

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2155 University Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001 | (563) 583-1729 | <http://wpcdbq.org>

Inviting All. Exploring Faith. Experiencing God.

WORSHIP, 9:30AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 6, 2023



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER!

We're delighted to worship with you tonight and hope your experience of worship is meaningful and uplifting. If you are comfortably able, we invite you to stand during the portions of worship marked with an asterisk (). The congregation reads the portions of the worship **listed in bold text**. Also, our worship service is always livestreamed and there are multiple cameras in the sanctuary. You may be on camera during your worship experience with Westminster.*

Everyone is welcome at Westminster! We are always delighted with the presence of (and sometimes the sounds of!) children in worship. They are welcome to use any of the resources in our Pray Ground (located behind the pews). For those who need them, please note that assisted listening devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Any of our greeters will be happy to offer assistance to you with locating and using them.

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG: GTG #399 *God Welcomes All* (3x)

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

TIME OF WELCOME

God be with you!

And also with you!

GATHERING SONG: GTG #414 *Be Still and Know That I Am God* (3x)

**Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.**

GATHERING WORDS

Tonight, we will hear, again and again, of a love that knows no bounds.

May we be fully present here. May we worship holy God.

OPENING PRAYER

GATHERING SONG: GTG #698 *Take, O Take Me as I Am* (3x)

**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

TIME OF RECONCILIATION

Invitation to Confession

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you hold us together, as you have always held your people together. Tonight, we recognize ourselves in your story. If we were to place ourselves at your table, perhaps we would be Peter, misunderstanding your radical hospitality, sticking to the rules, arguing what we do and don't deserve.

Or it's possible that we'd be Judas: the one who betrayed you, the one who failed to see the good right in front of him, the one who might have thought he wasn't worthy of your love.

If we were to place ourselves at your table, it's possible we would be one of the unnamed disciples: watching, but not speaking; silently missing the opportunity to tell you what we believe and how much we love you.

If we were to place ourselves at your table, we are confident that we would have made the same mistakes your well-intentioned disciples made. There is

no surprise there. What is surprising is that we know you would have washed our feet nonetheless. So forgive us, God. Wash not just our feet, but our hands and our heads, as well. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Again and again and again, we are held. Again and again and again, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Sung Response: GTG #544 *Bless the Lord*

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED - *Again & Again: We Are Held Together*

"Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Scripture: John 13:1-11 [NRSVUE]

Silence

Reflection

Sung Response: GTG #820 *Nothing Can Trouble* (3x)

Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten.

Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.

"Do you know what I have done to you?"

Scripture: John 13:12-17 [NRSVUE]

Silence

Reflection

Sung Response: GTG #473 *Shepherd Me, O God* (3x)

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,

beyond my fears, from death into life.

"I give you a new commandment"

Scripture: John 13:31-35 [NRSVUE]

Silence

Reflection

Sung Response: GTG #843 *My Soul Is at Rest* (3x)

My soul is at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from God.

"But this is your hour"

Scripture: Luke 22:52-54a [NRSVUE]

Silence

Reflection

Sung Response: GTG #471 *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* (3x)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer. O Lord hear my prayer.

Come and listen to me.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Musical Offering

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table of Christ

Come to this table of grace. There is a place set for you and there is a place set for me.

And a place set for Jesus, who is the host of this meal.

If you doubt that this invitation is for you, consider who gathered around the table on that fateful night.

Judas, the betrayer, was there.

Yes. Even after it was revealed that he would betray Jesus, they broke bread together.

Peter, the one who would deny him, was there.

Yes. Even after Jesus told Peter that he would deny him, they broke bread together.

Thomas, the doubter, was there.

Yes. And he reminds us that we are invited to bring even our doubts to Jesus. So is there a place set for you?

Surely there is.

There is. The welcome is as wide as the outstretched arms of God.

We will come to the table of grace.

We come as children to our parent's table, knowing that every single one of us is welcome ... knowing that we will always be welcome ... to receive all that God has to offer us.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God. It is a foretaste of the banquet that is to come: a banquet of justice and mercy and grace. Come and taste the grace eternal; come and see that God is good.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God be with you

And also with you.

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 God thanks and praise.

Let us pray. Creator God, who was before the beginning, you spoke and the waters parted. You spoke, and the world came into being. You spoke, and life took root.

In the beginning was the Word.

Merciful God, who has kept faith with us through denial and betrayal, you called to us and we followed. You called Abraham into Canaan. You called Moses out of Egypt. You called fisherfolk, tax collectors, Samaritans, Romans, Jews.

And the Word was with God; and the Word was God.

Loving God, who rejoices in our growth, you taught us to sing praise. You were in the triumphant song of Miriam. You were in the heartfelt song of Hannah. You were in the courageous song of Mary.

What has come into being through the Word was life, and the light of all people.

Creating God, continuing Word, come and dwell with us here. Move in our hearts and make us new. Call to us that we may learn again to follow. Be present within us, that we may sing your song.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot comprehend it.

In the darkness of fear and suspicion, the Light gathered to it all that it had sought to nourish and sustain. They gathered around one table, those who were broken and those who sought wholeness. After supper, in the silence of uncertainty, the Word held fast to these beloved, knowing there was still so much more to be said.

Come, Holy Spirit, light of life. Bless this bread, and this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us, that we may be made one in your love, and in our love for one another, for we pray these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying ...

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.

Telling the Story

On the night of his arrest, the Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, saying: "This is my body, given for you. Remember me."

As Jesus gave thanks to God, we also give thanks for his sacrifice.

On that same night, in the same way, the Lord Jesus took the cup, saying: "This is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you. Remember me."

As Jesus gave thanks to God, we also give thanks for this new covenant.

When you eat this bread and drink this cup, remember the Lord Jesus. Remember and be thankful. Remember until he comes!

Remember us when you come, Lord Jesus! Thanks be to God!

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Sung Response: GTG#842 - *The Lord Is My Light* (3x)

**The Lord is my light, my light and my salvation:
in God I trust; in God I trust.**

Sung Response: GTG#527 - *Eat This Bread* (2x)

**"Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry.
Each this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst."**

Sung Response: GTG#204 - *Stay with Me* (3x)

**Stay with me; remain here with me;
watch and pray. Watch and pray.**

Prayer After Communion

SENDING SONG: GTG #90 *Wait for the Lord* (3x)

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!**

*CHALLENGE AND BLESSING

And all God's people said ONLY:

Amen.

*RESPONSE: GTG #678 *Our Darkness Is Never Darkness in Your Sight* (3x)

**Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:
the deepest night is clear as the daylight.**

POSTLUDE

Unless otherwise noted, the liturgy in today's worship is adapted from resources by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

GOOD FRIDAY - *“Seven Last Words”* at St. Luke’s 11:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Pastor MargaretAnne preaching at 12:35 p.m.

EASTER - Sunrise Service – 6 a.m. Grand River Center

Worship at Westminster at 9:30 a.m. with choir, band and organ



What is "Journey of the Heart"?

The phrase, *Journey of the Heart*, is the language we're using to talk about the renewed engagement of EVERY SINGLE PERSON in this congregation.

Because if we're going to re-invigorate our congregational life together then it's going to take renewed engagement from EVERY SINGLE PERSON in this congregation.

And because we love God, love one another, love this church, and love our community ... we're calling this journey toward revitalization: A Journey of the Heart.

How does Journey of the Heart begin?

Our first step on the journey is to connect.

Beginning after Easter, Westminster's leadership will be hosting small group gatherings where WPC members and friends will be able to share their hopes and concerns about the future of Westminster, and to hear more about the hopeful and deeply transformational future that our Session believes God is calling us to.

The goal of these meetings is to revitalize our connections after the disconnect of a global pandemic. But the goal is also to engage EVERY SINGLE PERSON who is part of the Westminster family in the important conversations about the future of the Westminster congregation.

Join the Westminster leadership as we look to a hopeful, exciting future and address the challenges of the road ahead. Choose which gathering you can attend and sign up online or in the sanctuary.

SIGNUP LINK: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4BA8AF29A6F58-journey>

Saturday, April 15 @ 3pm

Sunday April 16th @ 1pm (zoom)

Monday, April 17 @ 3pm

Monday, April 17 @ 5pm (zoom)

Tuesday, April 18 @ 10am

Wednesday, April 19 @ 6pm

Thursday, April 20 @ 10am

Thursday, April 20 @ 3pm

Friday, April 21 @ 11am

Friday, April 21 @ 2pm

Saturday, April 22 @ 11am

Saturday, April 22 @ 6pm

Sunday, April 23 @ 2pm

Tuesday, April 25 @ 2pm

Tuesday, April 25 @ 6pm

Wednesday, April 26 @ 6pm

Thursday, April 27 @ 6pm

Saturday, April 29 @ 10am