

6th Sunday after Pentecost



**July 4, 2021
at 10:30 a.m.**

Follow us also on



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.*

COME

Voluntary

Sortie on "National Hymn"

Lani Smith

*Call to Worship

Cindy Weiss

Jesus Christ, the crucified Lord, calls us to believe the good news of salvation.

His grace is sufficient for us.

Let us enter into God's new realm rejoicing, not in our own strength, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us worship God.

*Hymn #564

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

MATERNA

1. O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, For am-ber waves of grain,
2. O beau-ti-ful for pil-grim feet, Whose stern, im-pas-sioned stress
3. O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved In lib-er-at-ing strife,
4. O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream That sees be-yond the years



For pur - ple moun-tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
 A thor-ough-fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!
 Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life!
 Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, Un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee

And crown thy good with *broth-er-hood From sea to shin - ing sea!
 Con - firm thy soul in self - con-trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law!
 Till all suc-cess be no - ble-ness And ev - ery gain di - vine!
 And crown thy good with *broth-er-hood From sea to shin - ing sea!

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Threats to life pierce us and cause us to doubt God's love. But God shows such love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us confess our sins and receive new life.

Prayer of Confession

Holy Three, Holy One, triune God, we confess that we do not wholly believe that you have overcome sin and death. We are more in touch with the pangs of our weakness than we are with the power of your love. In fear, we worship idols; in despair, we collapse in hopelessness; in rage, we seek to dominate others. O God of David, forgive us. O Son of David, have mercy on us. O Spirit of the Living God, grant us peace. Send us out with the good news: nothing can withstand the victory of the cross and the resurrection of 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

Hear and believe this good news: Jesus, the Christ, son of Mary, Son of the Most High God, was broken and poured out for our salvation.
In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Amen.

*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

The Lord said to the apostle Paul, my grace is sufficient for you. Jesus also said to Peter, every one to whom much is given, of him much will be required. Let us bear witness to the love of God by presenting our offerings of thanksgiving.

Offertory Hymn 159

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

(Congregation remain seated)

$\text{♩} = 76$

1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,
 2. My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean,

a song of peace for lands a-far and mine.
 and sun-light beams on clo-ver-leaf and pine;

This is my home, the coun-try where my heart is;
 but oth-er lands have sun-light too, and clo-ver,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho-ly shrine;
 and skies are ev-ery-where as blue as mine.

but oth-er hearts in oth-er lands are beat-ing
 O hear my song, thou God of all the na-tions,

*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 welcome to remain with their families in Worship or go to the nursery to be supervised by professional childcare staff.

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

By the power of the Holy Spirit, speak to us through Jesus Christ, your living Word, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Psalm 48:1-8 Old Testament

1 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God.
His holy mountain,
2 beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
3 Within its citadels God has shown himself a sure defense.
4 Then the kings assembled, they came on together.
5 As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic,
they took to flight;
6 trembling took hold of them there, pains as of a woman in labor,
7 as when an east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.
8 As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God, which God establishes forever.

The Second Lesson Mark 6:1-13 New Testament

1 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.
2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him
were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom
that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!
3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and
Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at
him.

4 Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house."
5 And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.
6 And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.
7 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.
8 He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts;
9 but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.
10 He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place.
11 If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them."
12 So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent.
13 They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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

Sermon

Unexpected Revelation

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

We trust in God who, in sovereign love, makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten to destroy the planet entrusted to our care. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all people to Christ, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of those long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Prayers of the People

God of heaven and earth, creator of all things seen and unseen, we join with the church through all ages, praying that you cast out all evil and renew the face of the whole creation.

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Help us always to remember your generosity and constantly to do your will. Bless our land with honest industry, sound learning, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.

Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. Enact in every nation, for the common good, the justice you command. Grant intelligence and generosity to leaders of business and industry so that they provide dignity and safety for every person and household on the planet.

Grant imagination and passion to educators and artists so that they give clear guidance and true vision enabling us to praise you for the wonder and beauty of your world. Grant compassion and skill to healers and caregivers so that the sick and suffering may know your touch as a foreshadowing of the resurrection.

We pray this day for all who are suffering at the hands of the violent and power hungry, the greedy and malicious, the ignorant and misguided, and the powers of evil beyond human control. May each one who is afflicted find comfort in your faith, hope, and love to enable them to overcome attacks.

Empower the church with the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel with authority, for not even the gates of hell can withstand the grace of Jesus Christ.

Complete the renewal you began in raising Jesus from the dead. Then with all creation cry out with us,

Hallelujah! Amen.

We pray silently...

And finally, together, as the people of God, we offer the prayer that Christ taught us, 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 #262

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL HYMN



*Trumpets may
be played
with each stanza*

1. God of the a - ges, whose al - might-y hand
2. Thy love di - vine hath led us in the past;
3. From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
4. Re - fresh Thy peo - ple on their toil-some way,



Leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;



Of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
Be Thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;
Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,



Our grate - ful songs be - fore Thy throne a - rise.
Thy word our law, Thy paths our cho - sen way.
Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
And glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er Thine.



*Charge and Benediction

Show the love of God in all you do.
Be faithful witnesses to the grace of Jesus Christ.
Live in the power and joy of the Holy Spirit.

May the Son of David lead you to his eternal kingdom;
the Son of Mary wipe all tears from your eyes;
the Son of the Most High God save you from all evil
and make you whole, now and forever.

Voluntary

America, The Beautiful

arr. Harold DeCou

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers in the Chancel are given by Eleanor Humphrey in memory of her husband, Ed Humphrey and family.

Zachary Troyer's Farewell With appreciation, we give thanks for the work of Zachary Troyer. While pursuing his education, Zack has served in many capacities at Westminster, as Director of the Children's Choir, Youth Handbell Choir, and Adult Handbell Choir. Zack has also served our congregation as a Choral Scholar, offering section leadership in the choir and providing solos. His last day at Westminster will be July 25, with a farewell in Wright-Herberich Hall following worship. We encourage you to extend signs of your appreciation for his service. A box for cards may be found in WHH.

Staff Accountant Debby Evrard We are also saddened to announce the departure of Debby Evrard, who has faithfully served Westminster as our staff accountant. Debby's last day with us will be July 7. We encourage you to extend signs of your appreciation for Debby's service. A box for cards may be found in Wright-Herberich Hall.

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 On June 22, our Session voted to relax some of our existing COVID protocols. Please note the following:

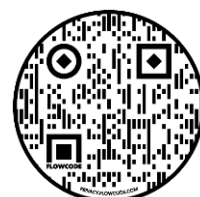
- Masks are now optional for all vaccinated adults. Unvaccinated adults are asked to continue masking.
- Masks are also optional for children and youth of every age, whether they have been vaccinated or not. This is at the discretion of the parent or guardian of the child or youth.
- Solos and congregational 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. 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.

VBS is coming soon! The dates are Monday, July 12 to Thursday, July 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. You still have time to register your children on WPC website (click the green button) at <http://www.westminsterakron.org/whats-happening/currentupdates/>
Note that there will be no walk-up registrations accepted this year.

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of July 4 – 10, 2021	
Sunday, 7/4 Independence Day 10:30 am Worship Service in Sanctuary & on YouTube Livestream Food Collection in WHH	Monday, 7/5 1:00 pm Zoom Bible Study Thursday, 7/8 9:30 am WPC Staff Meeting - Library

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, and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard, Claudine Schooley, and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Claudine Schooley and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon and Claudine Schooley.



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