

Announcements

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Pastor's Prayer

Teri Mc Dowell Ott, *Presbyterian Outlook Editor*

Loving God, as summer rapidly rolls into fall and busy schedules give us little space to pause and contemplate the eternal, we quiet ourselves now to enter your presence, to open our minds and hearts, to breathe the air you provide, to feel our hearts' beat, to give thanks, and to lift our prayerful petitions.

You bless us, God, with your steadfast love, surrounding us during times of suffering, comforting us in sorrow, offering us hope to face whatever is ahead. There is so much devastation, so much pain — we cannot wrap our minds around it all. Yet we petition you, Great God of All, to be with your people struggling to recover from natural disasters, to strengthen your people oppressed by worldly powers and greedy regimes, to soften hearts bent on war and violence, to heal those who are wounded, sick and grieving.

Faithful God, we trust you will never abandon us. We trust in your promise to provide for us, our children and your creation. We know joy because of you. We are blessed with friends and family and neighbors by your call to beloved community. Even amid suffering, you grace us with joyful opportunities to laugh, play, sing and dance. Help us, Holy God, to not be so focused on all that is going wrong that we miss all that is going right.

Finally, ground us in your good news, O God, and help us hold on to your promise of redemption in Jesus our Christ. Keep our feet steady on Christ's path, help us follow his teachings, help us love as he loved.

All: 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.

***Candle Song** Medley of *Whither Thou Goest* and *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*
arranged by Cindy Berry

**Come forward to offer a prayer and light a candle.*

Special Music and Offering *Friend of God*

by Israel Houghton and Michael Gungor

Scripture Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

Sermon *Loyal Friendship*

***Closing Song** *All the Way My Savior Leads Me*

Red Hymnal #641

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Take the Name of Jesus With You*

arranged by Cindy Berry

**Friends love through all kinds of
weather, and families stick together in
all kinds of trouble.**

Proverbs 17:17, The Message

There are four ways to share a financial offering to the Lord at Westminster:



View the weekly Fridge News by visiting our website,
www.wp-church.com.

Childcare is provided during worship in the downstairs nursery for children ages 4 years old and under.

We have 6 listening devices in the Narthex and can you can listen to the service by downloading the app, Listen Everywhere, on your smartphone.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY

Sermon
Rev. April H. Cranford

Worship Music
*Justina Hodgson
Jordan Houser*

Worship Leader
Jeff Loomis

Attendance
Phyllis Gorsuch

Announcements
John Tindall

Ushers
*Andi Shifflett
Andy Shifflett*

Video & PowerPoint
Laura Stirewalt

Sound
Caroline Lancaster

Children's Time
Jeff Loomis

Children's Church
Ashlyn Via

Nurse Attendant
Erin Spencer

Nursery Volunteer
River Cranford



WESTMINSTER WORSHIP SERVICE

September 10, 2023 | 10:30 AM

*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit

Prelude *My Lord, What a Morning!*

arranged by Cindy Berry

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Call to Worship, *Inspired by the book of Ruth*

Leader: Here in this place, there are no foreigners,
for all are welcome in God's house.

**All: Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,
for love is the language of faith.**

Leader: Here in our lives, there are no divisions,
for God dwells in each of us.

All: Come, let us worship in unity, joy, and love.

***Opening Song** *Faith Begins by Letting Go*

Green Hymnal #172

Children's Time

**After the children's time, children K-2 are invited
to attend children's church in room #4 downstairs across from the nursery.*