."
- 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."
- 17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her.

18 For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not,

20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.

22 When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it."

23 And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

24 She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."

25 Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

26 The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.

27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison,

28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.

29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

Sermon

Leadership Vacuum

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

Pre-made Communion packets are available for you. Please see the ushers for assistance. In keeping with social distancing protocols, the congregation will not be coming forward to receive the elements. Instead, you are encouraged to receive the elements in your pew at the appropriate time.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Come to this table: you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for

a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

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.

You have given us life and being, and you preserve us by your providence. But you have shown us the fullness of your love in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation. For the previous gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you, we praise and bless you, O God. With your whole church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name.

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 Christ and the Holy Spirit.

We give you thanks, O God, through your beloved servant, Jesus Christ, whom you have sent in these last times as Savior and Redeemer and messenger of your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you made all things and in whom you take delight.

You sent him from heaven into Mary's womb, where he was conceived and took flesh. Born by the power of the Holy Spirit, he was revealed as your Son. In fulfillment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering to release from suffering those who place their trust in you, and so won for you a holy people.

He freely accepted the death to which he was handed over in order to destroy death and to shatter the chains of the evil one; to lead the righteous into light; to fix the boundaries of death and to manifest the resurrection.

Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your life, ministry, death, and resurrection, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

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.”

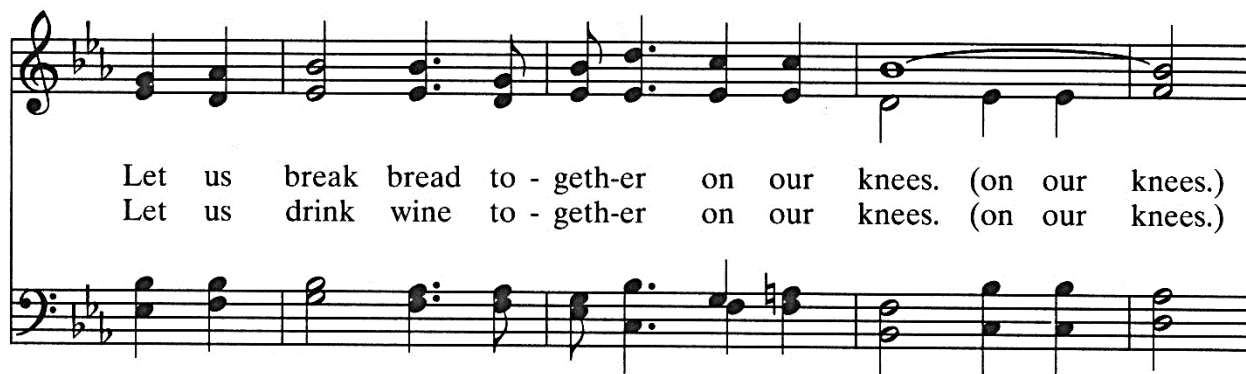
The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Communion hymn #513

verses 1 and 2

1. Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees;)

2. Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees;)

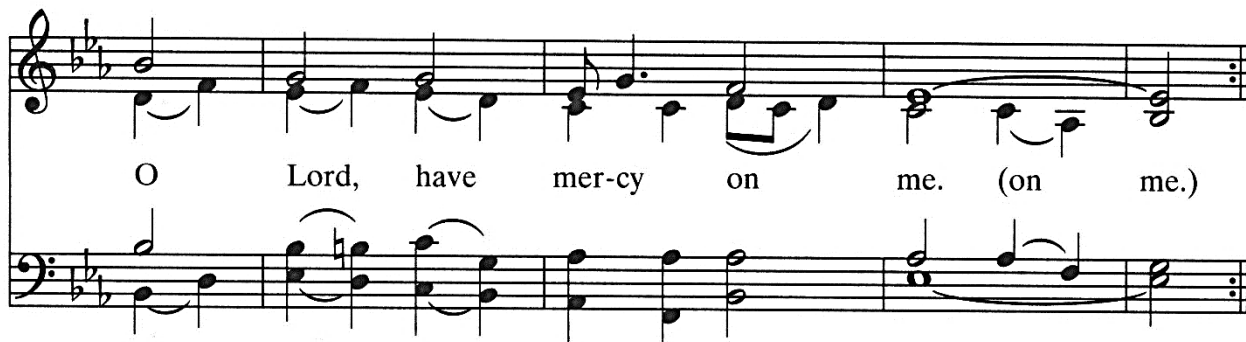


Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees.)
 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees.)

Refrain



When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. (on me.)

Prayer following Communion

Gracious God, we thank you for the love that brings us food from heaven, gives us the life of your dear Son, and assures us that we belong to the company of all his faithful people in heaven and on earth. Grant that, strengthened by this fellowship and by the power of his Holy Spirit, we may continue his work in the world, until we come to the glory of your eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;
 fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown,
 let us all in thee in - her - it; let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:
 Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,
 vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trembling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

*Charge and Benediction

Serve the weak; comfort the grieving; encourage the despairing; honor everyone to whom respect is due. Remember that in life and in death, body and soul, you belong to God, who promises resurrection in Jesus Christ.

May the Holy Trinity fill you with joy, surround you with peace, and lead you to eternal life.

Voluntary

Fugue

William Selby

Funding for today's soloist was provided by the Seiberling Music Endowment fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers in the Chancel are donated by Rosemary Wright to commemorate her husband, Larry Zarrilli's July 9 birthday. He was born in 1915 and was a longtime member of Westminster Presbyterian Church until his death in 2011.

Interim Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry We are grateful for Margo Works who accepted the position of Interim Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry during this transitional time. Throughout the years, Margo, her husband Alec, and their three children have found WPC to provide a wealth of opportunities to grow in faith, friendship, and rewarding service. She is pleased to help facilitate these same opportunities for the families of Westminster. We invite you to welcome her warmly to our staff team.

COVID-19 Protocols:

- Masks are now optional for all vaccinated adults. Unvaccinated adults are asked to continue masking.
- Masks are also optional for children and youth of every age, whether they have been vaccinated or not. This is at the discretion of the parent or guardian of the child or youth.
- Solos and congregational singing will continue both with and without masks.
- We will continue to observe social distancing measures, and the ushers will assist worshippers with seating in the sanctuary. The pews where worshippers are asked to sit are marked with a green sticker. If you would prefer to sit at a greater distance from others, please inform an usher who can guide you to a place where you will feel more comfortable.
- We are in the process of returning the hymnals, Bibles, and giving envelopes to the pews. However, offering trays and fellowship pads will not be passed at this time. Offering trays may be found at the entrance to the worship space.
- Livestreaming services will continue on YouTube.
- The narthex doors will remain locked for the time being. Please access the sanctuary through the education wing.

Script August/September, Deadline is Tuesday, July 13. Please send your articles and pictures to the office, to Claudine Schooley at wpcoffice1250@gmail.com.

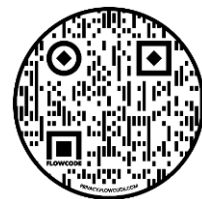
From the Finance Office Our Treasurer, Shelley Koutnik, will be volunteering in the Finance Office until a Staff Accountant is hired. Shelley will be at the church Monday mornings from 9:00 am until noon. Other hours will be by appointment. Please contact Shelley at wpctreasurer1250@gmail.com for your Finance Office needs.

WPC Book Group will meet Monday, July 12 at 7:00 p.m. The book this month is *The Ones We Choose*, by Julie Clark. Cathy Mever will lead the discussion. Email Cathy for details at chwdoc@gmail.com.

Welcome to VBS!
Monday, July 12 - Thursday, July 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

| CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of July 11 – 17, 2021 | |
|--|---|
| <p>Sunday, 7/11 10:30 am Worship Service in Sanctuary & on YouTube Livestream</p> <p>Monday, 7/12 9:00 am VBS Compassion Camp 1:00 pm Zoom Bible Study 7:00 pm Book Discussion - Off Site</p> <p>Tuesday, 7/13 9:00 am VBS Compassion Camp 7:00 pm Discipleship Zoom Meeting 7:00 pm Properties Committee Meeting - WHH</p> | <p>Wednesday, 7/14 9:00 am VBS Compassion Camp 6:00 pm Outreach Committee Zoom Meeting</p> <p>Thursday, 7/15 9:00 am VBS Compassion Camp 9:30 am WPC Staff Meeting - Library</p> <p>Friday, 7/16 1:00 pm Membership Committee Meeting - Library</p> <p>Saturday, 7/17 8:00 am Food For Life - 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, Shelley Kroutnik, and Dave Bodnar. **Tuesday** - Pastor Jon and Dave Bodnar.
Wednesday - Claudine Schooley, and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Claudine Schooley and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon and Claudine Schooley.



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