Westminster Presbyterian Church

A Telling Presence in the City

Sunday, March 8, 2020, 8:30 & 10:30 am

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, where their trust is in the Lord, they shall not be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the streams. It shall not fear when heat comes, "Isaiah 11:1-2 NRSV

Tree Planted by Water, by Joan Bohlig, etching, 1989
The Westminster Collection

We enter this church not as strangers, but as children of God.

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@westminstermpls
Preparing for the Word

Our service begins with the Prelude, inviting us to prepare for worship.

Prelude
Kenneth Vigne, organ

Lenten Greeting
Rev. Dr. Meghan K. Gage-Finn

One: The Lord be with you. All: And also with you.

*Call to Worship
One: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God’s presence with singing!

All: For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting; and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.

One: Let us worship God.

*Processional Hymn No. 32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Prayer of Confession (Unison) 10:30 Rev. Sarah Brouwer
Great Creator God, at your word the earth was formed. You presided over the coming of light. You made us in your image and set us as stewards of Creation. But we have violated your image and spoiled the earth. Forgive us, we pray. Teach us to respect creation and honor the human family. Help us care for this planet and partner with its creatures, not dominate and destroy. This we pray in the name of the life of the world, Jesus the Christ.

Silent Prayer
Worshippers seek God’s forgiveness in their own lives.

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness
One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Friends, hear the good news:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

10:30 Anthem Gentle Jesus
Anna Laura Page
Seraphim Choir, Brad Ollmann, conductor; Karen Wasiluk, flute
Listening for the Word

10:30 A Time with Children

Following A Time with Children, children ages 4-1st grade are invited to Children’s Church. Children in grades 2-5 are invited to Small Hands, Big Hearts.

Prayer for Illumination

8:30 Vincent Thomas; 10:30 Sara Donaldson

Readings from Holy Scripture

Genesis 1:6-8 (OT, p. 1)
Revelation 22:1-5 (NT, p. 231)

One: This is the Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Meditation Losing Paradise: What Happened to the Water of Life?

The Practice of Silence

Responding to the Word

*10:30 Hymn No. 21 Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works

*Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand)

We believe in God,
who is found in darkness,
who parted the waters with a dream,
fragrant as the ancient damask rose;
who made from nothing—light, stars, moons, planets and liveliest earth;
who ran wild with joy, creating mountains, waves and snowflakes.
Who spun a web of shimmering life where creatures grew and changed,
flowered and put down roots, swam, chirped and flew,
ran, played and roared, talked—in many different languages
wondered and dreamed beings of astonishing variety,
each needing all the others, held in a delicate kinship.
God saw that it was very good and laughed and made some more.

* Please stand as you are able.
10:30 Call to Prayer

Nibi Song

Doreen Day
Westminster Choir, Dr. Amanda Weber, conductor

Water, we love you. We thank you. We respect you. (Ojibwe)

Pastoral Prayer 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.

Offertory Sentences

Please place your offering in the plate, or give via the tithe.ly app.

Offertory

8:30 Poem

Zdenko Fibich

10:30 Water is Life (Mni Wičoni)

Sara Thomsen

This song, inspired by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota, includes two phrases in Lakota: Mni wičoni (“water is life”) and Mitakuye Oyasin (“all my relations”).

Prayer of Dedication for the Offering Received

*8:30 Hymn No. 21 Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works

*10:30 Hymn No. 737 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

*Charge and Benediction

The people respond with “Amen.”

*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you. All: And also with you.

Postlude

Today’s flowers are in loving memory of Karen Collier and her parents, Marie & Arden Collier, by the Collier family

Notice of Death

Alfred Siftar, February 24, 2020