14th Sunday after Pentecost



August 29, 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 livestreaming and recording equipment. Please note that hymns are no longer being printed in the bulletin. You may find a hymn book on the back of the pew in front of you. **Bolded text is read or sung by all.** *Please rise in body or spirit.

COME

Voluntary

The Gift of Love *English Folk Tune* Arr. Hal H. Hopson Adult Handbell Ensemble

*Call to Worship Liam Hauerwas

God has lavished us with every perfect gift from above and called us to living intimacy through the beloved one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

In humility and in trust, let us worship God!

*Hymn #411

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to our loving God who calls us close through our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer of Confession

Loving, righteous God, our hearts are defiled by so many things. You have called us to yourself, but we have gone away. Forgetting your living Word, we cling to dead traditions. Deceiving ourselves, we abandon your commandments. We honor you with our lips while our hearts are far from you. Cleanse our hearts from evil intentions; cleanse our tongues from evil words so that our worship may be pure and undefiled and we may live with you in love for others. 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

Our generous God has given us the perfect gift of forgiveness, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has liberated us from the things that bind us and made us new by the living Word, filling our hearts with God's love. In the name of 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

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

Offering plates may be found as you exit the sanctuary.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights. Filled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts with gladness through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Offertory Lord, I Want to be a Christian African American Spiritual Paul Stewart, soloist - Text may be found at hymn #372

*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

Father of lights, let your Spirit illumine our hearts through your holy Word, turning us away from all which does not satisfy to the fullness of life in the Beloved One, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The First Lesson James 1:17-27

New Testament

- 17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
- 18 In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.
- 19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;
- 20 for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.
- 21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.
- 22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.
- 23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror;

24 for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act-they will be blessed in their doing.

26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Hymn #357 O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

MARYTON

The Second Lesson Mark 7 (selected verses)

New Testament

7 Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him,

2 they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them.

3 (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders;

4 and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)

5 So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?"

6 He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; 7 in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

8 You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand:

15 there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

20 And he said, "It is what comes out of a person that defiles.

21 For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come."

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

Sermon From Within The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

from 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

Let us bring our prayers of intercession to God, saying, **Arise**, **God of Love**. **Come to our aid**.

Beloved One, you have called us to your embrace and our hearts overflow with your goodness. Your power endures forever. You reign with justice and love righteousness. Let the fragrance of your love and the grace of your lips anoint us now as we pray for the church, the creation, and all those in need.

Arise, God of Love. Come to our aid.

Unshackle your church from bondage to human tradition that we may worship you freely and serve others with a pure heart.

Arise, God of Love. Come to our aid.

Redeem and renew your creation to bud, blossom, and bring forth fruit as we care for the land and love one another.

Arise, God of Love. Come to our aid.

Extend your reign of compassionate justice in our nations and neighborhoods as we unite with people of goodwill to do right for those in need.

Arise, God of Love. Come to our aid.

Let us embrace the distressed, the diseased, the devalued, the denied. Cause us to care for the abandoned, the bereaved, the weak, and the weary.

Arise, God of Love. Come to our aid.

Make us be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger. Let us persevere in your perfect law of liberty and bless us to do your Word.

Arise, God of Love. Come to our aid.

Clothe those we remember now with your grace and renewing love.

Arise, God of Love. Come to our aid.

Blessed forever are those who have answered your invitation. They now rest in your embrace. Bless us now to follow in their footsteps of faith.

Arise, God of Love. Come to our aid.

Let our prayers flow before you through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 #366 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me ST. CATHERINE

Listen to the life-giving words of Jesus Christ our Lord! Look into God's perfect law of liberty and persevere in God's blessing. Live in God's love, caring for those in need from a heart filled and blessed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God has blessed you forever with every perfect gift from above, freeing you to rise and live in the embrace of God's love.

Voluntary Praeludium in E-Moll J.S. Bach

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



^{*}Charge and Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers in the Chancel are given in honor and loving memory of John Dana Chapman, by his daughter, Harriet D. Chapman.

The Flowers on the Pedestal are given in loving memory of Linda Hawkins by her husband, Larry and their children, Kelly, Michael, and Bethany.

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 have returned hymnals, Bibles, and giving envelopes to pews with green stickers. 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.

Calendar of Church events for the week of August 29 - September 4 Tuesday, 9/31 **Sunday**, 8/29

2:30 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship Service in

Sanctuary & on YouTube Livestream

11:30 am Youth Leaders' Meeting

in Library

Thursday, 9/2

9:30 am WPC Staff Meeting in Library

7:00 pm Session Meeting in Room 106

in Chancel

Monday, 8/30

1:00 pm Zoom Bible Study

Saturday, 9/4

8:00 am Food For Life in the Kitchen

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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pastor Jon	Pastor Jon		Pastor Jon	Pastor Jon
The Reverend Jonathan S. Hauerwas jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com				
Cell phone 330-606-4551				
Claudine		Claudine	Claudine	Claudine
Schooley		Schooley	Schooley	Schooley
WPC Church Office wpcoffice1250@gmail.com				
	Margo Works	Margo Works	Margo Works	
Director of Children, Family, and Youth wpcchildren1250@gmail.com				
	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	
Music Director/Organist <u>wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com</u>				
Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	
Daytime Custodian wpcbuilding@gmail.com				

Other Staff:

Val Stewart, Director of Children's Choir Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician Traci Range, Director of Childcare <u>wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com</u>

Volunteers:

Kristy Yates, Director of Adult Bell Choir

Finance Office: Shelley Koutnik. Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Contact wpctreasurer1250@gmail.com for assistance.

