

4th Sunday after Epiphany



January 30, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Follow us also on



or on our church website at westminsterakron.org

At the ringing of the chimes 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 There Is a Balm in Gilead *setting by Gilbert Martin*

*Call to Worship from Psalm 71 Brad Hall

Our hope is in God all of our lives.

God is a rock of refuge: a fortress against threat and shame.

God has held us since our birth.

So we are never in the full grasp of the wicked.

In love, God saves and supports us.

Trusting in God, we continually offer our praise!

Choral Introit God's Gonna Set This World On Fire Moses Hogan
Choral Scholars

*Hymn #461 God Is Here! ABBOT'S LEIGH

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins, for the Holy One delights in blessing those who seek to walk with God.

Prayer of Confession

God of life, we admit to you and to each other that we have not always lived lives of love. We have lost patience and been rude. We have been irritable and insisted on our own way. We have even let love end. Forgive us and heal us, dear God, through Jesus Christ, your love incarnate. 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

God has loved us since the beginning, and God's love for us will never end. Do not fear, therefore, but have faith in God's steadfast love, God's healing power, and God's ability to make all things new.

*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

Friends, let us love not only in our words but also in our deeds through the tithes and offerings that we give today.

Offertory Praise The Lord *Traditional Cameroon Melody*

Praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Offering plates may be found as you exit the sanctuary.

*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

Stephanie Blaha

*Following the Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to
remain with their families, participate in the children's K-6 choir
rehearsal in room 207 or visit with our childcare staff in the nursery.*

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Spirit of life, God of love, open our hearts and enter in, that hearing your
word of love, we may become your love for others. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

New Testament

1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all
knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not
have love, I am nothing.

3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I
may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or
arrogant

5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or
 resentful;
 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all
 things.
 8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for
 tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.
 9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;
 10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.
 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I
 reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish
 ways.
 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.
 Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully
 known.
 13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of
 these is love.

Hymn 394 There is a Balm in Gilead BALM IN GILEAD

The Second Lesson Luke 4:21-30 New Testament

21 Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled
 in your hearing."
 22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that
 came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"
 23 He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb,
 "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home
 town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."'
 24 And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's
 home town.

25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land;
26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.
27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.’
28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.
29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.
30 But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

Sermon

The Greatest of These is Love

The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

from United Church of Canada

We are not alone; we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

God of all goodness, we live in times of stress and controversy, injustice and cruelty. At times we cry to you for rescue and remember that we have leaned on you since our birth, as we pray,

O God of creation, be our hope and trust.

We pray for leaders and nations around the world, that they may seek justice and peace,

O God of creation, be our hope and trust.

We pray for our church in all its forms, that we may be the love you want.

O God of creation, be our hope and trust.

We pray for victims of domestic violence and victims of war; grant your healing and give your peace.

O God of creation, be our hope and trust.

We pray for those trapped by natural disaster; embrace them with your calm and send them relief.

O God of creation, be our hope and trust.

We pray for those who are ill or suffering, that they may feel the comfort of your love.

O God of creation, be our hope and trust.

We pray for your creation, that the health of the earth may be restored.

O God of creation, be our hope and trust.

We pray for those for whom death draws near, and for the loved ones of those who have died; that they may know and trust that nothing can separate them from your love.

O God of creation, be our hope and trust.

God our Wisdom, enable us to be humble and kind in all things. Remind us that, whatever the issue, today we know only in part. And even now, faith, hope and love abide; and the greatest of these is love. Help us to be, like you, Love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And now, with one voice, let us say the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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 #440 In Christ There Is No East or West MCKEE

*Charge and Benediction

Empowered by God's love for you, go out and love your neighbors, the ones just like you and those different from you. May the love of God help you to bear all things. May the love of Christ enable you to believe all things. May the love of the Holy Spirit inspire you to hope all things, so that you abide in faith, hope and love this day and forever.

Voluntary

MFURAHINI HALELUYA

Traditional Tanzanian



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers in the Chancel Last Week, January 23, were given in loving memory of Rosemary Bramley by Bill Bramley and family.

The flowers in the Chancel Today are given by Kate Clark in loving memory of her mother and aunt, Frances Ruth Gillis Clark and Janet Elaine Gillis Hansen.

First Sunday Food Collection The program continues on the first Sunday of each month. All non perishable foods are needed but especially self contained food that can be heated in a microwave such as Hormel complete dinners, tuna or chicken in a pouch and pudding and gelatin that does not need to be refrigerated. Items can be placed in the big wooden box in the coat room at any time. Monetary donations are welcome with the checks made out to WPC and Good Neighbors marked on the memo line. Thank you again for your generosity.

Church Bulletin Beginning February 13 the bulletin will return to its pre-pandemic format. If you are following the service on YouTube and enjoy reading the scriptures, please have your Bible handy.



Calendar of Church Events week of January 30—February 6, 2022

Sunday, 1/30

- 8:30 am Nursery Opens
- 8:45 am Adult Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room
- 9:30 am Sunday School - Parenting Group
- 10:30 am Worship Service & YouTube Livestream
The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby Preaching
Children's Choir in the Choir Room

Tuesday, 2/1

- 2:30 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal in Chancel

Thursday, 2/3

- 9:30 am WPC Staff Meeting in the Library
- 7:00 pm Adult Education Zoom Meeting

Sunday, 2/6

- 8:30 am Nursery Opens
- 8:45 am Adult Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room
- 9:30 am Sunday School - Parenting Group - Youth Choir
- 10:10 am Children's Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary
- 10:30 am Worship Service & YouTube Livestream
The Reverend David Aber Preaching
First Sunday Food Collection
- 11:30 am Pastor David Aber's Reception in WHH
- 11:40 am Outreach Meeting in Room 106

For the most recent CDC guidance, we encourage you to visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

Westminster's policy presently includes the following:

- *The dramatic rise of the Omicron COVID variant has necessitated review of Westminster's church service attendance policy. The concern of worshipers attending is evident in the significant number wearing masks. Session has agreed to require masks for all worshipers beginning with the January 30th service and extending at least through the month of February.*
- *Seating in alternate pew rows will continue. Hopefully, this rapid spread of the virus will subside and allow us to relax this policy by the Easter season.*
- *Livestreaming services will continue on YouTube.*

Please dispose of your used masks in the trash receptacles located in the narthex and Wright-Herberich Hall.

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.



Staff Schedule in the Office:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Claudine Schooley		Claudine Schooley	Claudine Schooley	Claudine 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 wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com				
WPC Church Finance wpcfinance1250@gmail.com				
Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	
Daytime Custodian wpcbuilding@gmail.com				

Other Staff:

Val Stewart, Director of Children's Choir wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com

Laurel Labbe, Youth Music llabbe@roadrunner.com

Traci Range, Director of Childcare wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com

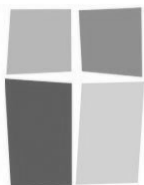
Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician

Volunteers:

Kristy Yates, Director of Adult Bell Choir

Shelley Koutnik, Head of Staff

The Church Office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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