

Westminster By-The-Sea Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Sumner

The Rev. Dr Radford Rader

September 12, 2021

Gathering

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PRELUDE "This is My Father's World" Haan

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Sumner

CALL TO WORSHIP Janet Lindfors

One: Come, let us worship God, for there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

All: We come with humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love.

*HYMN "Morning Has Broken" *Bunessan*

Morning has broken, like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation; praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God, you have called us to live lives worthy of the work to which we have been called. But we confess to you and each other that we have not always spoken the truth in love; we have not always made an effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Forgive us, and by your grace, help us to grow in every way into him who is our head, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: ...Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*RESPONSE

Glory to Jesus! And to the Father, glory to Holy Spirit the same!

Bunessan

God, hear our praises and our rejoicing! Gratefully now we honor your name. (Words by Jeffrey Sumner)

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 2:4-9

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

QUARTET

“There in God’s Garden”

K. Lee Scott

THE SECOND LESSON

John 15: 1-6

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“The Gardener of Your Soul”

Dr. Sumner

A TIME OF SOLEMN OBSERVANCE

(While the chimes tolls, recall losses from 9/11 or other times of national or personal loss)

*HYMN

“Be Still, My Soul”

Finlandia

Be still my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief of pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
Who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know

His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joy restored.

Be still my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

RECEPTION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS

This congregation continues to need offerings to support the staff and missions we have. You may mail checks to us or have your checks mailed regularly from your bank at no cost to you. Otherwise, you may give by credit or debit card by going to www.wbts.org and clicking "Donate now."

OFFERTORY "Let us Ever Walk with Jesus" Boltze

*DOXOLOGY (Sung)

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 DEDICATION (Unison)

O Lord, we are blessed spiritually by your loving presence. We are blessed with our basic needs met and much more. We give of ourselves and out of our abundance in gratitude to you. We dedicate our offerings with the desire that they give you glory and pray that through them your blessings will be multiplied. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "In the Bulb There is a Flower" *Promise*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Toccata in E Minor”

Palchelbel

*All who are able may stand

Announcements

WE ARE PLANNING to offer a Reception of New Members for an upcoming in person worship this fall. If you would like to have questions answered about the church or you want to know how to join, please call the office and leave a message at 386-767-8342 or send an email to kdowner@wbts.org.

NEW WI-FI: If you would like to connect to our wi-fi, select `wbts_guest` and use the password `wbtschurch`.

FLOWERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY:

Melba & John Hayden, in memory of her brother Dean Sullivan

Organist:	Kendra Cochenour
Choir Director:	Norton Christeson
Choir Member:	Mary Ann Sumner
Choir Member:	Jeanne Keiper
Liturgist:	Janet Lindfors