

The Lord's Service

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

MARCH 21, 2021



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

Prelude on "In Heavenly Love Abiding"
Arioso

GORDON YOUNG

J. S. BACH

Please use the prelude as a time of silent preparation for the worship of the Triune God.

GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CALL TO WORSHIP

1 PETER 4:13-14

Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings,
that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.
If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed,
because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Strong God of love: your Son Jesus told us that his church would be persecuted as he was persecuted. If we should suffer for righteousness' sake, save us from self-righteousness. Give us grace to pray for enemies, and to forgive them, even as you have forgiven us; through Jesus Christ, who was crucified but is risen, whom we praise forever. **Amen.**



HYMN OF PRAISE

My Dear Redeemer and My Lord

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CONFESSION OF SINS

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.



STANDING IF COMFORTABLE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: spoken, sung

THE KYRIE ELEISON

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON



GLORIA PATRI

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

INTERLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ARR. KEVERAN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things that pertain to life and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 53:1-9

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 PETER 2:18-25



GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 5:1-12



RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord
Praise be to God.

SERMON

Blessed Are The Persecuted

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

(not collected, brought up by deacons)

⌘ DOXOLOGY

731

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.

⌘ SURSUM CORDA

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

⌘ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING



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.



HYMN OF DEPARTURE

The Beatitudes

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE

After Bach - O God, Our Help in Ages Past

GORDON YOUNG

PREACHER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot

WORSHIP LEADER: Robert David

ORGANIST: Elaine H Simpson

PIANIST: Nathan Clason

Blessed Are the Persecuted

MATTHEW 5:10-12

The NT church had no (or few) c_____ l_____.

This beatitude is _____ twice.

1. Persecution

Persecution is p_____ and the church should e_____ it.

“If the world _____ you, keep in mind it _____ me first.”

Persecution’s _____ is a cause for concern.

All who desire to live a _____ life _____ be persecuted.

We are to suffer because of r_____.

The life of the b_____ g_____ persecution.

Christ left us an _____ that we should follow in his _____.

2. Joy

Theirs ____ (p_____ t_____) the kingdom of heaven.

To partake of the kingdom now is to partake of t_____.

The church’s response, an im_____: _____ & be glad.

Heaven itself is to be our g_____ do_____ passion.

Heaven is more i_____ than ten million _____.

The p_____ of heaven is the _____ of all ____.

Calvin: Heaven provides u_____ ground for rejoicing.

Jesus calls us to go beyond non-_____ to joy.

Bonhoeffer: suffering is the _____ of true _____.

We are to take our place in the train of p_____ witness.

Jesus endured the _____ for the ____ set before him.

Missions Work Highlight

WITH MISSION TO THE WORLD IN LATIN AMERICA

PRAY for our Cuban brothers and sisters who are in crisis. Food, medicine, and basic needs shortage in Cuba continues to get worse.

Thank God for the financial help that we have been able to provide the pastors during this time. Through a diaconal fund project we have at MTW we were able to send relief three times last year.

Pray for the continuation of our training program and ministry in Cuba during this pandemic time. We have taught two WhatsApp courses that have been well received, yet due to their “survival mode” situation they are weary and are having a hard time concentrating on their reading. We are prepared to write a series of “how to” documents on everyday counseling issues that our students are facing.

PRAISE God for the technological developments that are making it possible for Richard and Robyn to minister in Cuba at a distance.

PRAISE God that the Gospel is being preached in Cuba and that His Kingdom is spreading!

Announcements

WPC's Lenten services will be held Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M.

On Easter Sunday, the Fellowship Team will be holding a brunch in between our two worship services, from approximately 10:15 to 11:15. To allow enough time for eating and fellowship as we celebrate the risen Christ, it will be necessary to move the start time of the second service to 11:30. After the brunch, it would be a great help if you would please clean up your tables by disposing of your plates, cups, utensils and napkins in the trash cans. Also, if you have children, please make sure their table is cleaned up, too.

Northern Frontier Camp is a Christ-centered summer camp for boys in New York's Adirondack Mountains. There are programs for boys ages 8 - 16 years, Father and Son trips, and one and two week fishing, kayaking and rock climbing trips for the older boys. View the video and read about the programs on www.northernfrontier.org. Please contact **Steve Flewelling** at shflewelling@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Scripture Texts

ISAIAH 53:1-9

¹ Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.

⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

1 PETER 2:18-25

¹⁸ Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Scripture Texts, *continued*

MATTHEW 5:1-12

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,

² and he began to teach them. He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

My Dear Redeemer and My Lord

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Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. 1 John 2:6

1. My dear Re - deem - er and my Lord, I read my
 2. Such was your truth, and such your zeal, such def - 'rence
 3. Cold moun - tains and the mid - night air wit - nessed the
 4. Be now my pat - tern; make me bear more of your

du - ty in your Word; but in your life the
 to your Fa - ther's will, such love, and meek - ness
 fer - vor of your prayer; the des - ert your temp -
 gra - cious i - mage here: then God the Judge shall

law ap - pears drawn out in liv - ing char - ac - ters.
 so di - vine, I would tran - scribe and make them mine.
 ta - tions knew, your con - flict and your vic - t'ry too.
 own my name a - mongst the fol - l'wers of the Lamb.

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matt. 5:3

Capo 1: ♮ (D) (Bm) (Em) (A) (D) 7

1. Blest are the hum - ble souls that see their emp - ti -
 2. Blest are the men of bro - ken heart, who mourn for
 3. Blest are the meek, who stand a - far from rage and
 4. Blest are the souls that thirst for grace, hun - ger and

ness and pov - er - ty; trea - sures of grace to
 sin with in - ward smart; the blood of Christ di -
 pas - sion, noise and war; God will se - cure their
 long for righ - teous - ness; they shall be well sup -

them are giv'n, and crowns of joy laid up in heaven.
 vine - ly flows, a heal - ing balm for all their woes.
 hap - py state, and plead their cause a - gainst the great.
 plied and fed, with liv - ing streams and liv - ing bread.

(Em) (A) (D) (G) (A) (E⁷)

(A) ♮ (D) (D⁷) (Gmaj⁷) (D) (A) (D) 7

5. Blest are the men whose hearts do move
 and melt with sympathy and love;
 from Christ the Lord shall they obtain
 like sympathy and love again.
6. Blest are the pure, whose hearts are clean
 from the defiling pow'rs of sin;
 with endless pleasure they shall see
 a God of spotless purity.
7. Blest are the men of peaceful life,
 who quench the coals of growing strife;
 they shall be called the heirs of bliss,
 the sons of God, the God of peace.
8. Blest are the suff'ers who partake
 of pain and shame for Jesus' sake;
 their souls shall triumph in the Lord,
 glory and joy are their reward.

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

Westminster Church is both a place and a people. We gather in this sacred space to worship, to learn, and to serve God as he meets us in Christ. To this end we dedicate our time, our talent, and our resources. Here the Gospel of Christ is freely proclaimed: *We are weaker and more sinful than we ever dared admit, but through Christ we are more loved and accepted than we ever dared hope.* As a community of Christians, we are building a bridge to the future through faith and friendship. To this end, we pray God will give us strength, vision, and wisdom. We are thankful that you could join with us today. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Welcome to Westminster!

Westminster Stated Services

Worship	9:00 AM, 11:00AM
Sunday School (<i>Sept–June</i>)	11:45 AM
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 PM

Westminster Kingston

Sunday School	10:00 AM
Worship	11:00 AM

Church & Office Location

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Cover

The Celtic cross reminds us, as Presbyterians, of our historical roots in the British Isles dating back at least to the fifth century. *Post Tenebras Lux* is a Latin slogan from the 16th-century Protestant Reformation meaning *After Darkness, Light*. The cross and the slogan combine to express our desire to be rooted in the ancient faith and to embrace the attainments of the Protestant Reformation.

Westminster was organized in 1854 and is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Senior Minister

The Reverend Kevin Chiarot, Ph.D.

Assistant Minister

The Reverend Mark D. Diedrich

Session (Ruling Elders, with Class Year)

Robert Van Gent (2022), Ron Bonagura (2022),
Robert David (2021), Steve Flewelling (2021),
James Phillips (2021), Bob Maucher (2023),
Elder Emeritus: Neil Fick

Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

John Grammer (2021), Ed Weber (2021),
Matt Kniffin (2022), Joe Schlegel (Chair: 2022),
Tim Elmendorf (2022), Paul Mowat (2023),
Eric Moller (2023), Jim Rutigliano (2023)

Board of Trustees

Robert Van Gent (Chairman)
Robert David (Vice Chairman)

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