



Westminster Presbyterian Church
A Service for the Worship of God
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 6, 2020

We Gather in God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

David Hammond

I was glad when they said,
Let us go into the house of the Lord!

***Call to Worship**

from Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.

**It is like precious oil on the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Hermon which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forever more.

May the joy of the Lord pour forth from this place,

And the unified voice of God's people sing praise!

***Hymn #220**

"All People That On Earth Do Dwell"

OLD HUNDREDTH

*All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.
Serve him with joy, his praises tell, come now before him and rejoice!*

*Know that the LORD is God indeed; he formed us all without our aid.
We are the flock he surely feeds, the sheep who by his hand were made.*

*O enter then his gates with joy, within his courts his praise proclaim!
Let thankful songs your tongues employ. O bless and magnify his name!*

*Because the LORD our God is good, his mercy is forever sure.
His faithfulness at all times stood and shall from age to age endure.*

Call to Confession

United in our need for God's grace, we confess our sins.

Loving and Merciful God,

In the light of your glory and grace, we can clearly see the darkness of our sin. Forgive us, for all that we have done and left undone.

Silent Confession.

Reunited by our redemption in Jesus Christ we continue to pray together.

Through the transforming power of your Spirit, help us Lord, to lay down the works of darkness that separate us from one another and from you. Clothe us again with the garments of love, peace, truth, and righteousness that you have offered us through the saving work of Jesus Christ. For it is in his name for his sake we offer our prayer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

When we had sinned against God, he came to us, in person. Not to punish us. Not to shame us. But to be reconciled with us. To redeem us. In Jesus Christ, our sins have been forgiven. Friends, believe that it is true and be at peace with God and with one another.

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

May we offer to one another the peace and forgiveness we have received from Christ. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵“If another member of the church^[a] sins against you,^[b] go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.^[c] ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Second Scripture Reading

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Communion Meditation

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Straight Talk: The Hard Work of Love”

*“If another member of the church sins against you,
go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone.
If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.”*

Matthew 18:15

We Respond to God's Word

Call to Offering

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Confession of 1967: The Love of God

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Hymn #507

"Come to the Table of Grace" (vs. 1, 3, 5)

TABLE OF GRACE

*Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace*

*Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace*

*Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace*

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

***Hymn #508**

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

KINGDOM

*For the bread which You have broken, For the wine which You have poured,
For the words which You have spoken, Now we give you thanks, O Lord.*

*By this promise that You love us, By your gift of peace restored,
By your call to heaven above us, Hallow all our lives, O Lord.*

*With the saints who now adore You Seated at the heavenly board,
May the church still waiting for You Keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.*

*I In your service, Lord, defend us, In our hearts keep watch and ward;
In the world in which You send us, Let your kingdom come, O Lord.*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Organist: Claire Kuhl

Vocalist: John Lake