

Westminster Presbyterian Church

125 N. Wilkinson Street • Dayton, OH 45402 www.westminsterdayton.org

Service for the Lord's Day — March 23, 2025 Third Sunday in Lent

"Christianity is the only world religion that confesses a God who suffers. It is not all that popular an idea, even among Christians. We prefer a God who prevents suffering, only that is not the God we have got. What the cross teaches us is that God's power is not the power to force human choices and end human pain. It is, instead, the power to pick up the shattered pieces and make something holy out of them – not from a distance but right close up." - God in Pain, Barbara Brown Taylor

CARILLON PEAL

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

Settings of Lenten Chorales

"O World Now I Must Leave Thee"

Iohann Walther

"Lament Your Sin"

Johann Sebastian Bach

(During the Call to Worship in Music you are requested to enter into a time of silence, actively opening your spirit to God's presence in your midst.)

INTROIT - "Come, Bless the Lord"

Austin Lovelace

Come, bless the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord; lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord.

The Reverend Dr. Richard L. Baker **WELCOME**

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP IN WORD

Leader: Remember the story of our faith. People: We are the people God has delivered.

Leader: Rejoice in the hope of our faith. God goes with us, step by step. People: Cling to the promise of our faith. Leader: God will not abandon us. People: Leader: Embrace the heart of our faith. God is merciful and trustworthy. People: Leader: Let us worship the holy God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor with a verbal greeting or enthusiastic wave.)

*HYMN 488 - "The God of Abraham Praise"

Leoni

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to be the glory of your holy name. And now, fulfill our prayer as we place ourselves before you in silence.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News. **People:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE (all sing) - Hymn 99 (stanza three)

Passion Chorale

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend For this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end. O make me thine forever, and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON - Isaiah 55:1-9

Pew Bible, pp. 685-686 OT

Leader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

(Children in Pre-K – Grade 2 will leave the service at this time. An adult leader will be in the Narthex to escort them to their classrooms.)

ANTHEM - "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Lowell Mason, arr. Gilbert Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.

-Isaac Watts

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON - Luke 13:1-9

Pew Bible, p. 76 NT

Leader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON The Reverend Dr. Curtis T. Baxter

The Journey to Jerusalem: A Question With No Easy Answer

Focus: "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." -Luke 13:5 "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."- Luke 13:8-9

*HYMN 170 - "The Lord's My Shepherd"

Crimond

(Children in Grade 3-8 will leave the service at this time. An adult leader will be in the Narthex to escort them to their classroom.)

*STATEMENT OF FAITH (From A Brief Statement of Faith-PCUSA)

The Reverend Dr. Caitlin T. Deyerle

God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the god of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless the families of the earth. Hearing their cry, god delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, god makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father runs to welcome the prodigal home, god is faithful still. Amen.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM - "Jesus, Name of Wondrous Love"

Everett Titcomb

Jesus! Name of wondrous love! Name all other names above! Unto which must every knee Bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old To the maiden mother told, Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the Angel Gabriel.

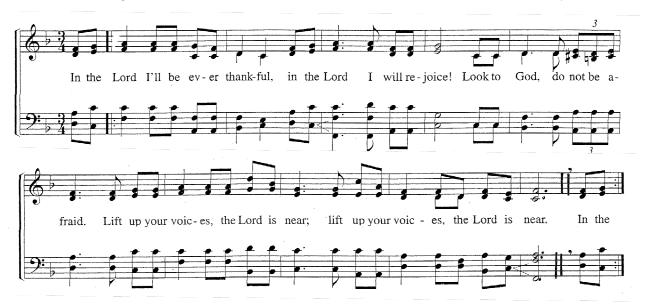
Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen ones of earth, For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall his people save."

Jesus! Name of wondrous love! Name of love!

*Doxology (Hymnal No. 592)

*Prayer of Dedication

Old Hundredth



SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 85 - "What Wondrous Love Is This"

Wondrous Love

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (all sing)

Tallis Canon

Throughout these Lenten days and nights We turn to walk the inward way, Where, meeting Christ, our guide and light, We live in hope till Easter day.

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - "The God of Abraham Praise" (Hymn 488)

arr. Michael Burkhardt

^{*}Please rise in body or spirit.

What is Lent? Lent is the season of the church that begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays). When it was first devised, it had a particular reference to the instruction of candidates for baptism at the great festival of redemption at Easter. Today Christians are encouraged to take on the challenge of some spiritual sacrifice and/or improving their participation in some spiritual practice, such as prayer, hospitality, or stewardship.

This Sunday we welcome The Reverend Dr. Curtis T. Baxter to the pulpit. Curt is a graduate of The Ohio State University where he received a Bachelor of Arts in French Literature. He received his Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees specializing Family Therapy from Princeton Theological Seminary. Curt is an ordained Presbyterian minister who spent thirty years in parish ministry. While serving in his third parish, Curt received his Doctor of Ministry degree specializing in Reformed Spirituality from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. During a sabbatical, Curt discerned that he was being called to enter hospital chaplaincy. He completed his training as a Certified Pastoral Educator and he became the Manager of the Spiritual Care Department and Certified Pastoral Educator at Elmhurst Hospital, Elmhurst, Illinois. In September, 2022, Curt retired and moved to Centerville, Ohio, to be near his daughter living in Springboro, Ohio and his son living in Perrysburg, Ohio.

MUSIC

Music Participants: Westminster Choir - Cynthia Schindler, Soprano - Tom Lehmann, Tenor - The Reverend John Neely is Organist-Director.

Today's Music: Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, the words of "The God of Abraham Praise" convey the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God. It is often sung in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

The response "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful," words and music by Jacques Berthier and the Taizé Community, 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (France), is reprinted under CCLI License #2287801.

Choirs for children and youth today. New members welcome!

Children's Choirs and Youth Handbells (Sundays)

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Genesis Singers (4 and 5 year olds, Pre-Kindergarten) - Rm. 104 – Hilary Toerner, Director Cherub Choir (grades K-2) - Theater – Rachael Boezi, Director Calvin Choir (grades 3-6) - Rm. 100 (Choir Room) - John Neely, Director Knox Ringers (grades 7-12) – Rm. 203 - Brent Manley, Director - *No rehearsal today*

Youth Choir 5:00-6:00 p.m. Knox Choir (grades 7-12) – Choir Room – John Neely, Director No rehearsal today

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Please stop by our Children's Ministry check in desk anytime between 9:40-10:05 to record your child's attendance & receive their name tag.

Infants and Toddlers, Room 108 (Infant - 3 years old), are cared for from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 108. Parents of infants will be contacted via text by the nursery staff in case immediate communication is needed while they worship in the Sanctuary. During the worship hour, children take part in an activity and enjoy a snack.

Junior High and Senior High Youth Fellowships will not meet this evening due to Spring Breaks. Youth Fellowship will resume on March 30

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Welcome Visitors: We are so glad to welcome you to worship with us today! Whether you are just passing through or looking for a new church community, we hope you feel right at home. At Westminster we believe that Jesus welcomes all people, just as they are, and so do we. We understand the life of faith to be a journey that is better walked together than alone. Following worship please join us for Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall, or join one of our Sunday School classes. We hope you will explore the bulletin as well as our website www.westminsterdayton.org to learn more about us. Please leave us your name and contact information in the Friendship Pad so we can get to know you as well! Grace and peace to you. -Westminster Pastoral Staff and Congregation

Join the Westminster Fellowship Facebook Group (Westminster Presbyterian Church Dayton Fellowship)! Be part of our online community and stay in the know of all upcoming Fellowship Events.

Nancy Hodgkins is on vacation. She will return to the Church Office on Tuesday, March 25.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The flowers in the Chancel are given in loving memory of Barbara Groff on this, her birthday, by the Tyrian Presby Group.

If you are interested in donating Chancel flowers, please contact Kay Berg (bergkay07@gmail.com or 937-367-9297). Please note that there is a one month lead time for flower donation announcements.

Emergency Response Team: Becky Bower, Paul Agiro

During the service, if you notice someone who appears to require medical attention, please raise your hand or contact the head usher. Emergency Response Team members will care for the person. **If you have a security concern** please notify the head usher who can connect you to our security personnel.

Each week the churches of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley keep one particular congregation or group in their prayers. This week the churches are praying for **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, Springboro.

Westminster is a praying church and we would love to pray for you. You are welcome to add your prayer to our Prayer Wall, located in the Sanctuary near the front on the east wall. You will find paper and pencil to write your private prayer to God and place it between the bricks of the wall.

If you have a prayer request you would like to share with our Westminster Prays weekly email, please use the Prayer Request Card in the pew rack and place it in the offering box following worship. You can sign up to receive the Westminster Prays email and share prayer requests or other pastoral needs directly with our pastoral staff by emailing caitlin@westminsterdayton.org or calling 937-907-6078.

Members currently in the hospital: Sandy McConnel (Miami Valley Main Campus, ICU, no visitors) Nelle Melko (Kettering Main Campus), Walter "Scott" Nekrosius (Kettering Main Campus), Carol Faulkner (Kettering Troy), Gary Barnhart, (Dayton Hospice, no visitors)

Members recently released from the hospital: Helen "Penny" Haddick

Capital Campaign

Sharing the Vision:

Individual and Small **Group Meetings**

We can't wait to share this vision of the future Westminster could have! If you, your family, Small Group, or Presby Group are just as excited to hear about it as we are to share it, sign up for a **Sharing the Vision meeting!**



These meetings will take place over the next several months as we build the foundation for an exciting campaign!



Thank you for coming to Westminster today! We hope to see you again soon. If you enjoyed the service, and want to help us continue to share the love of God with our neighbors and transform their lives, please consider donating to our ministries. Donation boxes are located in the Narthex and by the elevator. You can also donate online at www.westminsterdayton.org/give or by scanning the QR code to the left with the camera of any smart device. You can also text "give" to 937-468-4003.

JOIN A PRESBY GROUP!

Email Mattie Pennington for more information!

Looking for a way to make friends and connect more deeply with your church community? Presby Groups are social groups that meeting monthly over a meal to share fellowship together. Many of our current groups have been meeting consistently for over 20 years! If you are interested in joining an existing group or helping form a new group please email mattie@westminsterdayton.org.



Earth Stewardship

Ministry Team is again offering a series of three classes during Lent and approaching Earth day in hopes of reconciling our faulty stewardship of God's creation. This is an opportunity to open our eyes and hearts to the multiple crises in the environment and identify paths to hope and action. Last year, the series explored residential solar energy, benefits of native plants, and social justice aspects of climate change. This year, programs

will look at water quality, benefits of being in nature, and use of healthy alternatives to chemicals at home.

March 30, Sarah McKnight, WPC member and professor of Hydrogeology at University of Dayton, will offer an overview of local water supplies and quality and how we can protect this precious resource. There is no life without water! Psalm 104:10: "From your lofty abode, you water the mountains, the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work."



Call for Nominations for Session Committees

The work of the church is carried out by ordinary people, whose generosity of caring manifests itself in their sharing of time, energy, and creativity with others involved in the ministries of Westminster. If you wish to nominate yourself for one of the following committees or if you have any questions, please contact Donna Schoonmaker (donna@westminsterdayton.org or 937-233-7285). You must be a member to serve on a committee. All nominations must be received by Monday, April 7.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The mission of the Building and Grounds Committee is to ensure the maintenance and rehabilitation of the church's real property: the building, the grounds, and the parking lot. It will strive to pass it on to the next generation in as good or better condition than it was received.

EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

The mission of the Education and Practice Committee is to encourage faith formation through education and spiritual practices for all ages.

HOSPITALITY

The mission of the Hospitality Committee is to lead the congregation's ministry of hospitality to the Dayton community, to welcome visitors, and to engage new members in the church body by encouraging them to grow into the full life of the church.

FELLOWSHIP

The mission of the Fellowship Committee is to offer opportunities for the members of Westminster to increase their congregational friendships in various settings and in an environment of love and warmth.

MISSION

The charge of the Mission Committee is to demonstrate God's love and compassion, to enrich the lives of people in need, and to encourage social justice and peacemaking through education.

PERSONNEL

Working with the Pastor/Head of Staff, the mission of the Personnel Committee is to assure the adequacy of personnel and personnel administration for the church. You must be a member <u>and</u> an Elder to serve on this committee.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

The mission of the Stewardship and Finance Committee is twofold: First, to educate the congregation about stewardship and encourage generous financial giving as a matter of spiritual practice. Second, to monitor the Session's adopted budget.

WORSHIP, MUSIC, AND FINE ARTS

Worship at Westminster is guided by our Directory of Worship and led by our Pastors. The Mission of the Worship, Music, and Fine Arts Committee is to plan, evaluate, and encourage Sunday worship, special worship, weddings, and funerals. The committee will also oversee the church's music ministry and its fine arts.

I would like to be considered to serve on the following committee(s):		
Building and Grounds Education and Practice Evangelism, Hospitality and Membership Fellowship	MissionPersonnelStewardship and FinanceWorship, Music and Fine Arts	
Name	Phone	





You are invited to share in the decoration of the Chancel for Easter morning by sponsoring white lilies and other spring flowers. The Easter Sunday bulletin will include names of the donors and names of those being recognized. You are welcome to take your sponsored flower home with you after the 11:00 a.m. service or to leave the flower, which will be delivered by the Deacons and other caregivers to Westminster members who may need to be uplifted.

It is suggested that gifts be at least \$12, but we will honor any amount you wish to include. Information and payment may be submitted using our website (www.westminsterdayton.org), or you may return the form below and payment to the Church Office. Checks should be made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church with Easter Flowers written on the memo line.

Deadline for receipt is Monday, April 14

	lease print names as you wish them to appear in the bulletin
In hone	or of
In mem	ory of
Celebra	ting
	I will pick up my flower(s) after the 11:00 a.m. Easter Service. My flower(s) may be given to another member in need of uplifting.
Given l	yy
Sugges	ted donation: \$12. Amount enclosed \$
	Deadline is Monday, April 14

Taizé Services and Light Supper

Meditative services of songs and prayers in candlelight.

Wednesday Nights in Lent

5:00 p.m. - **6:00 p.m.** The Journey to Jerusalem: A Story of Jesus' Last Days in West Parlor (See class announcement for details)

6:00 p.m. Taizé Worship Service in the Sanctuary

6:45 p.m. Supper in the Fellowship Hall (\$7.00)

The word "Taizé" may be unfamiliar to some. For many people the name "Taizé" evokes a certain style of singing that has become popular in more and more churches, retreat centers, campus religious groups, and even seminaries. For some the word also suggests retreats and gatherings which attract large numbers of young adults. Still others are aware that Taizé is in fact an ecumenical community located in a small village in eastern France. This community has produced some of the most beautiful and moving music that has ever been composed for participation by the whole community of faith (congregation, choir, clergy, and instrumentalists).

The Journey to Jerusalem: A Story of Jesus' Last Days

This Lenten season, join us as we explore *The Journey to Jerusalem; A Story of Jesus' Last Days* by John Pritchard. This imaginative retelling explores the Gospel of Luke by looking through the eyes of the disciple John. *The Journey to Jerusalem* begins with Luke's account from Luke 9:51, as Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem. **Books are available in the church office for \$10.**

Wednesday Nights in Lent

Wednesdays in Lent, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the West Parlor

This five-week class will include a Lenten Discussion Group based on *The Journey to Jerusalem*, and will be led by The Reverend Nancy Hodgkins. Taizé and a light dinner will take place after the class. This class is open to all ages.

Parent Fellowship

Continues Today

Sundays, 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in the Mission Room

Parent Fellowship will discuss *The Journey to Jerusalem* on Sundays through Lent, led by The Reverend Dr. Caitlin Deyerle. This class is intended as a fellowship opportunity for parents currently raising their children. Join us for an opportunity to talk, listen, support, and learn together!

The Role of the Church in American Public Life: Past, Present, and Future

Continues Today, 11:30 a.m., West Parlor, led by The Rev. Dr. Richard Baker

We will be discussing two recent books on the topic: *Cross Purposes: Christianity's Broken Bargain with Democracy* by Jonathan Rauch, and *The Spirit of Our Politics: Spiritual Formation and the Renovation of Public Life* by Michael Wear.

Coming from different backgrounds and different religious orientations, both authors agree that religious communities in general, and American churches in particular, still have an important—but now different—role to play in our public life.

Wear, who is the Founder, President, and CEO of the Center for Christianity and Public Life, and has served as a trusted resource and advisor for a range of civic leaders on matters of faith and public life, including as a White House and presidential campaign staffer, will be our Faith and Civic Life speaker in the Fall.

Church Calendar March 23 – March 29

Sunday, March 23

8:30 am-12:30 pm Nursery Birth - Age 3, Nursery

9:00am-9:45am Confirmation Class, 211

9:15am-9:45am Westminster Choir Rehearsal,

Choir Room

10:20am-11:30am Children 1st & 2nd Grades,

103,105

10:20am-11:30am Children Pre-K & K, 101

10:40am-11:30am Children 3rd & 4th Grades, 109

10:40am-11:30am Children 5th-8th Grades, Theater

11:00am-12:30pmCoffee & Conversation

Fellowship Hall

11:30am-12:15pmParent Fellowship,102

12:30pm-2:00pm CTF Meeting, West Parlor

11:20am-12:30pm Adult Education, West Parlor

11:30am-12:15pmCalvin Choir Rehearsal, 100 (Choir)

11:30am-12:15pmCherub Choir Rehearsal, Theater

11:30am-12:15pmGenesis Singers Rehearsal, 104

2:00pm-4:00pm Bach Society Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 24

6:00am-9:30pm DGMC Rehearsal, Choir Room

6:30pm-8:30pm Bridge Interest Group **7:15pm-9:15pm** Bach Society Rehearsal,

Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 26

9:00am-12:00pm Staff Meeting, West Parlor

10:00am-12:30pm ID Ministry, Chapel,

Chapel Reception

12:15pm-1:30pm Women's Therapeutic Court

Fellowship Hall

5:00pm-5:45pm Lenten Class, West Parlor

6:00pm-6:40pm Lenten Taizé Service, Sanctuary

6:40pm-7:30pm Lenten Taizé Supper,

Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 27

6:00 pm-7:00pm Stewardship & Finance Committee,

Library

6:00pm-7:15pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal,

207, 203, 205

7:30pm-9:30pm Westminster Choir Rehearsal,

Choir Room

* Please note these dates and times are subject to change. This calendar does not include all private meetings and events in the church. Please contact church staff to reserve meeting space.



Presbyterian Church MINISTERS All members of the Church

STAFF

Richard L. Baker, Jr	Pastor/Head of Staff
John W. Neely	Assoc. Pastor for Music
Nancy S. Hodgkins	Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Mission
Caitlin T. Deyerle	Assoc. Pastor for Congregational Care
Jenne Gross	Mission Associate
Kylie Hettinger	Director of Discipleship
Brent Manley	Music Associate
Mattie Pennington	Congregational Care Coordinator
Tim Francis	Business Manager
Brittany Campbell	Director of Communications
Donna Schoonmaker	Office Manager
Wayne King	Facilities and Technology Coordinator
Keith Spencer	Sexton
George H. McConnel	

The God of Abraham Praise (488)

The God of Abraham praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days,
The God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am!
By earth and heaven confessed,
We bow and bless your sacred name,
Forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, High surging where it will; In prophet's word you spoke of old And you speak still. Established is your law, And changeless it shall stand, Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea, or land.

You have eternal life Implanted in the soul; Your love shall be our strength and stay, While ages roll. We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name; The first, the last, beyond all thought, And still the same!

"The Lord's My Shepherd" (Hymn 170)

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie In pastures green; he leadeth me The quiet waters by. My soul he doth restore again, And me to walk doth make Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill; For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished In presence of my foes; My head thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me; And in God's house forevermore My dwelling-place shall be.

"What Wondrous Love Is This" (85)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul. What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul, To bear the heavy cross for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, To God and to the Lamb, I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And through eternity I'll sing on!