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HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIII | FEBRUARY 14, 2021 | No. 40

From the Pews, Jade Fountain

I'm a fan of comfort. Give me a pair of soft, warm pajama pants, some fuzzy socks or slippers, a cozy blanket and a warm drink, and you'll just about have to physically move me from whatever spot I've claimed. I can think back to some weekends in grad school where this was my reality for almost full days - moving only to go in search of food. Of course, now with two children, this proposition is harder.

Jacob and I have worked out a system where on alternating weekend mornings, one rises early to tend to the needs of Jack and Nora while the other blissfully sleeps in. It's really one of the best gifts we can give one another in these messy long days of babies and preschoolers. Picture it - I get to sleep in until 7:30 or 8 am (yep, that counts as sleeping in these days), and when I wake, it's quiet, it's warm, and I'm quite cozy. I could stay in that bed all day. It's comfortable, and it's definitely safe from the messiness of the day-to-day.

I imagine that my weekend morning thoughts might somewhat echo those of Peter's that day on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured before him. Before the group had climbed that mountain, they'd really been in the thick of it - Jesus has been healing, teaching, feeding thousands, and performing other miracles. Peter had just confessed Jesus as the Christ, and Jesus, in turn, had just revealed that he would be killed by the elders and chief priests of the church. WHEW! Can you imagine?

Peter, seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses (and probably being scared out of his wits among other things), proposes that they stay there - "let's make three tents for you all [and let's just stay here away from the mess and the impending doom]."

Pope Francis says that we are a lot like Peter at the Transfiguration. We like the idea of staying up on the mountaintop together but really don't want to be bothered otherwise. Staying on the mountaintop is comfortable and easy compared to climbing out of the cozy comfort and into the everyday mess. It's easy to feel connected to our Lord when he's shining radiantly in our faces, it's harder to do the work in the chaos of day-to-day life.

Much like I eventually climb out of my warm bed and join my family for a day of shrieks and laughter, tantrums and mess, Peter follows God's words - "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him," and climbs down the mountain with Jesus to do the work that leads Jesus to the cross.

I pray that we are never so comfortable up on our own mountains that we forget to follow God's commands to do His work and listen to his Word.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 14, 2021 | On Demand on Facebook & YouTube | 11:15a wpc-online.org



Transfiguration of the Lord

Preparation for **Worship**

There must be always remaining in everyone's life some place for...that which in itself is breathlessly beautiful, and by an inherent prerogative, throws all the rest of life into a new and creative relatedness, something that gathers up in itself all the freshets of experience from drab and commonplace areas of living and glows in one bright white light of penetrating beauty and meaning - then passes. The commonplace is shot through with new glory; old burdens become lighter, deep and ancient wounds lose much of their old, old hurting.

Howard Thurman

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Prelude

"Lord, the Love of Your Light Is Shining"

arr. Hayes

* Call to Worship

Psalm 50:1-3, 15

Leader: The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

People: **Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

Leader: Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before God is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest is all around the Lord.

People: **"Call on me in the day of trouble," says the Lord.**
"I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

All: **Let us worship God!**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Prayer of Confession

**God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory,
but we turn away, distracted by our own plans.
We confess that we speak when we should listen,
and act when we should wait.
We put endless energy into our own comfort,
when you ask us to seek the welfare of others.
Forgive our aimless enthusiasms.
Grant us wisdom when we are confused,
grant us humility when we face the unknown,
and when we are afraid, grant us courage to move forward in faith.
Help us to follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son,
our Savior and Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, Exodus 24:15-18

Gospel Lesson, Mark 9:2-9

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"In the Cloud"

Organ Solo

"Veni Creator Spiritus"

arr. Smith

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Responding to **God's Word**

* 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. Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Mach in F Major

Mendelssohn

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Nancy Smith, *organist*

Charlie LeGrand, *head usher*

Emily Busby, Becky Warth, *greeters*

**All who are able may stand*

About Today's Liturgy

In the month of February, we intentionally welcome diverse voices in our written liturgy for Sunday morning worship. This week, our Prayer of Preparation is a quote from Howard Thurman (1899-1981), a theologian, educator, and author who served as a mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr., and whose non-violent philosophy helped shape the Civil Rights movement.

Returning to In-Person Worship

The Session has approved returning to in-person worship this Sunday, February 14, with one worship service at 11:15a. Our Covid-19 protocols will remain in place, with masks and distanced seating by household. Up to 100 may sign up for a service. You may sign up through the church website. We will continue to provide our recorded worship via our website and social media platforms for our members who need to worship from home. Our 11:15a service will be livestreamed.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *William Mark Stenvall*, son of Ryan & Rachel Stenvall at our 9am recorded service.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Gathering at WPC

ASH WEDNESDAY AT WESTMINSTER

The Lenten season begins this year on Wednesday, February 17th. We will mark our 40-day journey toward cross and resurrection a number of ways. From 8:30-9:30a and 11:30a-12:30p you are invited to receive ashes from a pastor in the Columbarium. You can also drive through the Office loop to pick up ashes for imposition at home. On the evening of the 17th we will air an Ash Wednesday service featuring preaching and hymnody at 7:00p. We trust that the experience of Ash Wednesday will prove a time of reflection and resurrection hope, even during this strange season.

8:30-9:30a	Imposition of ashes in the Columbarium or pick up ashes for imposition at home.
11:30a-12:30p:	Imposition of ashes in the Columbarium or pick up ashes for imposition at home.
4:00-5:00p:	WPCYG imposition of ashes
7:00p:	Ash Wednesday service airs on our website and social media

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

SUNDAY MORNING

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

The Pastor's Zoom Bible Study is scheduled for Sunday mornings at 10 am and will run through early May. Leigh Stuckey will lead participants in engaging and provoking discussions based on the texts of the day. We hope you will join us.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 918 5587 5662

Passcode: 785672

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EVENT

FAT SUNDAY COOKIE DECORATING

Bring your favorite mix, premade cookie, or baking skills to Zoom this Sunday, February 14, at 3pm. Lauren will share her recipe for sugar cookies and more about the season of Lent. Decorating supplies are available for pick up in the church office through February 12.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 7136 8834

Passcode: 812487

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC RETURNS

Cold, dreary days of February can strain our creativity, especially with little ones to keep occupied, but it is a great time to introduce and encourage music and movement! The First Steps in Music class will be releasing seven new videos over the month for our youngest voices, ages 2 and 3! Those families who were included in the fall program will receive an email with each addition to the video playlist. If you or a family member would like to be added to the group, please contact Diana Dailey (diana.dailey@gmail.com) for more information. First Steps is a free program of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

ZOOM CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us each Sunday for a Zoom Children's Sunday School at 10a.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 980 3425 3372

Passcode: 700049

SHEPHERD GROUPS

All Youth are invited to register now for Spring Shepherd Groups via our church website. Even if you participated in the fall, we need you to register again. Groups will begin meeting on February 28 and all meetings will be outside in backyards or the Green Lot.

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will hike the Bridal Veil Falls in the Dupont Forest on Saturday, February 20. Meet in the WPC parking lot at 9a for this 6.4 miles, 500ft elevation hike. Contact hike leader, Bob Vannoy (bobvannoy47@gmail.com).

JUSTFAITH:

FAITH AND RACIAL HEALING

Zoom meetings have resumed and will continue through Monday, March 22 at 6p. For information, previously registered class members may call Susan McLeod (787-6262).

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 14 - 20, 2021

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

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|------------|--|
| 8:45 a.m. | Zoom Witness & Service Committee Meeting |
| 9:00 a.m. | Online Worship Service |
| 10:00 a.m. | Zoom Sunday Bible Study |
| | Zoom Children's Sunday School |
| 11:15 a.m. | In-Person Worship Service |
| 2:00 p.m. | Zoom Education Committee Meeting |
| 3:00 p.m. | Children's Ministry: Zoom Fat Sunday Cookie Making Event |

ASH WEDNESDAY

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Imposition of Ashes |
| 11:30 a.m. | Imposition of Ashes |
| 3:00 p.m. | Zoom It's Elementary! |
| 4:00 p.m. | Imposition of Ashes for Youth |
| 7:00 p.m. | Ash Wednesday Online Service |

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Westminster pastors and staff are excited to bring "a season of outdoor services" to the congregation in order to deepen engagement and to provide more opportunities to connect with one another and the faith we proclaim. Our first Green Lot service is on Sunday, February 21, at 3:00 p.m. We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together, join in singing, and reflect on God's word to us today. Registration is required and is limited to 100 worshippers. Masks should be worn throughout the service and distance maintained in order to guarantee safety.

Don't worry! We will continue to stream a service of worship featuring hymnody and liturgy and offer Sanctuary services on Sunday mornings. Join us on the 21st!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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