



November 5, 2023

Worship Service

8 AM & 11 AM

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

FOR REFLECTION: "The idea is not just that the Lord 'directs' one's steps, but that He is the only one who can take our flighty dreams and plans and make them reality. When we entrust our aspirations to God, and seek to bring our lives in line with His sovereign will, He will establish, as a part of settled reality, His divine will for our individual lives. When we stubbornly push our agenda over God's, there is no guarantee He will bring our plans to reality, not even if we are the king....This is not a note of fatalism, but of freedom through submission to God. Our prayer should be, 'Establish my footsteps in Thy word'" (John A. Kitchen).

PRELUDE

Beauty of the Earth Medley
His Eye Is on the Sparrow (Hymn 618)
Clarinet Choir

arr. W. Fritchie

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Light

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

(8:00) Rev. Collins, (11:00) Dr. York

Great God of Wonders! #82

- 1. Great God of wonders! All thy ways are matchless, god-like, and divine; but the fair glories of thy grace more god-like and unrivaled shine, more god-like and unrivaled shine. Who is a pard'ning God like thee? Or who has grace so rich and free? Or who has grace so rich and free?**
- 2. In wonder lost, with trembling joy we take the pardon of our God; pardon for crimes of deepest dye, a pardon bought with Jesus' blood, a pardon bought with Jesus blood. Who is a pard'ning God like thee? Or who has grace so rich and free? Or who has grace so rich and free?**

3. O may this strange, this matchless grace, this god-like miracle of love, fill the whole earth with grateful praise, and all th'angelic choirs above, and all th'angelic choirs above. Who is a pard'ning God like thee? Or who has grace so rich and free? Or who has grace so rich and free?

CONFESSION OF SIN *

Heavenly Father, you are the God of our salvation, the God of wonders. We thank you that our eternal hope is secure in Jesus Christ. We marvel that the cross of Christ enables us to freely come to you with the sin that still clings to us. We confess our pride and our tendencies to live life without regard to you and your will. We grieve over our failure to trust you with our burdens and our cares. You have graciously given us yourself in our union with Christ. You have promised us that we belong to you and are loved by you. Help us to again take to heart your precious promises and to rejoice in you always. Through Jesus Christ our living Lord we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE: * 1 Peter 2:24–25

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

People: Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: * *Heidelberg Catechism*, Questions 27 & 28

27. Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God by which he upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from his fatherly hand.

28. Q. How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

A. We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing will separate us from his love. All creatures are so completely in his hand that, without his will, they can neither move nor be moved.

SONG OF PRAISE * *O Father, You Are Sovereign* (Hymn 75, stanza 2)

O Father, you are sovereign in all affairs of man; no pow'rs of death or darkness can thwart your perfect plan. All chance and change transcending, supreme in time and space, you hold your trusting children secure in your embrace.

ANTHEM (11:00)

Sing a Mighty Song
Sanctuary Choir

D. Gawthrop

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 (8:00)

I Am His and He Is Mine
Larry & Nancy Kuch, vocal duet

arr. O. Young

OFFERTORY (11:00)

Jesus, I Come
Kara Hartman, soprano

arr. A. T. Williams

God Moves in a Mysterious Way #128

- 1. God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform; he plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.**
- 2. Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill he treasures up his bright designs, and works his sovereign will.**
- 3. Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.**
- 4. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust him for his grace; behind a frowning providence he hides a smiling face.**
- 5. His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding ev'ry hour; the bud may have a bitter taste but sweet will be the flow'r.**

6. Blind unbelief is sure to err; and scan his work in vain; God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Selections from Proverbs (see page 4)

SERMON ***The Sovereignty of God and the Ways of Man*** Dr. John Light
#16 in a Series on Proverbs—*Wisdom: Living Life in the Fear of the Lord*

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners! #498

1. Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul; friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.

REFRAIN:

Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend! Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

2. Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him; tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict'ry wins. (*REFRAIN*)

3. Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll, even when my heart is breaking, he, my comfort, helps my soul. (*REFRAIN*)

4. Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high, storms about me, night o'er takes me, he, my pilot, hears my cry. (*REFRAIN*)

5. Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find; he hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine. (*REFRAIN*)

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE *

The Grace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ

J. Mitcheltree

POSTLUDE

'Gravement' from Piece d'Orgue, BWV 572

J. S. Bach

*Worshippers, please stand if physically able.

At the Morning Worship Service:

Organist: Frank Dodd

Choral Director: Floyd Rawleigh

Clarinet Choir: Cindy Field, Laura Henry, Joel Mumma, Jody O'Neal

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 contributed by Larry and Nancy Kuch in loving memory of their parents, Paul and Jean Sebastian and David and Sylvia Kuch; and in loving memory of Michelle Lynn Ray presented by her parents, Larry and Christine.

Westminster's Session will hold a meeting **TODAY, immediately following the 11 AM service.** The purpose of this meeting is to elect the search committee for an Associate Pastor of Congregational Care. Session recommends the following names, representing Session and various congregational care ministries of the church:

Deb Butterworth
Vivian Ressler
Lois Bower
Susan Hagan
Larry Kuch

Eric Conner
Bill Ziegler
Kyle Hunt
Tucker York
Chris Walker *

* The senior pastor is an ex officio member of the search committee and does not need to be elected by the congregation.

Evening Service: 6 PM

Dr. Chris Walker preaches on Colossians 3:1–4, *With Christ*, #9 in a series on Colossians—*In Christ All Things Hold Together*. The prelude and musical offering will be played by the Lancaster Bible College Community Wind Ensemble.

A Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 22, at 7 PM.

Westminster's Session has designated the 2023 Thanksgiving Offering to support the Benevolence Fund. This fund is drawn upon to meet confidential needs of members in our congregation. Use the "Thanksgiving Offering" envelope, mark a gold pew envelope "Thanksgiving," or give online at westpca.com/give.

The Sovereignty of God and the Ways of Man

Proverbs teaches God's sovereign control of all things, human responsibility under God's sovereignty, and even all evil under God's rule and for his ultimate, good purposes.

- 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.
- 16:1 The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.
- 16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.
- 16:3 Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.
- 16:4 The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.
- 16:9 The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.
- 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.
- 19:21 Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.
- 20:12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both.
- 20:24 A man's steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way?
- 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.
- 21:30 No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the LORD.
- 21:31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.
- 24:19–20 Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked, for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.
- 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

Ministry Highlights

- **Free books!** The Library will have a book giveaway table **TODAY** outside the library entrance following the 8 AM service until after the 11 AM service.
- **This week's dinner entrée is turkey dinner.** 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.
- **You're invited to join Love Life's Week 40 Celebrate Life prayer walk** in Lancaster this Saturday, November 11. This is the last and largest prayer walk of the year where churches gather to celebrate what God has done and pray for our region and all those involved in abortion in our community. We will have two hours of worship, testimonies, prayer, and encouragement from local pastors. For more information, see our Westminster Announcements sheet.
- **On November 11 at 7:30 PM, the Westminster Young Adults** will be screening the movie "Interstellar" at Lancaster Bible College with a short time of discussion afterwards. For more information and to RSVP, visit westpca.com/events/ya-movie.
- **Be a blessing to children around the world** by filling a shoebox with gifts. This is your last week to pick up a shoebox from the table in the front hallway next to the Information Desk. **Return filled boxes to the same table by next Sunday, November 12.** Follow included instructions or visit westpca.com/events/operation-christmas-child for more information. Questions? Contact Alyssa Soule (717.799.3430) or Faith Roberts (717.808.4286).
- **The ESL Ministry has an urgent need for volunteers to donate** prepared Thanksgiving food dishes for our Thanksgiving party on the evening of Tuesday, November 14. This is a great opportunity to share this unique American holiday with the immigrants attending our English classes! Sign up at westpca.com/events/esl-thanksgiving or contact Jen Barrall (english@westpca.com) for more information.

Please note: Communion will be observed at the evening worship service next Sunday, November 12.

Pastoral Staff

Dr. Christopher Walker
Senior Pastor

Dr. John Light
Senior Associate Pastor

Dr. Tucker York
Executive Pastor/Missions

Dr. David Kieffer
*Associate Pastor/Discipleship &
Outreach*

Dr. Barry Cureton
*Associate Pastor/Shepherding &
Visitation*

Rev. Matthew Collins
Associate Pastor/Youth

Dr. Michael Rogers
Pastor Emeritus



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