

## Westminster Presbyterian Church

October 5, 2025

PRELUDE "Here I Am, Lord" arr. Paul A. Tate

WELCOME

PREPARATION MUSIC "In Silence, Peace" arr. Paul A Tate

INTROIT "Goodness Is Stronger than Evil" #2219 (*Sing the Faith*)  
***Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;  
 Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.  
 Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us.  
 Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us. (repeat)***

CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world of fear,  
**We hear God's promise of presence.**  
 In a world where children are hungry  
**We hear Jesus say, "Feed my sheep."**  
 In a world that is often unfair,  
**We hear God's call to justice.**  
 In a world of violence and conflict,  
**We hear Jesus say, "Blessed are the peacemakers."**  
 In a world of brokenness,  
**We believe God shares our pain,**  
 So we bring our prayers and our worship  
**To God who is our hope, our strength, and our peace.**

\*HYMN "From All that Dwell Below the Skies" #229 (*Hymnal*)

***From all that dwell below the skies  
 Let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***In every land begin the song,  
 To every land the strains belong: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;  
 eternal truth attends thy word: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
 till suns shall rise and set no more.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

PRAYER

(adapted from Children's Sabbath Resources, [childrensdefense.org](http://childrensdefense.org))

God of all and not just some,  
**We know that when some have too much and others too little,  
 we have not proclaimed your justice.  
 When some have been welcomed and others excluded,  
 we have not lived the values of the beloved community.**

**When some are nurtured and others abandoned,  
we have failed to see that all children are your children.  
When some live in safety and others in fear,  
we have not pursued what makes for peace. Forgive us, we pray.  
God of all and not just some,  
Help us to embody your love, speak your justice, and act with hope,  
so every child may live into the fullness of your intention for them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus who came for all and not just some. Amen.**

#### SILENT PRAYER

RESPONSE        "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"        #110 (*Hearts*)  
*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. (repeat)  
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

SCRIPTURE READING        Psalm 121

ANTHEM                "Bread of Heaven, Wine of Heaven"        Joseph M. Martin

SCRIPTURE READING        Luke 18:15-17

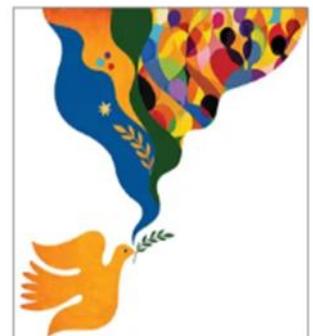
SERMON                "Who's Watching the Children?"        Pastor Jerry

HYMN                "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"        #109 (*Hearts*)  
*Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, pardon, Lord.  
And where there's doubt true faith in you.*  
*Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.*  
*O Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood, as to understand,  
To be loved as to love with all my soul*  
*Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
In giving to all that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

PEACE PRIZE PRESENTATION        Eileen Best  
to Molly Mechtenberg and Peace House, Kalamazoo

#### DEDICATION OF PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Generous God, we bring our gifts as a sign of our commitment to peacemaking. We dedicate them, trusting that you will use them in your work of mending the world. Through them, may your children near and far experience healing. May bridges of understanding be built. May the voices of diverse individuals and communities be heard. May families experiencing fear and violence find safety. May the powerful and those in conflict remember the children, and turn their hearts toward ways of peace. May peacemakers everywhere be protected and blessed with hope and courage.



**We pray for a day when no child lives in fear, goes hungry, or feels unloved. We pray for a day when every child has a place to belong, to learn, and to grow. We pray for a day when the needs of children are centered and every child has a hopeful future. We pray for a day when all**

children learn the ways of peace, and not violence. Make us ever mindful of the most vulnerable in this world. Help us to pursue what makes for peace, for the sake of all your children. Amen

HYMN "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" #514 (*Hymnal*)  
***Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:  
Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.***

*Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

***Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,  
Teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.*** *Refrain*

***Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!*** *Refrain*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC "Blessings" arr. Elaine Schram

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for making a place for us among all your people in heaven and on earth, and for feeding us at your table. For the sake of all your children, strengthen our compassion, determination, and courage, as we go out to be peacemakers, in Jesus' name. Amen.

\*HYMN "Guide My Feet" #354 (*Hymnal*)  
***Guide my feet, while I run this race. Guide my feet, while I run this race.  
Guide my feet, while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***Hold my hand, while I run this race. Hold my hand, while I run this race.  
Hold my hand, while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***Stand by me, while I run this race. Stand by me, while I run this race.  
Stand by me, while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***I'm your child, while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race.  
I'm your child, while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.***

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE "For One Great Peace" #2185 (*Sing the Faith*)

***This thread I weave, this step I dance,  
This stone I carve, this ball I bounce,  
This nail I drive, this pearl I string,  
This flag I wave, this note I sing.***

***This pot I shape, this fire I light,  
This fence I leap, this bone I knit,  
This seed I nurse, this rift I mend,  
This child I raise, this earth I tend.***

***This check I write, this march I join,  
This faith I state, this truth I sign,  
This is small part, in one small place,  
Of one heart's beat for one great Peace.***

POSTLUDE "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" arr. Bernadine Johnson