

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

PRELUDE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, arr. J. Chrisman¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God does not see as mortals see. We look on the outward appearance;
God looks on the heart.

People: **Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

Leader: Once we lived in darkness, but now—as children of light,
we are called to what is good and right and true.

People: **Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

***HYMN 436**

*God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us, O Quanta Qualia*²

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world (*continue with silent confession*). Amen.

SONG OF CONFESSION HYMN 551

*Lord, Have Mercy, Land of Rest*³

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

People: **We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Please turn to the back wall and wave to our online worshippers, offering them the peace of Christ and then greet each other.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amy Poland

After the message, children may follow the teacher to room 11 for Spiritual Adventures.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-16

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

SECOND LESSON

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not

the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said

to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

SERMON

Look What God Can Do, Rev. Hugh Drennan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 793**

O Christ, the Healer, Erhalt Uns, Herr⁴

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 649

Amazing Grace (verse 4), *Amazing Grace*⁵

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY

Open Thou Mine Eyes, J. Rutter⁶

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see, incline my heart and I shall desire. Order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of thy commandments.

O Lord God, be thou to me a God and beside thee let there be none else, no others, naught else with thee.

Vouchsafe to me to worship thee and serve thee according to thy commandments in truth of spirit, in reverence of body, in blessing of lips, in private and in public.

***DEDICATION HYMN 694**

Great God of Every Blessing (verse 1), Aurelia⁷

Great God of every blessing, of faithful loving care, you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share. How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start; sincerely and completely I offer you my heart."

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

In gratitude, O God, we come into your presence. For all that you have done for us,

most especially, for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. In his name we pray. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 450**

*Be Thou My Vision, Slane*⁸

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Count Your Blessings, arr. D. Miller*⁹

Leaders Today:

Pastor: Rev. Hugh Drennan

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

The Chancel Choir

Ushers/Greeters: Bill & Linda Tanke, Dorothy Hujik, Kate Fletcher (Deacon)

Liturgist: Sue Dornfeld

AV/Tech: John Tarr



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WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Education Forum March 26

Please join the Education committee on March 26 after worship to hear Alia Stevensen, Chief Development & Partnerships Officer, for The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness (FFBWW), a Wisconsin based non-profit organization that exists to 'Empower a Generation of Well Black Women'. Each year the FFBWW engages and serves over 7,000 women across Dane County and Wisconsin through direct services programming, and thousands more through advocacy work. Join us in learning more about how the FFBWW energizes, mobilizes and supports Black women to transform their lives and health through education, advocacy and powerful partnerships; and how we can work together to ensure everyone in our community is healthy, thriving and free! This forum will take place in the lounge shortly following the morning service.

Rummage Sale

It's back! The fabulous Westminster rummage sale is coming on Saturday, April 15, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m! What do we need from YOU? We will need help setting up Wednesday afternoon, April 12, and all day Thursday and Friday, April 13 and 14. We also could use willing hands to clean up 1-3 p.m. on Saturday. We can take donations ONLY the week of the sale: please make sure all items are clean, in working order, and in new or gently used condition. We cannot put out for sale anything that is soiled or dirty, torn, broken, or not working. Questions? Want to volunteer? Contact Beth Swedeen at bethswedeen@gmail.com or Sara Pope at rose-girl1991@yahoo.com Sale profits go to local non-profits, and we often donate unsold items at the end of the sale to local groups. Everyone who volunteers is guaranteed a fun time!

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper - April 6

The Fellowship and Worship Committees invite you to enjoy a Soup Supper at 6:30 PM as part of the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 6th. Volunteers are needed to bring a hearty soup, unleavened bread (like matzo, chapati, tortillas, roti and naan), or bars/cookies for dessert. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are willing to share your cooking skills. For more information or questions you can contact Sandra Cole (srcole30@gmail.com / 608-733-9193) or Sue Hummel (sbhummel@chorus.net / 608-831-3626).

One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people face challenges to obtain food, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. One Great Hour of Sharing is a special collection throughout Lent to help improve the lives of people around the world in challenging situations. Mathew 25 encourages us to see Christ in those who are hungry, thirsty, and oppressed. This special collection is our opportunity to reach out and assist those in need. Please consider making a contribution anytime now through Easter. Checks can be made to Westminster with "OGHS" in the memo.

Ramadan Interfaith Iftar

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice is sponsoring the seventh annual Ramadan Interfaith Iftar (Break the Fast) on Saturday evening, April 1st, 2023, at 7:00 pm at Kromrey Middle School, 7009 Donna Dr., Middleton, WI 53562. Westminster is a sponsor of this event and we hope you will consider attending. This interfaith event brings together people of all faiths to join with our Muslim siblings as they break their daily Ramadan fast. The event is an opportunity to come together as an interfaith community, learn about Islam and Ramadan, make new friends, and share a wonderful dinner. You do need to RSVP (link below). If you are able to bring a dish to pass, that link is also below.

Evite link to RSVP - <http://evite.me/CbVZmENA7y>

Sign-Up Genius link to sign up to bring a dish and/or to volunteer - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA9A929A4F94-ramadan>

Taizé Worship

Our mid-week Taizé Worship continues. This service, which begins at 6:30 p.m., and will alternate locations, as follows:

- At Covenant Presbyterian: March 29
- At Westminster Presbyterian: March 22

Please consider joining us. The service will not be livestreamed or recorded for later.

Easter Lily Orders ~ Honoring & Remembering

The sanctuary will be decorated with lovely lilies again for Easter. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one on Easter, you may contribute to the floral fund. Lilies are \$15 per plant and order forms will be available in the pews and Narthex. Please return your order form with your check by Palm Sunday, April 2. You can make checks payable to Westminster and mark "Lily" in the check memo section.

SAVE THE DATES!

- **Mallards Game!** We will be having a Mallard's baseball game outing on Thursday June 22 at 6 PM. Cost will be \$13 a person.
- **VBC** – Westminster will be joining forces with Christ Presbyterian Church from July 31 through August 3 for Vacation Bible Camp. Children, youth and adults are invited to participate!
- **Women's Retreat** - We will be having another Women's retreat at Holy Wisdom on Saturday, October 7. Kathleen Owen will be leading.

Family Lent Resources

Families and children of all ages: The Family Ministries table in the Narthex has Lenten Devotions, Lent calendars, and One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks for the taking! Come check it out!

Thank you!

Ruth Hein wishes to Thank All of You for all your Support, Prayers, Cards and other Get Well Treats. Prayers were indeed answered as my prognosis is very good and recuperation has been going well.

Church Office

-Katie will be on vacation starting March 13 and returning March 27. Volunteers will be in the office from 9am-12pm most days. For pastoral emergencies, you can contact Pastor Scott directly at scott@westminstermadison.org.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Care List: Nell Seiberlich, Shirley Toomey, Kathy Waggener, Wade Waggener

Members & Friends: Paul Quin, Peg Zimmer, Patrick Mullin, Nancy Smart, Tom Garcia, Connie Dettloff