

WESTMINSTER  PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Service for the Lord's Day

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 16, 2017

GATHERING

(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)

PRELUDE

Variations on Simple Gifts

David Evan Thomas

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

The word of the Lord will not return empty;

it will accomplish all that God intends.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Ancient Gardener,

your holy word is planted in our hearts

as good seed in fertile soil.

So nurture us

that we may bear fruit abundantly.

Amen.

(The Cross and Bible lead the procession, symbolic of the centrality in worship of Jesus Christ - the Living Word, and the Bible - the written Word.)

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes thy glo - ries known.

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y
God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy

skies. I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.
good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our God is a God of justice,
waiting to be gracious to you,
yearning to have pity on you.
Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.

(Isa. 30:18)

In penitence and faith,
let us confess our sins to almighty God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Lord our God, we confess
that we do not reflect your glory.
You have claimed us
as beloved children, but we forget
that we belong to you alone.
You have given us
the Spirit of freedom,
but we fall back
into the spirit of fear.
Forgive us;
restore and reorder our lives
by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Let us bear good fruit in the Spirit
and a sign of your new creation,
to the glory of your holy name.**

(Silent confession)

Kyrie *(Sung responsively by the choir and congregation)*

Hal H. Hopson

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(The liturgist pours water, which reminds us of our baptism.)

Believe the Good News: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

***The Peace**

Since God in Christ has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

***ACT OF PRAISE**

SALZBURG
(Hymn 679, vs. 1)

**Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."
Heaven and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty King."
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, uplift your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

*(Everyone is asked to sign the Friendship Register,
which is located on the center aisle end of each pew.)*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

Isaiah 55:10-13 *(Old Testament, page 686 in your pew Bible)*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 65: (1-8) 9-13 Thou visitest the Earth Maurice Greene

**Thou visitest the Earth, and blesses it, and blesses it:
and crownest the year, the year with Thy goodness.**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 *(New Testament, pages 13-14 in your pew Bible)*

SERMON "Isn't that rich?" Donovan Drake

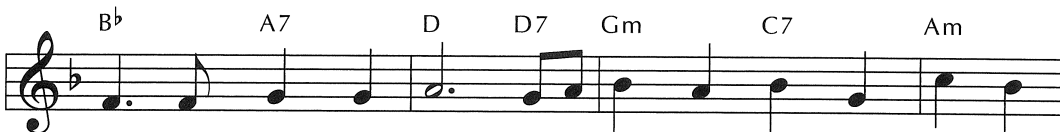
(A moment for meditation)



1 A Sow - er came from an - cient hills and cast good
 2 A Sow - er walked through - out the land and, ev - ery -
 3 The Seed was bur - ied deep in death be - neath a
 4 O Christ, you come a - mong us still, the Sow - er



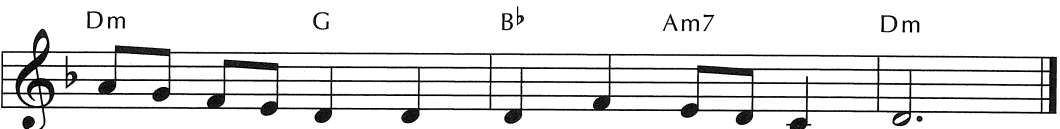
seed a - broad: his field, ten thou - sand hu - man hearts; his
 where he trod, he sowed his life be - cause he was him -
 blood - red sky, and deep - er still was bur - ied hope for
 and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in



seed, the word of God. And some who lis - tened would not
 self the Seed of God. But then, a - top a bar - ren
 those who watched him die. But then, in Jo - seph's gar - den
 glow - ing word and deed, im - plant your Word in wait - ing



hear, and some who heard for - got. But some re - ceived in
 hill, be - neath a dark - ening sky, they threw God's Seed on
 fair, as dawn broke o'er the land, the Seed, from three days'
 hearts, and let it there take hold, un - til it bears in



fer - tile soil the truth the Sow - er taught.
 ston - y ground and left it there to die.
 si - lent sleep, a - woke at God's com - mand!
 fruit - ful lives a har - vest hun - dred - fold.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.**

**All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.**

**He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.**

**For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

(Colossians 1:15-20)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Anthem

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

Finnish folk tune
arr. Joel Martinson

We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

You only are the maker of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children, you give our daily bread.

We thank you, our Creator, for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,
but what you most would treasure – our humble, thankful hearts.

***DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**With thankfulness, Creator God,
we acknowledge the gift of life,
and all that sustains it;
the love of families,
and all that they mean to us;
the companionship of friends,
and the support that they give us;
the opportunity afforded us by this congregation,
and the rich promise of its future;
and communities that are peaceful and secure,
affording us well-being in a world
too much torn by hatred
and stained by bloodshed.
Keep us alert, O God,
not alone to the richness of our lives,
but to your mercy that provides it;
that gratitude may be the hallmark of this people,
so that others, seeing both our plenty and our humility,
will find cause to thank you as well.**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Singing together*)

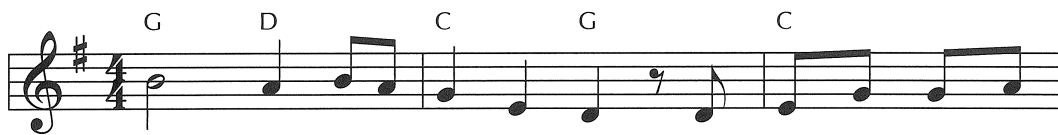
*(Please refer to the inside back cover of your hymnal
for the words and music for this hymn.)*

SENDING

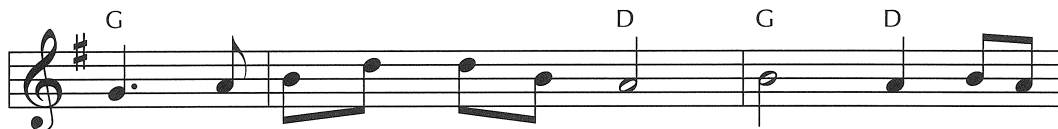
*HYMN 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

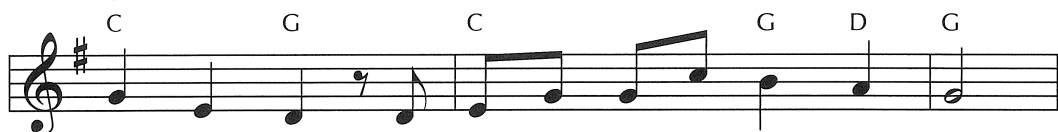
TEMPLE OF PEACE



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

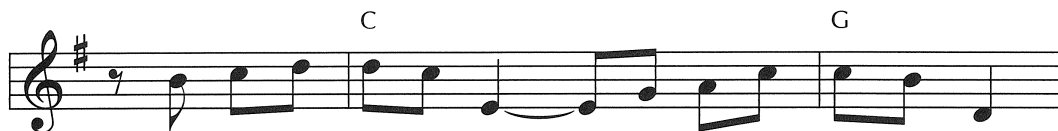
Refrain



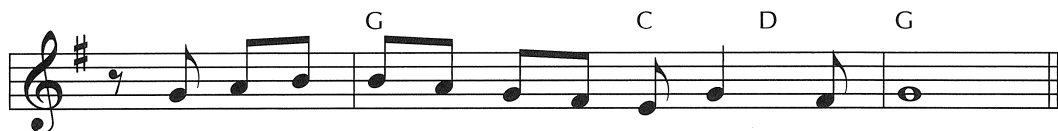
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Epilogue on For the Beauty of the Earth William H. Harris

**(Those who are able may stand.)*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Strick Levendoski,
and to all children gone too soon
by Geoff, Lena, Henry and Parker.*

SERVICE NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS: Liturgist: T.J. Piccolo, Associate Director of Youth; (8:30 a.m.) Lay liturgist: John Douglass; (11:00 a.m.) Lay liturgist: Bill Christie.

MUSICIANS: (8:30 a.m.) Chamber Choir; (11:00 a.m.) Summer Choir; John W. Semingson, Director of Music Ministries; Polly Brecht, Organist.

USHERS: (8:30 a.m.) Ron Stanley, Sylvia Grant, Laura Stanley, Marc Stanley, Sarah Frances Stanley, David Wyatt (11:00 a.m.) Jim Jenkins, Emily Jenkins, Kathryn Jenkins. *Should a congregant need assistance at any time during the service, please contact one of the ushers.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes you to share our common journey to become more faithful disciples of Christ. Our love and acceptance of each other affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person, regardless of our differences, and bear witness to the love of God for all people and our commitment to Christ. Any who are interested in joining us in this journey are invited to speak with one of our greeters, who are stationed by the Baptismal font after each service. The greeters for today are (8:30 a.m.) Ann Schulze and (11:00 a.m.) Anne Carr.

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS are available in the Narthex from an usher.

ASSISTIVE HEARING DEVICES: Due to ongoing construction, we are experiencing difficulties with connections for our hearing devices. Currently, devices are working only in the first ten rows from the pulpit. Thank you for your continued patience and prayers!

PRAYER SERVICE FOR WHOLENESS will be held in the Chapel immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service today, July 16, 2017. This brief and informal service (roughly 15 minutes) will include a time of centering ourselves in God's love and light, sharing concerns and joys, and individual and communal prayer. Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler and Claire Harris Kramer co-lead this service and remain available to pray with and for members of our community. Bring whatever needs for prayer are on your heart; all ages are welcome.

SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE: Please consider participating in the Summer Choir this year. The choir will rehearse for one hour (9:45 a.m.—10:45 a.m.) and sing for the 11:00 a.m. worship service throughout the summer months. The anthems will be simple enough to learn during the one-hour rehearsal, and most will be based on familiar hymn tunes. We encourage anyone who is interested in singing in this informal congregational choir to join us on any or all Sundays this summer. Please contact John Semingson (615.292.5526 or johns@nashvillewpc.org), if you desire additional information.

HOSPITALIZATIONS: Because of federal health care/confidentiality mandates, area hospitals are not able to release the names of our members who may be patients in their facilities. Please contact the church office (615.292.5526) or one of the members of our church staff when you learn of someone in the hospital who may need a pastoral call from the church.

PRAYER REQUESTS: It is the privilege of our pastors and the Congregational Care Committee's Prayer Team to pray by name for those who need our care. Please indicate on one of the prayer request forms, found in the pew literature racks, the name of the person and the nature of your request. Place your request form in the offering plate or give it to one of our pastors.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION: The music used in the service this morning is copyrighted under Christian Copyright Licensing International, Inc., No. 11221525.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Purpose Statement

*Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light
found in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

“For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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