



A Warm Welcome to All!

We seek to be an inclusive church,
and to show love and compassion in many ways.
If you are a visitor, we invite you to worship with us often
and to consider joining our congregation.

If you'd like to become more connected, please contact
Pastors Scott Paczkowski or Jan Scott at 274-1534.



Meet the Pastor

We welcome visitors and newcomers
to learn more about Westminster
and encourage you to attend the reception
hosted by Pastor Bill after worship
today at 10:30 via Zoom.
This is a great way to connect at Westminster
and ask questions about our faith community.

Order of Worship

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Gathering the Community of Faith

PRELUDE

Blest Be the Tie that Binds
Juli Bey - Organ

Tune: DENNIS
Arr. Robert G. Farrell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Ekhardt

**Please let us know you are worshiping with us,
by filling out the "Attendance Form,"
found on the livestream page.**

Celebrating God's Presence

CALL TO WORSHIP (Exod. 14, 15, Rom. 14)

Karla Killinger

One: Sing of God's mercy and grace.

All: Sing of God's strength and might.

One: Praise God with laughter and joy.

All: Praise God with feasting and dance.

One: For God protects the lowly and avenges the misdeeds of the mighty.

All: God brings forth justice and righteousness, saving the weak from the cruelty of the powerful.

One: Sing of God's mercy and grace.

All: Sing of God's strength and might.

*OPENING HYMN #265 *Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand*

(Music on pg. 8 of worship bulletin.)

Tune: WAREHAM
Text: Philip Doddridge

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Exod. 14, 15, Rom. 14)

Merciful God, we are ever in need of your grace and your mercy. When we have injured your little ones, forgive us. When we have laughed at others' misfortunes, pardon us. When we have belittled the weak, humble us. Help us walk the trials of life with your powerful hope and your loving grace. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Exod. 14, 15)

One: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, the forces of death would have devoured us whole.

All: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, we would have fallen to the sword or been drowned by the sea.

One: Dance and sing to the Lord, who is on the side of all God's children.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*SUNG RESPONSE #464 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (vs. 3) Tune: HYMN TO JOY
(Music on pg. 9 of worship bulletin.) Text: Henry van Dyke

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

When the pastor says, "God of Mercy," please respond with, "Hear our 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.**

RECOGNITION OF 3-YEAR-OLDS, 3RD GRADERS &
CONFIRMATION STUDENTS RECEIVING BIBLES

Dedicating Our Lives and Offerings

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Exod. 14, 15)

OFFERTORY *Jesus Sinners Will Receive* Tune: MEINEN JESUM, LASS ICH NICHT
Juli Bey - Organ Arr. Mark Sedio

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #592 *Doxology* OLD 100TH
(Music on pg. 10 of worship bulletin.)

Join with the Westminster Virtual Choir.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Exod. 14, Rom. 14)

Proclaiming God's Word

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 14:1-12 (NRSV) Karla Killinger
Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

ANTHEM

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place
Westminster Choral Scholars

Tune: SALVATION
Arr. Chuck Bridwell

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 14:19-31; 15:1b-11, 20-21 (NRSV) Bill Ekhardt

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into

- continued, next page

the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

"I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my might,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a warrior;
the Lord is his name.

"Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power—
your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.

In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;
you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.

At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,
the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'

You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?"

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Sending the Faithful into God's World

*CLOSING HYMN #237 *When God Delivered Israel* Tune: SHEAVES
(Music on pg. 11 of worship bulletin.) Text: Michael A. Seward

*BENEDICTION (Exod. 14, Rom. 14) Bill Ekhardt

One: As you go forth from this place, plunge into the waters of life
unafraid, for God goes with us.

**All: Let us move forward in life with purpose and passion,
for Christ is our guide and guardian.**

One: Live as people of powerful hope.

All: The Spirit renews us each and every day.

One: And now let us go in the peace, and the power, and the presence of
God, for God goes before us, and God calls us to follow.

All: Amen and Amen.

*CHORAL AMEN #587 *AMEN* AFRICAN-AMERICAN
(Westminster Choral Scholars 1st time, Congregation 2nd & 3rd time)

POSTLUDE *Go Your Way with Rejoicing!* Douglas E. Wagner
Juli Bey - Organ

* All who are able, please stand.

Participating in Worship this morning...

Rev. Dr. Scott Paczkowski, Senior Pastor

Scott@westpres.org

Rev. Dr. Bill Ekhardt, Associate Pastor, Chief of Staff

Bill@westpres.org

Rev. Jan Scott, Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care

JScott@westpres.org

Aaron Schultz, Director of Music and Art

ASchultz@westpres.org

Juli Bey, Organ and Piano

Juli@westpres.org

Karla Killinger, Liturgist

Madison Miller, Previous Bible Recipient

Westminster Choral Scholars:

Lauren Bailey, Claudia Sloat, Krister Strandskov, Everett Reed

Westminster Virtual Choir

Drew Robertson, Youth Director - Media Engineer

DRobertson@westpres.org

Laura Sherlock, Communications Director - Media Engineer

LSherlock@westpres.org

Austin & Greg Shane, Media Engineers

Westminster Chancel Guild

Church Music/Streaming Licenses

CCLI: #11161622

CCS: #12829

Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand 265

WAREHAM LM

Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Orton's *Hymns Founded on Various Texts*, 1755; alt.

William Knapp, 1738

1. Great God, we sing that might - y hand By which sup -
 2. With grate - ful hearts the past we own; The fu - ture,
 3. In scenes ex - alt - ed or de - pressed, You are our

port - ed still we stand; The o - pening year Your
 all to us un - known, We to Your guard - ian
 joy, and You our rest; Your good - ness all our

mer - cy shows; That mer - cy crowns it till it close.
 care com - mit, And peace - ful leave be - fore Your feet.
 hopes shall raise, A - dored through all our chang - ing days.

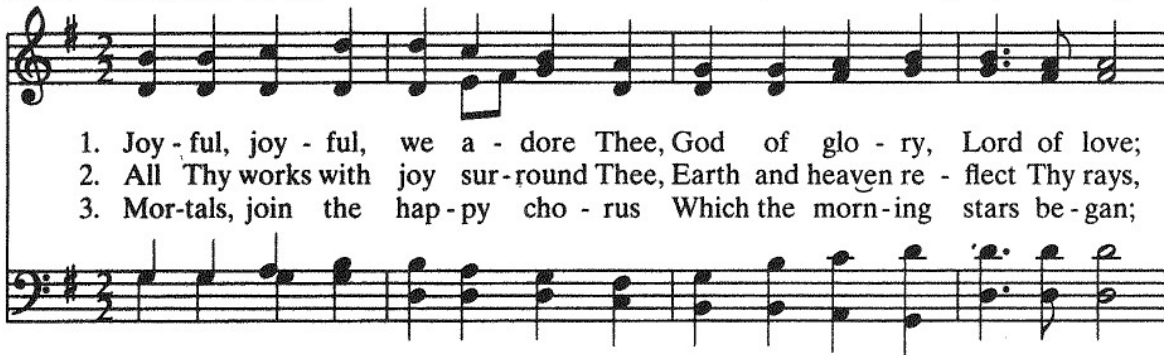
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

464

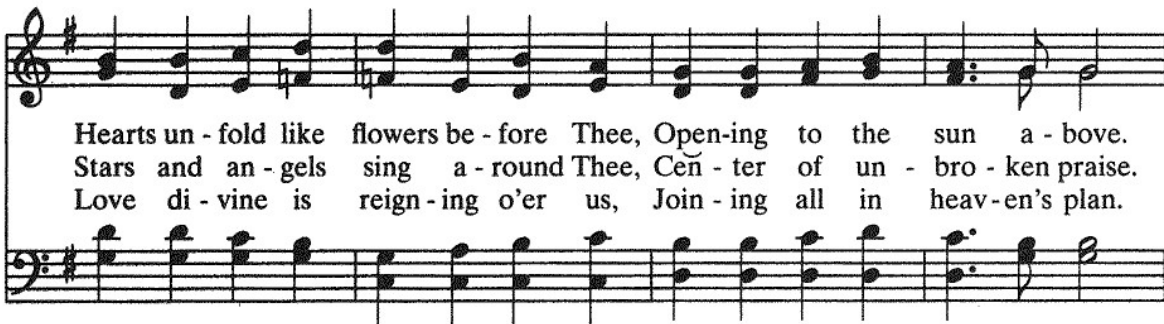
HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

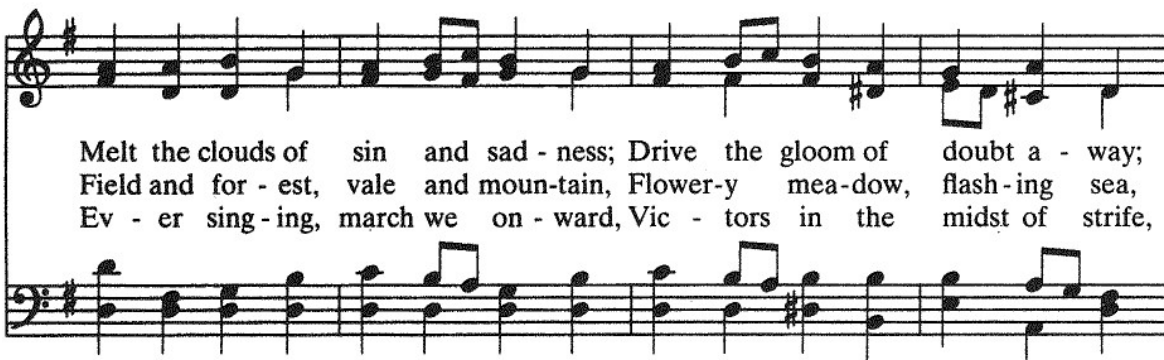
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867); alt.



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho - rus Which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open-ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav-en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flower-y mea-dow, flash-ing sea,
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward In the tri-umph song of life.

592 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH LM

Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise *Him, all crea-tures

here be-low; Praise *Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;

Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

* Or "God."

When God Delivered Israel

SHEAVES 7.6.7.7.6.6

Michael A. Saward, 1973

Norman L. Warren, 1973

1. When God de - liv - ered Is - rael From bond-age long a - go,
 2. The god - less na - tions round them Could not de - ny that power;
 3. O God, re - store our na - tion; Come, ir - ri - gate dry souls,

They thought that they were dream - ing, But soon they turned to laugh - ing
 They cried, "O see this mar - vell" "God's work," re - plied the peo - ple,
 That those who sow in sad - ness May reap their sheaves with glad - ness

And sang the song of joy, And sang the song of joy.
 And so they sang for joy, And so they sang for joy.
 And sing the song of joy, And sing the song of joy.

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Westminster Announcements

A Season of Peace - During the next few weeks Westminster is providing several opportunities for us to express our need to share Christ's peace with the world: **Our Peace & Global Witness Offering** will be taken today and next Sunday; a **virtual observance of the International Day of Peace** will be held on Monday, Sept. 21; and, Westminster is supporting United Way's **21-Day Equity Challenge**, Oct. 5-Nov. 2, to develop a deeper understanding of how inequality and racism affect our lives and community. More information on each of these opportunities is available in our newsletters, or by calling the church office, 274-1534.

The Visual Arts Committee presents "Pandemic Expressions," our church's first-ever online art exhibit. The works reflect 15 artists' thoughts and feelings during this unprecedented time in history. A wide variety of art is included – paintings, drawings, fabric art, mixed media, photography, and more. View the exhibit at westpres.org/art.

Lunchtime Devotions - Join Pastor Scott each Monday through Thursday, at noon, on Facebook Live for "Lunchtime Devotions." Scott reads his daily devotion and then offers a prayer. You can access the Westminster Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WestPres/>.

Prayer Requests - If you have a prayer request that you'd like to share with your church family, please select the Prayer Request button on the website's livestream worship page, or contact Susan Denton at sdenton@westpres.org.

How Can I Contribute My Offering or Pay My Pledge?

- **Mail** - Westminster Church, 4114 Allison Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310-3398
- **Online** - At www.westpres.org/donate
- **Text** - WPCDSM to 73256.
- **Call the Church Office** - 515-274-1534 for credit card or ACH contribution, ask for Ruth Bloxham, accountant. Thank You!



4114 Allison Ave • Des Moines, Iowa 50310
www.westpres.org • 515-274-1534

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#WestPresDM

WE ARE WESTMINSTER...

We Worship with Tradition • We Connect as a Church Family

We Engage in Mission • We Raise 21st Century Disciples

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

We welcome all persons as participants in our congregation, regardless of age, race, gender, marital status, physical condition, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic background, economic status, or any other human condition.