



Westminster Presbyterian Church
A Service for the Worship of God
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 15, 2020

We Gather in God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Len Bornemann

O give thanks, for the Lord is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

Interlude

Call to Worship

O give thanks to the Lord, call God's name,
make known the Lord's deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to the Lord, sing praises to the Holy Three-in-One;
tell of all God's wonderful works.**

Glory in the holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord's presence and the Lord's strength continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done,
the miracles and the judgments,

**O offspring of God's servant, Abraham,
children of Jacob, God's chosen ones, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

***Hymn #145**

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

MARION

*Rejoice ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King.*

*Refrain:
Rejoice! rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

*Yes, on through life's long path, Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day, In gladness and in woe. (Refrain)*

*At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. (Refrain)*

*Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King. (Refrain)*

Call to Confession

With humility let us confess our sin.

Lord we confess that we have lived neither as servants of your will nor children of your grace. Hear, O God, the prayers of our hearts.

Silent Confession.

With hope, let us trust God's mercy.

Forgive us again, that we may enter into the joy of the salvation that is ours through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***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**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

We Hear God's Word

Time for All God's Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ[b] before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for

the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Days that Count: Gotcha Day”

We Respond to God's Word

***Hymn #422**

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, From Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You, Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, Gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, Races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants Fit to answer at Your throne.*

*Treasure too You have entrusted, Gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, And to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing, As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, Serving You by loving all.*

Minute for Mission

“A Cheerful Giver”

Richard Wilson

Call to Offering

Offertory

***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 Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Prayers of the People and 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 #522

“Lord, When I Came Into This Life”

LAND OF REST

*Lord, when I came into this life You called me by my name;
Today I come, commit myself, Responding to Your claim.*

*Within the circle of the faith As member of Your cast,
I take my place with all the saints Of future, present, past.*

*In all the tensions of my life, Between my faith and doubt,
Let Your great Spirit give me hope, Sustain me, lead me out.*

*So, help me in my unbelief And let my life be true:
Feet firmly planted on the earth, My sights set high on You.*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Organist: Larry Dozier

Vocalist: Beverly Psomas

Announcements

Poinsettias

It's poinsettia time again. Order slips are in the Narthex. The poinsettias will in the sanctuary by 11/29/20 and can be picked up after the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Special Offering

Today, you have the opportunity through their traditional Thanksgiving offering to support the many programs provided by Thornwell Home. Please share abundantly.

Decorating for Christmas

Holly Hubbard has prepared detailed plans and asked individuals to “take on” specific tasks. Please contact Holly (229-0784) if you would like to help or you have been asked and will not be able to participate. Everyone is invited to come and help. Just remember social distancing.

BOGO for God: November Collection for Beyond Abuse

When you buy cleaning products for your home, buy one for GOD, too. Collecting through November 22.

Looking ahead to Christmas

When purchasing personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies, why not **BOGO for God**? Buy yours *and* buy one to donate to our joint Christmas missions project with our partners at New Faith. Together, we will make a difference for those in need.

November Sermon Topics and Lectionary Readings

Days that Count

Our scriptures this month seem pretty heavenly minded but they have everything to say about the earthly good we are to do here and now. Let's make these days count, and let God take care of the days ahead.

Sermon Topic Continued

November 22: Thanksgiving Day (Christ the King/Dedication Day)

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Wednesday, November 18

Bell Choir Rehearsal: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (in Sanctuary). To make friends and to make music.

Evening Study Group: 7:00 p.m. Facilitated discussion LIVE or via Zoom. Topic Names for the mEssiah: Wonderful Counselor.”

Thursday, November 19

Pop Up Prayers: 8:30 a.m. LIVE under the porte cochere. Bring a Bible, a lawn chair and an open heart!