

# *Westminster By-The-Sea Presbyterian Church*

*The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Sumner*

*The Rev. Dr Radford Rader*

*November 14, 2021*

## *Gathering*

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PRELUDE "What Shall I Render to the Lord" Cherwien

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Sumner

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Rader

One: The Lord is gracious and merciful;  
**All: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**  
One: Let us worship God.

HYMN "Great is Thy Faithfulness" *Faithfulness*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

## CALL TO PRAYER

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(unison)

One: Loving God, as one we confess our failings: we aim to seek justice.

**All: But then when it proves too hard or too exhausting, we rush to cheap grace.**

One: We aim to embrace kindness,

**All: But then we snap at loved ones, turn from the stranger, and remain ignorant of our neighbor's needs.**

One: We aim to walk humbly with our God,

**All: but do not notice the way our path diverges from yours. (Silence)**

One: Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### RESPONSE:

*In Babilone*

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

## MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### THE FIRST LESSON

Micah 6: 6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

SOLO

“You Raise Me Up”

Norton Christeson, Soloist

#### THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 3: 1-9

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked places shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“The Roaring Call to Repent”

Dr. Sumner

HYMN

“Change My Heart, O God”

*Change My Heart*

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The congregation responds when indicated:

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

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.

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](http://www.wbts.org) and clicking “Donate now.”

OFFERTORY

“Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth”

Pachelbel

SUNG RESPONSE

*Forest Green*

As those of old their first fruits brought of vineyard, flock and field

to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,

so we today our first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land:

of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(Unison)

Recognizing that all we have comes from you, O God, we return to you offerings from our bounty. We commit our minds and hearts and hands not just for today but for all our days, not seeking to earn your favor but in gratitude for your love already freely given. Amen.

HYMN

“How Great Thou Art”

*How Great Thou Art*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed:

**(Refrain) Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: how great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!**

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:  
**(Refrain)**

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the  
cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin:  
**(Refrain)**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"  
**(Refrain)**

### *Sending*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Amen"

Couperin

### *Announcements*

#### FLOWERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY:

Barbara Wagner, in loving memory of her husband, Russell Wagner.  
Donna & Roger Jones, to the Glory of God.

#### Financial results thru 9/30/21

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Collections for the year	\$ 411,768	\$ 314,068
Expenditures for the year	\$ 411,768	\$ 396,561
Amount over (under) needs	\$ 0	\$ (82,493)

THIS WEEK continues our Stewardship Emphasis weeks. Today our Stewardship Committee lists different ways that you can support Westminster. Pew envelopes may be used for weekly gifts, and Estimate of Giving Sheets are available from an usher. We ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this congregation and returning your Estimates of Giving Sheet by Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

SPIRE COPIES: Paper copies of the Spire can be found in the office.

Organist: Kendra Cochenour  
Choir Director: Norton Christeson  
Choir Member: Mary Ann Sumner  
Choir Member: Jeanne Keiper  
Videographer: Janet Lindfors  
Video Editing: Kristin Downer