

Harvest Sunday



Westminster
Presbyterian Church
November 19, 2023

PRELUDE "We Gather, We Praise" arr. Ruth E Schram

WELCOME

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION "Blessings" arr. Ruth E Schram

INTROIT "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" verse 1 #551 (*Hymnal*)
***Come, ye thankful people, come. Raise the song of harvest home:
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied:
Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.***

CALL TO WORSHIP (written by Leslie Ann Billhimer Frye)
God will speak peace to God's people, to God's faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.
God's salvation is at hand for those who fear God.
When our living is right in God's eyes, when justice makes a path for God's steps,
Steadfast love and faithfulness meet. Righteousness and peace kiss.
Faithfulness springs up from the ground.
Justice looks down from the sky.
The Lord gives what is good.
Our land yields in abundance. God's glory dwells among us.

*HYMN "Now Thank We All Our God" #555 (*Hymnal*)
***Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.***
***O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.***
***All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.***

PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, we rejoice in the bounty of your world; we thank you for the rich harvests it produces. As we do so, we remember those who do not have enough, the many who go hungry each day. We pray for those who have more than they need, for ourselves and the church.

Show us what needs to be done, and how to share the world's harvest more fairly. Teach us to value people more than things. Above all, help us to set our hearts on your vision of justice, mercy, and faith. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:6-12

ANTHEM

"Thanksgiving Dance"

Nancy Middlemas

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 23:1-12, 23

SERMON

"Engaging the World, for the Good of All"

Pastor Janet

HYMN

"Together We Serve" verses 1-3

#2175 (*Sing the Faith*)

***Together we serve, united by love,
Inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,
Extending your love to the last and the least.
We seek to become a beacon of hope,
A lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
Until we see Christ in each person we meet.

We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,
The busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come,
Our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.***

OFFERING OUR HARVEST SUNDAY GIFTS OF FOOD

Offering Music: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

arr. Phillip Keveren

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, in Jesus Christ, you have shown us what it means to love. And you call us to follow his example — to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Bless the gifts of food – gifts of love – we bring today. May they nourish the bodies and the hope of our neighbors. May there be enough for all. Make us persistent in working for justice. Let our compassion flow from your love. May faith sustain our commitment to work for the good of all. Amen.

*RESPONSE

"Together We Serve" verse 4

#2175 (*Sing the Faith*)

***Together, by grace, we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.***

PRAYER

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**

*HYMN

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

#553 (*Hymnal*)

***For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping. Thanks be to God.***

***In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.***

***For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.***

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

"Song of Hope"

#432 (*Hymnal*)

***May the God of hope go with us everyday,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace. Singing, share our joy with all.
Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call.***

POSTLUDE

"We Thank You God"

arr. Ruth E Schram



OUR INTENTION STATEMENT

At Westminster Church, we live a whole life
in response to God
attentively
together
engaging the world
for the good of all
following Jesus Christ.