



October 8, 2023

Worship Service

8 AM & 11 AM

As you enter, begin to worship quietly. Please silence your phone.

FOR REFLECTION: "Love as distinct from 'being in love'—is not merely a feeling. It is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by (in Christian marriages) the grace which both partners ask, and receive, from God. They can have this love for each other even at those moments when they do not like each other; as you love yourself even when you do not like yourself. They can retain this love even when each would easily, if they allowed themselves, be 'in love' with someone else. 'Being in love' first moved them to promise fidelity: this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love that the engine of marriage is run: being in love was the explosion that started it" (C.S. Lewis).

PRELUDE

Processional on LOBE DEN HERREN (Hymn 53)
Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness, BWV 654
(Hymn 421)
Frank Dodd, organ

M. Shaw
J. S. Bach

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. York

CALL TO WORSHIP * *Doxology* (Hymn 731)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

SILENT PRAYER/INVOCATION

Dr. Kieffer

Praise Him! Praise Him! #173

1. Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim! Hail him! hail him! highest archangels in glory; strength and honor give to his holy name! Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children, in his arms he carries them all day long: *Praise him! Praise him! tell of his excellent greatness; praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song!*

2. Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! For our sins he suffered and bled and died; he our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation, hail him! hail him! Jesus the Crucified. Sound his praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows, love unbounded, wonderful, deep, and strong: Praise him! Praise him! tell of his excellent greatness; praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song!

3. Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring! Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever; crown him! crown him! Prophet and Priest and King! Christ is coming! over the world victorious, pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong: Praise him! Praise him! tell of his excellent greatness; praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song!

CONFESSION OF SIN * Adapted from a prayer from *Prone to Wander* by Barbara Duguid and Wayne Houk

Faithful God, we daily fall short of your commands. Where you have called us to gentleness and patience, we have been critical and impatient toward one another. Where you have urged us to bear with one another in love, we have focused on other's failures or we have ignored people because we simply do not care about them. Instead of confessing our sin, we hide our weakness and brokenness so that we might not be recognized as the sinners we actually are.

Yet you have not left us in our sin. Thank you for your grace and mercy in Jesus Christ. Jesus, bring us near to your cross that we may behold your love for us. Holy Spirit, subdue our sin in us. Give us a genuine care for others as Christ has cared for us. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE: * 1 John 4:9-11

Pastor: This is the grace of God for our salvation.

²People: Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: * *The Apostles' Creed*

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.

** The word catholic means universal*

SONG OF PRAISE * *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (Hymn 295, stanza 2)

**Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified: no
angel in the sky can fully bear that sight, but downward
bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.**

MISSIONS MOMENT

Dave Kieffer

ANTHEM (11:00)

It Is Not Death to Die

arr. D. Wells

Sanctuary Choir Victoria Mitchell, *cello*

INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
(Hymn 38)

arr. D Funderburk

Daniel Huang, *violin* Victoria Mitchell, *cello*

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus! #535

1. O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free; rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me. Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love; leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above.
2. O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread his praise from shore to shore; how he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore; how he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own; how for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.
3. O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best: 'tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest. O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me; and it lifts me up into glory, for it lifts me up to thee.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Proverbs 18:22

SERMON

Marriage: A Real Good Thing

Dr. Tucker York

#12 in a Series on Proverbs—*Wisdom: Living Life in the Fear of the Lord*

Blessing and Honor and Glory and Power #300

1. Blessing and honor and glory and power, wisdom and riches and strength evermore give ye to him who our battle hath won, whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne.

2. Soundeth the heav'n of the heav'ns with his name; ringeth the earth with his glory and fame; ocean and mountain, stream, forest, and flower echo his praises and tell of his power.
3. Ever ascendeth the song and the joy; ever descendeth the love from on high; blessing and honor and glory and praise—this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.
4. Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb; take we the robe and the harp and the palm; sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain, dying in weakness, but rising to reign.

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE *

(11:00) *Sweet Would Be My Prayers*

C. Smith

POSTLUDE

Grand Triumphal Chorus

A. Guilmant

*Worshippers, please stand if physically able.

At the Morning Worship Service:

Organist: Frank Dodd

Choral Director: Floyd Rawleigh

Evening Service: 6 PM

Dr. Chris Walker preaches on Colossians 2:1–5, *The Apostle's Struggle*, #5 in a series on Colossians—*In Christ All Things Hold Together*. A musical offering will be sung by Lidia Almeida, *soprano*.

Marriage: A Real Good Thing

Proverbs Applied to Marriage

Wisdom is an attentiveness to God's Word, God's character, and God's created order in order to live life knowledgably and well as God intended it to be lived.

Praises

- 5:18–19a Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe.
- 12:4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones.
- 19:14 House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.
- 31:10–12 An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.
- 31:29–31 “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

Warnings

- 11:22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.
- 19:13 A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife's quarreling is a continual dripping of rain.
- 21:9 It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.
(25:24)
- 22:24 Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man...
- 25:28 A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

Visitors

Welcome visitors: Please complete the Connect Card in the pew and drop it in the offering plate. You will receive an informational, one-time mailing.

Connections class is held TODAY. This monthly, two-week informal session is offered for visitors and those who desire an informative introduction to the life and ministry of Westminster Church—without obligation. *Connections* is **located in the library** (*library is located across the Gathering Space*), 9:30–10:30 AM.

Everyone

Help us minister to you; complete a Connect Card each week you worship with us.

Hearing devices to use in the Sanctuary are available from the ushers.

Sanctuary flowers are given by Mr. and Mrs. Nevin Gish in loving memory of Dee's mother, Esther Siegrist; and by Barb and Bob Heisey in honor of the memory of Barb's father, Melvin Martin, and Bob's parents, Bob and Corrine Heisey.

At Home With the Lord

Westminster member Richard W. DeVerter passed into glory on Thursday, September 28, 2023.

Westminster member Marie E. DeVerter passed into glory on Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

Service details for this married couple are pending. Our thoughts and prayers are with the DeVerter family.

The Safety Team would like to thank everyone who made last week's Sunday morning fire drill a success.

We observed cooperative and respectful congregants quickly leaving the building in a safe manner. The teachers in the children's wing were exceptionally organized and safely escorted the students to the outside gathering area. Two years ago, we announced a fire drill weeks in advance. We wanted to make this year's drill an unannounced drill in order to expose any weaknesses that need to be addressed. We identified several improvements that we will add to our plan.



UPDATE FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Westminster's Session is convening a meeting on **Sunday, October 15, during the Sunday School hour, 9:30–10:30 AM.** Adult Sunday School classes won't be held that day. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the congregation with an update on building the Fellowship Hall, our capital campaign, and our overall progress in building our master plan. The time will also include prayer for God's continued wisdom and leading in this process. Additionally, **following the 11 AM service**, we will hold a brief groundbreaking ceremony and prayer for the Fellowship Hall beginning around 12:30 PM.

SEARCH FOR PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Westminster has begun a search for a full-time Pastor of Congregational Care. The new pastor will fill many of Pastor Cureton's duties as he transitions to cover Pastor Light's counseling responsibilities. Pastor Light will retire at the end of January 2024. Please help us spread the word and direct interested candidates to our job description and application found at www.westpca.com/job-opportunities. Inquiries and recommendations may be sent to Pastor York (york@westpca.com).

Ministry Highlights

- **We are pleased to announce that Tia Spykstra** will serve as our new Children's Ministry Event Assistant. You can learn more about Tia in her bio on our announcement sheet.
- **Ladies 16 years and up**, you can still register for our one-day women's fall retreat on October 28 at Woodcrest Retreat in Ephrata! CCEF counselor/author Julie Lowe will talk to us about dealing with stress and anxiety by finding our refuge in God. Cost is \$35/person. Space is limited. **Register by TODAY** at westpca.com/events/womens-fall-retreat. Contact Amy Williams with questions (williams@westpca.com).
- **This week's dinner entrée is chicken patties.** Dinner is available 5–6:20 PM. Tell us on your Connect Card or RSVP online by noon on Monday (www.westpca.com/wednesday) if you plan to attend. Cost is \$5 per person, aged 6 and older, maximum \$15 per household.
- **Youth Fall Retreat is November 10–12 at High Point Camp.** The early registration deadline with \$20 discount is **THIS Wednesday, October 11**. Pick up a registration form in the youth room or register online at westpca.com/events/youth-fall-retreat. Email Matt Collins (collins@westpca.com) or Jillian Rogers (jillian@westpca.com) with any questions.
- **The Young Adults group is exploring Lancaster City** on Saturday, October 14. Meet at 10 AM at the church. RSVP to Chase Reed (reed@westpca.com) or Alissa Robinson (alissa@westpca.com).
- **Youth Group Fall Fun Night** is THIS Saturday, October 14, 6–9 PM. Come in costume for a night of pumpkin carving, food, fall activities, and a bonfire! For more details and to sign up, visit westpca.com/events/youth-fall-fun-night.
- **Join us next Monday, October 16, 7 PM**, in the Reformation Room for an evening with Ligonier Ministries and Reformation Bible College. Dr. Stephen Nichols will deliver a ministry update and host a Q&A session. The event is free. Refreshments and ministry resources will be provided. RSVP to president@reformationbiblecollege.org.



Worship: 8 AM & 11 AM, 6 PM Sunday School: 9:30 AM

2151 Oregon Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601

Church Office Hours:

Monday–Friday, 8 AM–4 PM

717.569.2151 / www.westpca.com