

*Responding to God's Word*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.**

*Sending of God's Word*

CLOSING HYMN

*We Give Thee But Thine Own*

#708

- 1 We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
- 2 May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive, and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our firstfruits give.
- 3 The captive to release, to God the lost to bring, to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ-like thing.
- 4 And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be; whate'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Welcome Visitors!** We are glad you are worshipping with us. Please take a moment and add your name and contact information at our Visitor Sign-in located on the table by the doors in the Narthex (the doors to the Coburg Parking Lot). This will add you to our mailing list so you will receive information and news about Westminster and our various ministries.

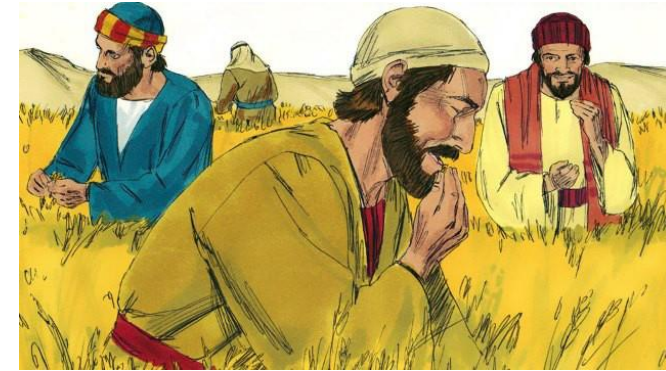
The Ordination & Installation service for incoming Elders & Deacons will be **Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**. We hope you can join us for worship in person outside or online via YouTube that day to celebrate this special day in the life of our congregation.

**Leading in worship today:**

Preaching: Karen Young

Liturgist: Bryan Wickman

Ursula Damgaard, Music Director



**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

Eugene, Oregon

**August 29, 2021**

*Gathering Around God's Word*

GATHERING MUSIC

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bryan Wickman

Lord of all things, in Your loving kindness You cause the morning dawn to give light to all earth's creatures. By Your will, all the marvels of creation are daily renewed. The heavens declare Your glory. The earth reveals Your handiwork. Great has been your love for us. Your compassion is boundless. Praise be to God to whom all praise is due forever.

**Let us worship God.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN

*We Praise You, Oh God*

#612

- 1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.
- 2 We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers; through trial and tempest our guide you have been. When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us, and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.
- 3 With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us. To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins together, for we have all fallen short of God's plan for us.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord you called us as your children to be entrusted with the work of the Good News on this earth. We are fearful to admit our transgression of not being good stewards in our own lives of the gifts you have given us, We are sorry to admit that we have neglected to use all our talents for the witness to others of your love for all. We regret that we forget your desire for all to be filled and not hungry, that we feel powerless when we see the lack of social justice and that many suffer the neglect of our society. We are sorry that we have not been your agents of comfort and that many are abandoned. Forgive us our failings and have us again rejoice in our servanthood in your kingdom. Thank you that we are reconciled to you and forgiven.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus Christ did not come to condemn us, but rather He came to save us, redeem us, reconcile us and accept us as ransomed children in the Kingdom. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*The Word*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Old Testament Reading: Psalm 15*

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

*New Testament Reading: Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23*

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why

do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

ANTHEM

*"The Summons"*

soloist: Steve and Jeanie Halberg

SERMON

*"Traditions: Stepping Stones or Stumbling Blocks?"*

Karen Young

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – from A Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**