Westminster
Presbyterian Church

A Telling Presence in the City

Sunday, September 3, 2023

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

*The Burning Bush*, by Robert Hodgell, linocut print, 1960s
The Westminster Collection
Preparing for the Word

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

**Prelude** *Ruhig bewegt* from *Organ Sonata No. 2*  
Paul Hindemith  
Kenneth Vigne, organ

**Our Life in Christ**  
One: The Lord be with you.  
**All:** And also with you.

*Call to Worship* (Exodus 3:14-15)  
One: God said to Moses: I am who I am.  
**All:** This is the name of the Lord forever.  
One: Let us worship God.

*Processional Hymn* No. 401 *Here in This Place*  
Dr. Amanda Weber, cantor

**Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession**
Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer.

**Silent Prayers of Confession**
Worshippers seek and reflect on 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. Alleluia! Amen.

**Listening to the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**  
Barbara Mauk

* Please stand as you are able.
Readings from Holy Scripture

Exodus 3:1-15 (OT, pp. 46-47)
Matthew 16:12-28 (NT, pp. 15-16)

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

Sermon The Hard Problem
The Rev. Margaret O. Fox

Responding to the Word

*Hymn No. 509 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

Offering Invitation
The Rev. Dr. David Tsai Shinn

You are invited to give online via Realm or by placing your donation in the offering plate. Please assist the ushers in passing the plates as needed. To learn more about how to make a gift online, please see the back of the bulletin. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of Westminster.

Offertory At a Certain Church from Scuppernong
John W. Work III

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.
One: Let us pray...

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.
The Distribution of Bread and Cup
All are invited to come forward by exiting the pew to the right to receive the bread and cup, returning to pews on the opposite side. Communion is served by intinction, dipping bread into the cup. Communion will be served in the pews for those who are unable to come forward. A gluten-free alternative for bread is available at the center aisle.

Music during the Distribution The Burning Bush from The Prince of Egypt  Hans Zimmer

Closing Prayer

*Hymn* No. 432 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

*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 Isaiah 43:2  Kenneth Vigne

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Mark your calendars for September 10: Coming Together Sunday and the beginning of the program year!

8:15am-11:30am | Nursery Hours | Nursery
8:30am | Worship | Westminster Hall and Livestream
9:15am | Adult Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room
9:15am | Joint Adult Education and Social Justice Forum | Sanctuary and Livestream
9:15am | FYC Caregiver Meet and Greet | Parent Lounge
9:15am | FYC Church School | Rooms 201-210, Garden Room, Youth Room
10:30am | Worship with children’s processional | Sanctuary and Livestream
11:30am | All-Church Photo | Nicollet Mall
11:45am | All-Church Picnic | Westminster Hall
Today's flowers are in loving memory of our parents
W.J. and Mildred Houck
Eldon and Ethel Holst
from Virginia Houck and Alan Holst

In Eternal Rest
Harold Serumgard, August 21, 2023
Rick Person, August 29, 2023

Daily Phone Devotions
612.332.7087

September 3.................... Matthew 16:21-28
4.......................................................... Psalm 17
5...................................................... Revelation 3:7-13
6.................................................. Matthew 12:22-32
7....................................................... Psalm 149
8...................................................... Ezekiel 33:7-11
9....................................................... Romans 13:8-14
10 .................................................. Matthew 18:15-20
Welcome to Westminster

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, mission, and programs.

If you are new to Westminster

Accessible Worship. Large print bulletins, hearing assistance devices, and Hearing Loop information are available from ushers during 10:30am worship.

Welcome, Children! Young ones are always welcome in worship at Westminster. We also offer Nursery care for children 3 years old and younger, and the child-friendly Children’s Tower Room (in the southwest balcony corner) is open with the service livestreamed for those who may need to step away for nursing or to tend to children’s needs.

Coffee Hour. Join us in Westminster Commons for coffee and fellowship, following Sunday morning worship.

Membership. The next New Member class will take place on Sunday, October 8 at 11:45am. For information about membership, contact the Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn at mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org or Janice Teliczan at jteliczan@wpc-mpls.org.

If you seek to deepen your involvement

Justice & Mission. Get involved in serving and seeking justice; contact the Rev. Alanna Simone Tyler, atyler@wpc-mpls.org.

Families, Youth, and Children. Connect with Church School, youth groups, Confirmation, parent offerings, and special events; contact the Rev. Alexandra Jacob, ajacob@wpc-mpls.org.

Congregational Care. Join volunteer teams providing support for members through prayer, meals, and visitations; contact the Rev. Dr. David Tsai Shinn, dshinn@wpc-mpls.org.

Adult Ministries. Enjoy faith formation with other adults of the church through classes, small groups, and forums; contact the Rev. Margaret Fox, mfox@wpc-mpls.org.

Worship & the Arts. Offer your artistic gifts in worship, participate in adult or children’s music ensembles, or connect with other artists; contact Dr. Amanda Weber, aweber@wpc-mpls.org.

Westminster Cares

Births, Adoptions, and Baptisms. Contact Janice Teliczan, jteliczan@wpc-mpls.org.

Pastoral Care. Contact Deb Wagner about hospitalization, illness, death, or prayer requests, 612.332.3421 or dwagner@wpc-mpls.org.
Our Life in Christ: Opportunities

**Coming Together Sunday**
Sunday, September 10

Mark your calendars for the beginning of the program year! Worship will return at 8:30am in Westminster Hall and Education Hour will return at 9:15am for children and adults. A children’s processional will take place during 10:30am worship, followed by an All-Church photo outside the Sanctuary on Nicollet Mall. After the photo is taken, lunch will be served in Westminster Hall. The Nursery will be open from 8:15-11:30am for children 3 years old and under.

**Joint Forum: Social Justice and Adult Education**
Sunday, September 10 | 9:15am | Sanctuary and Livestream

Joint Social Justice Forum and Adult Education class at 9:15am in the sanctuary with R.T. Rybak and Gloria Perez. The Minneapolis leaders will join Senior Pastor Tim Hart-Andersen in conversation about efforts to foster a renewed sense of community.

**Men’s Ministry: Coming Together Monday!**
Monday, September 11 | 5-7pm | Utepils Brewing

Join the men of Westminster for an informal outing of food, beverages, and conversation as we return to Westminster for the fall program season. A variety of food and beverage options (including non-alcoholic) will be available for purchase.

**Questions? Contact Brent Hall at 612-889-7208.** We look forward to seeing you!

**Town Hall Forum: Emily Hanford**
Tuesday, September 12 | Noon | Sanctuary

The Westminster Town Hall Forum returns this fall for a series looking at life, culture, and politics in the United States, each telling a different American Story. On September 12, Emily Hanford, Senior Education Correspondent for APM Reports will share knowledge from her book *How Teaching Kids to Read Went So Wrong*. **Music will begin at 11:30am. A Breads and Spreads reception and a “Continuing the Conversation” event will follow the forum.**

**Congregational Listening Sessions**
Sunday, September 17 | 9:15am | Corner Gallery
Sunday, September 17 | 11:45am | Recreation Room

The Ministry and Mission Study Committee has set aside two more listening sessions. Help Westminster reflect on where we are as a congregation and prepare us to follow where God is leading us. **The session at 9:15am is set aside for caregivers of children and youth, but all are welcome.**
This Week at Westminster | September 3-10
Visit westministermpls.org/events for more details about events.

**Sunday, September 3**
8am-12:30pm | *It’s a Wonderful Life* exhibition | Westminster Gallery
10:15-11:30am | Summer Nursery Hours
10:30am | Worship: The Rev. Margaret O. Fox preaching | Sanctuary*

**Labor Day, Monday, September 4**
Church building and offices closed.

**Wednesday, September 6**
5:30pm | Handbell Choir | Great Hall Balcony
6:30pm | Adult Choir | Adult Choir Room
6:30pm | WestConnect | Courtyard

**Friday, September 8**
10am | Memorial: Harold Serumgard | Chapel*
2pm | Memorial: Ogden Confer | Sanctuary*

**Saturday, September 9**
9:30am-2pm | FYC Leader Orientation & Training
2pm | Memorial: Dave Nichols | Chapel*

**Coming Together Sunday, September 10**
8am-12:30pm | *It’s a Wonderful Life* exhibition closing | Westminster Gallery
8:15am-11:30am | Nursery Hours | Nursery
8:30am | Worship: The Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen preaching | Westminster Hall*
9:15am | Adult Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room
9:15am | Joint Forum: R.T. Rybak & Gloria Perez | Sanctuary*
9:15am | FYC Caregiver Meet and Greet | Parent Lounge
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* May also be viewed via Livestream westministermpls.online.church
Giving to Westminster
You can make a one-time gift or pledge online. To support 2023 Stewardship and the *Enduring Hope* Campaign, point your smartphone camera at the QR codes below or visit: onrealm.org/westmintermpls/give

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Join us for worship in-person, via livestream at westmintermpls.online.church, or facebook.com/westmintermpls

**Sundays**
8:30am Worship (Westminster Hall) - resumes September 10
10:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

**Wednesdays** (resumes September 13)
6pm Worship (Westminster Hall)