Westover Hills Presbyterian Church

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



The Broad and the Narrow Path (Der breite und der schmale Weg), 1866 Concept Charlotte Reihlen Execution Paul Beckmann

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany A Service of the Word and Sacrament February 5, 2023 10:30am

Welcome to WHPC! If you are visiting us today, we are so glad you joined us for worship. If you have not already, please take а moment to record your contact information on the visitor card you will find in the pew and drop it in the offering box or hand it to a greeter at the door. We are always glad to share the great things happening at WHPC!

If you are looking for a new church home and would like to join in fellowship with Westover Hills, please join us in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) and we will gladly share more about life at WHPC or, if you are ready, receive you into membership.

Childcare is available in the nursery. Please check with a greeter.

Westover Hills Presbyterian Church

A Service of Word and Sacrament

*Indicates the congregation is invited to stand. **Bold text** indicates unison readings.

We Gather at God's Invitation

Welcome & Opportunities for Discipleship

Dr. Robert Wm Lowry, Pastor David Austin, Music Director

Prelvde

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are here,

in the name of Christ Jesus.

So ask right now,

and it shall be given to you.

Seek right now,

and you will find.

Knock right now,

and the door will be opened.

Opening Prayer

Seeking One, you are the beginning and the end of our search.

Finding One, you are the alpha and omega of all discovery.

Asking One, you are the voice and the silence of our exploration.

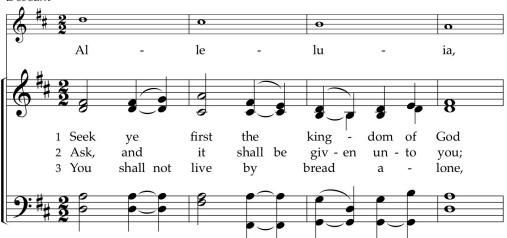
Giving One, you are the fullness and the emptiness of all yearning.

Persistent One, you never abandon your search for us, nor tire of our repetitive to-ings and fro-ings.

Receiving One, you endlessly welcome us home, and spread before us a feast in the face of our constant requests for mere morsels of bread.

Strengthen our courage; bolster our endurance; spur us onward in your way in our world through the power of the Holy Spirit and the name of Christ. Amen.





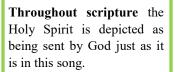
Bob Estes, Liturgist

The author of this hymn, Karen Lafferty, wrote the first verse in a folk style after attending a bible study. At the time, the first verse was the whole of the composition. Over time the second and third verses appeared from anonymous sources.

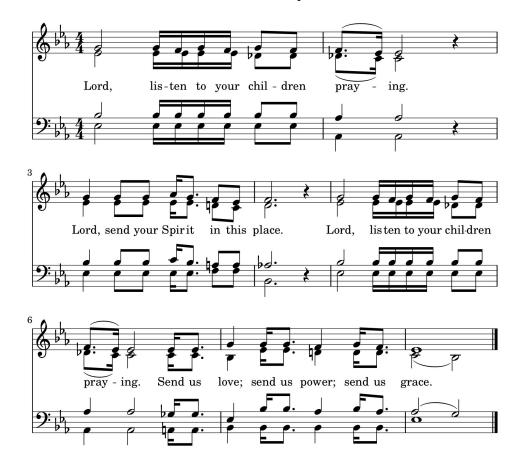


You call us to be your voices in this world and we stay silent. You call us to be your hands in this world

Why do some prayers of confession address God, some address Christ, and some seem to address no one but are instead a recitation of confessions? The answer is simply one of liturgical style. All three are common designs for confession.



and we keep them hidden. You call us to be your feet in this world and we go our own way. When we meet those who are doubting and say nothing, forgive us. When we meet those who need your touch and do nothing, forgive us. When we are called to take up your cross and carry nothing, forgive us. Breathe life into these bones bring freedom to these lives that we might declare with heart and soul and voice that you are our Lord and our God. Amen Silence is kept



SUNG RESPONSE Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying CHILDREN PRAYING

Assurance of Pardon

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

+The Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ which passes all understanding be with you all. And also with you.

Respectful of individual preferences concerning contact, please extend either a hand or a gesture of peace to your neighbors.

Matthew 7 is a rich text

filled with some of the most

and the door will be opened

to you" is depicted in art, the

door is shown without a

doorknob or handle. The

only way to open the door is

for it to be opened for you

from the other side. At Second Presbyterian Church,

this is depicted in the second

window from the back on the

side in

the

left hand

sanctuary.

memorable words of Jesus. Interestingly, when "knock

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

New Testament Reading

Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

"Don't judge, so that you won't be judged. You'll receive the same judgment you give. Whatever you deal out will be dealt out to you. Why do you see the splinter that's in your brother's or sister's eye, but don't notice the log in your own eye? How can you say to your brother or sister, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' when there's a log in your eye? You deceive yourself! First take the log out of your eye, and then you'll see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's or sister's eye. Don't give holy things to dogs, and don't throw your pearls in front of pigs. They will stomp on the pearls, then turn around and attack you.

"Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door is opened. Who among you will give your children a stone when they ask for bread? Or give them a snake when they ask for fish? If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him.

Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets.

"Go in through the narrow gate. The gate that leads to destruction is broad and the road wide, so many people enter through it. But the gate that leads to life is narrow and the road difficult, so few people find it.

"Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It didn't fall because it was firmly set on bedrock.

But everybody who hears these words of mine and doesn't put them into practice will be like a fool who built a house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It fell and was completely destroyed."

When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching because he was teaching them like someone with authority and not like their legal experts.

Sermon

"Worth the Walk"

Dr. Lowry

Questions at Stake

"If the Christian life is walked through the narrow gate on the more difficult path, what makes it worth the effort?"

+HYMIT OF RESPORSE #364 "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" GRAND ISLE

+Affirmation of Faith

We are a cloth of diverse colours **made from many gifts and graces.**

We are the people flowing forth from Creator God,

surprising ourselves with the things which can be done.

We are raw material for rewarding relationships as our lives interweave, **contributing one to the other**,

holding each other firm when one is weak or breaking.

We are each worthy of being respected and cared for essential to the pattern,

skilled in our appointed tasks,

sources of laughter and sharers of tears.

We commit ourselves to work together, that one day, this world may be a place where all people live in justice, freedom and peace.

The Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders and Deacons

Opening Words

There are different gifts,

But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are varieties of ways to serve God,

But it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through people in different ways.

But it is the same God who inspires a faithful response.

Each one is given gifts by the Spirit, to use for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ.

Presentation of Elders and Deacons-elect

Ruling Elders Ann Patterson Roy Nash Bill Smith Deacons Alice Ahart Ann Bell Nancy Blackstone Carol Enderlin Charlotte Frith Kay McCollum Joy Thomas

Constitutional Questions for Ruling Elders and Deacons

Constitutional Questions for the Congregation

Do we, the members of the church, accept these men and women as elders and deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

With the exception of the last questions that are unique to each office, ruling elders, teaching elders (pastors) and deacons all answer the same questions of ordination.

These questions are asked and answered both at the time of ordination and at all subsequent installations to active service.

The laying on of hands is a tradition that reaches back into ancient cultures. In some churches, the laying on of hands indicates the connection of the church back to Peter, the first bishop. Roman Catholic and Episcopal bishops can often trace their own apostolic succession through centuries to the early bishops.

Protestant churches do not recognize the necessity of apostolic succession; however, we do practice the laying on of hands by ruling and teaching elders as a sign of the connection between generations of leaders.

Ordination Prayer and Laying on of Hands

All ordained ruling elders and teaching elders (Ministers of the Word and Sacrament) are invited to come forward for the laying on of hands.

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.

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

This setting of the Aaronic blessing to a familiar Welsh lullaby is a beautiful blessing to conclude worship. Usually this tune is used for evening hymns so the writer set out to write a song for use in the day.

Elders will be in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) following worship if you would like to learn more about WHPC or if you are ready to join as part of the congregation.

Announcements, calendar, and pastoral care concerns may be found on the insert in today's bulletin.



+CHARGE & BEREDICTION