



Westminster Presbyterian Church

125 N. Wilkinson Street • Dayton, OH 45402
www.westminsterdayton.org

Service for the Lord's Day – March 08, 2026 Third Sunday of Lent

"The story of God's love was never yet believed from lips that were not felt to be moved by human love." – George Eliot, *Janet's Repentance*

CARILLON PEAL

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Adoniram Gordon, arr. Diane Bish

Prayer (from *Suite Gothique*)

Léon Boëllmann

(During the Call to Worship in Music you are requested to enter into a time of silence, actively opening your spirit to God's presence in your midst.)

INTROIT - "Raise the Anthem Manifold"

Jacob Hintze

Men and women, young and old,
Raise the anthem manifold;
Join with children's songs of praise,
Worship God through length of days.
From the north to southern pole
Let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, holy, holy One,
Glory be to God alone!"

*CALL TO WORSHIP IN WORD (Psalm 19:7-10)

The Reverend Dr. Caitlin T. Deyerle

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor with a verbal greeting or enthusiastic wave.)

*HYMN 442 - "The Church's One Foundation"

Aurelia

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage.

In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear this good news: the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All: **Amen.**

*RESPONSE (all sing) - "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" (Hymn 298, stanza 1)

In babilone

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;

There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON - Luke 18:15-17

Pew Bible, p. 81 NT

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEMS

"Come, Sing a Song of Praise"

Anna Laura Page

Come, sing a song, sing a song of gladness;

Come, sing a song, sing a song of praise!

Come, sing a song of cheerfulness,

And with your voice sing praise.

Alleluia, alleluia! Come sing a song of praise!

Rejoice in the Lord, alleluia, you people;

Give him your love, his glory proclaim!

Sing of his mercy, tell of his goodness, call on his name.

Come, sing a song, sing a song of gladness;

Come, sing a song, sing a song of praise!

Come, sing a song of cheerfulness,

And with your voice sing praise.

Alleluia, alleluia! Come sing a song of praise!

"Declare God's Glory"

Michael W. Patch

I will sing to God a new song. Let the earth declare the glory of God.

I will sing to God a new song. Let everything sing praise to God.

I will sing, I will sing, I will sing a joyful song.

I will sing, I will sing, I will sing my praise to God.

I will sing to God a new song. Let the earth declare the glory of God.
I will sing to God a new song. Let everything sing praise to God.
Cherub Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON - Matthew 11:25-30

Pew Bible, p. 12 NT

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM - "I am the Light"

Terry D. Taylor

*I am the Light, I am the True Light.
I am the Light, the Light of the World.
I am the Light, I am the True Light.
I am the world's True Light.*

Those who choose to follow me will never walk in darkness.

Those who choose to follow me will never walk alone.

Calvin Choir

(Children in Pre-K–Grade 2 will leave the service at this time.
An adult leader will be in the Narthex to escort them to their classrooms.)

SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Richard L. Baker, Jr.

Sermon: Phones Up: Let the Children Come to Me

Focus: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." – John 13:34

***HYMN 522 - "Lord, When I Came Into This Life"**

Land of Rest

(Children in Grade 3-8 will leave the service at this time. An adult leader will be in the Narthex to escort them to their classrooms.)

CONFIRMATION/COMMISSIONING AND BAPTISM

Elder Alan Pippenger

WELCOME

All: Friends, you are disciples of Jesus Christ. Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

The Reverend Nancy S. Hodgkins

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM - "Still, Still, with Thee"

Fred Gramann

Still, still with thee, when purple morning breaketh,
When the bird awaketh, and the shadows flee;
Fairer than morning, lovelier than daylight,
Dawns the sweet consciousness, I am with thee.

Alone with thee, amid the mystic shadows,
The solemn hush of nature newly born;

Alone with thee in breathless adoration,
In the calm dew and freshness of the morn.

Still, still with thee! As to each newborn morning
Afresh and solemn splendor still is given,
So does this blessed consciousness awaking,
Breathe each day nearness unto thee and heaven.

So shall it be at last in that bright morning,
When the soul waketh and life's shadows flee;
O in that hour, fairer than daylight dawning,
Shall rise the glorious thought, I am with thee.

-Harriet Beecher Stowe

SILENT PRAYER 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.

***HYMN 485 - "To God Be the Glory"**

To God Be the Glory

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE (All sing)**

Tallis Canon

**Throughout these Lenten days and nights
We turn to walk the inward way,
Where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
We live in hope till Easter day.**

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - Fanfare

William Mathias

(The Concluding Voluntary is the final Alleluia of our worship.
You are invited to remain in silence.)

*Please rise in body or spirit.

What is Lent? Lent is the season of the church that begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays). When it was first devised, it had a particular reference to the instruction of candidates for baptism at the great festival of redemption at Easter. Today Christians are encouraged to take on the challenge of some spiritual sacrifice and/or improving their participation in some spiritual practice, such as prayer, hospitality, or stewardship.

Youth being confirmed and commissioned today are Isaac Agiro, Gabrielle Noh, and Tennyson Ross.

2026 Confirmation Class Mentors are Shelly Davies, Bob Knechel and Alan Pippenger.

Please plan to greet the members of the 2026 Confirmation Class in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

Music Participants: Westminster Choir - Cherub Choir (Grades K-2 - Rachael Boezi, Director; Paul Agiro, Pianist) - Calvin Choir (Grades 3-6 - John Neely, Director - Christi Wilson, Pianist) - Hilary Toerner, Flute - Westminster Choir (Cynthia Schindler, Soprano) - Brent Manley is Organist - The Reverend John Neely is directing the Westminster Choir.

Today's Music: A mid-19th century controversy over a new way of studying and interpreting scripture advocated by Bishop Colenso of Natal was the source of the hymn "The Church's One Foundation" (Hymn 442), which was a defense of the traditional way of interpretation. The stanza which includes the lines, "By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed," is often omitted. Christ is the foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11), its members are his "new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17), and they are his "holy bride" for whom he gave his life (Ephesians 5:25). It is the most familiar statement about the church in hymn literature.

Choirs for children and youth today. New members welcome!

Children's Choirs and Youth Handbells (Sundays)

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Genesis Singers (4 and 5 year olds, Pre-Kindergarten) - Rm. 104 - Hilary Toerner, Director

Cherub Choir (grades K-2) - Theater - Rachael Boezi, Director

Calvin Choir (grades 3-6) - Rm. 100 (Choir Room) - John Neely, Director

Knox Ringers (grades 7-12) - Rm. 203 - Brent Manley, Director

Youth Choir

Knox Choir (grades 7-12) - Choir Room - John Neely, Director

5:00-6:00 p.m.

All are welcome. Dinner and Youth Fellowship groups follow.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Please stop by our Children's Ministry check in desk anytime between 9:40-10:05 to record your child's attendance and receive their name tag.

Infants and Toddlers, Room 108 (Infant - 3 years old), are cared for from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 108. Parents of infants will be contacted via text by the nursery staff in case immediate communication is needed while they worship in the Sanctuary. During the worship hour, children take part in an activity and enjoy a snack.

Junior High and Senior High Youth Fellowships meet from 6:00 to 8:00. Tonight is the Youth Fancy Dinner. If you have not done so, please RSVP to Nancy Hodgkins by 12:00 p.m. TODAY. Please bring \$20.

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Welcome Visitors: We are so glad to welcome you to worship with us today! Whether you are just passing through or looking for a new church community, we hope you feel right at home. At Westminster we believe that Jesus welcomes all people, just as they are, and so do we. We understand the life of faith to be a journey that is better walked together than alone. Following worship please join us for Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall, or join one of our Sunday School classes. We hope you will explore the bulletin as well as our website www.westminsterdayton.org to learn more about us. Please leave us your name and contact information in the Friendship Pad so we can get to know you as well! Grace and peace to you. -Westminster Pastoral Staff and Congregation

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The flowers in the Chancel are given in memory of the Kohl and Shuey Family by Randy Helt and Linda Kohl.

If you are interested in donating Chancel flowers, please contact Kay Berg (bergkay07@gmail.com or 937-367-9297). Please note that there is a one month lead time for flower donation announcements.

Emergency Response Team: Cheryl Paquette, Paul Agiro

If you have a security concern please notify the head usher who can connect you to our security personnel.

Each week the churches of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley keep one particular congregation or group in their prayers. This week the churches are praying for **First Presbyterian Church, Yellow Springs**.

Westminster is a praying church and we would love to pray for you. You are welcome to **add your prayer to our Prayer Wall**, located in the Sanctuary near the front on the east wall. You will find paper and pencil to write your private prayer to God and place it between the bricks of the wall. If you have a prayer request you would like to share with our **Westminster Prays weekly email**, please use the Prayer Request Card in the pew rack and place it in the offering box following worship. You can sign up to receive the Westminster Prays email and share prayer requests or other pastoral needs directly with our pastoral staff by emailing caitlin@westminsterdayton.org or calling 937-907-6078.

No members currently known to be in the hospital at this time.

MINISTERS

All members of the Church

STAFF

Richard L. Baker, Jr. Pastor/Head of Staff
 John W. Neely Assoc. Pastor for Music
 Nancy S. Hodgkins Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Mission
 Caitlin T. Deyerle Assoc. Pastor for Congregational Care
 Jenne Gross Mission Associate
 Kylie Hettinger Director of Discipleship
 Brent Manley Music Associate
 Curtis T. Baxter Pastoral Affiliate

Mattie Pennington.....Congregational Care Coordinator
 Tim Francis.....Business Manager
 Brittany Campbell Director of Communications
 Donna Schoonmaker.....Office Manager
 Wayne King.....Facilities and Technology Coordinator
 Keith Spencer Sexton
 George H. McConnel Pastor Emeritus



The Lent Calendar of Events is Available Online

Join us this Lenten season as we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. A full schedule of events is available on our website (www.westminsterdayton.org/lent).



Thank you for coming to Westminster today! We hope to see you again soon. If you enjoyed the service, and want to help us continue to share the love of God with our neighbors and transform their lives, please consider donating to our ministries. Donation boxes are located in the Narthex and by the elevator. You can also donate online at www.westminsterdayton.org/give or by scanning the QR code to the left with the camera of any smart device. You can also text "give" to 937-468-4003.



The Transformational
Alchemy of Tears in Things
Wednesdays in Lent

Led by The Rev. Dr. Curtis Baxter and The Rev. Nancy Hodgkins

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays in the West Parlor before Taizé

The Second Century Church established a calendar reflecting the birth, life, death, resurrection, and establishment of the Church. Lent begins on February 18, with Ash Wednesday, marking a 40-day period of abstinence, charity, contemplation, fasting, and prayer, mirroring Jesus's wilderness experience.

In Lent 2026, Westminster invites members and friends to study Richard Rohr's book, *The Tears of Things*, which addresses living amid violence and despair by connecting with divine love.

Discussion topics will include:

- February 25: The Path of the Prophet: Isaiah and Martin Luther King, Jr.
- March 4: The Role of Anger: Jeremiah and Greta Thunberg
- March 11: Collective Evil: Micah and Desmond Tutu
- March 18: Alchemy of Tears: Lamentations and Joanna Macy
- March 25: Growing Toward Love with the Prophets and Etty Hillesum

Join us for contemplation and prayer during this Lent season.

Having a copy of the book is not required to participate in the class, but may enrich your experience.



Lenten
CHORAL VESPERS
REQUIEM BY MOZART

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 4:00 P.M.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR WITH
ORGAN AND TIMPANI
FREEWILL OFFERING

The Fellowship dinner originally scheduled to follow Choral Vespers on March 15, has been canceled due to the renovation of the building. The Vespers will be livestreamed.



Today, 11:30 a.m., NEW LOCATION Room 211
Our Parents Fellowship Class is exploring a new resource for families to talk about faith together. Each week we will discuss a lesson from the book *New Directions for Holy Questions* by Claire Brown and Anita Peebles. After sharing some insights as a group we will send you home with a copy of the week's lesson to discuss as a family. No advanced preparation or reading required! **Join us in 211 our NEW ROOM upstairs.**



Today, 11:20 a.m. West Parlor
"If I've ever written a book that says what I feel about God and the universe, this is it." — Madeleine L'Engle on *A Wrinkle in Time*.
It's extraordinary when a book stays in print for over sixty years and sells ten million copies. It's even more extraordinary when that book was first rejected by some twenty-eight different publishers. But such has been the fate of Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*.

The book is extraordinary in other ways too: a children's book (it won the prestigious Newberry Medal in 1963) that address time travel, quantum physics, and theology (with characters named, Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which), it's also a work of science fiction that (extraordinary for the time) features a female protagonist.



Join our Children's Ministry for Bowling at Poelking Lanes South (8871 Kingsridge Dr, Dayton, OH 45458) for an afternoon of fun! Open to all ages! Bring your friends and family! Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly.



Presbytery Women's Spiritual
Nurture Retreat

Women of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley invite you to join a community of women for "Holy Ground: Meeting God in Nature and Ourselves." The retreat takes place April 24-26, 2026, at Kirkmont Center, Zanesfield. This two-day sabbath retreat will connect you with women of all ages throughout the presbytery and beyond through Bible study discussions and activities to renew your spirit and deepen your faith, while providing a time to recharge in God's miraculous creation. Learn more and register miamipresbytery.org/presbytery-womens-retreat-2026



You are invited to share in the decoration of the Chancel for Easter morning by sponsoring white lilies and other spring flowers. The Easter Sunday bulletin will include names of the donors and names of those being recognized. You are welcome to take your sponsored flower home with you after the 11:00 a.m. service or to leave the flower, which will be delivered by the Deacons and other caregivers to Westminster members who may need to be uplifted.

It is suggested that gifts be at least \$12, but we will honor any amount you wish to include. Information and payment may be submitted using our website (www.westminsterdayton.org), or you may return the form below and payment to the Church Office. Checks should be made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church with Easter Flowers written on the memo line.

Deadline for receipt is Monday, March 30

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WESTMINSTER CHURCH EASTER FLOWER FUND

Please print names as you wish them to appear in the bulletin.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Celebrating _____

I will pick up my flower(s) after the 11:00 a.m. Easter Service.
 My flower(s) may be given to another member in need of uplifting.

Given by _____

Suggested donation: \$12. Amount enclosed \$_____.

Deadline is Monday, March 30

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Church Calendar March 8 – March 14

Sunday, March 8

- 8:30 am-12:30 pm** Nursery Birth - Age 3, Nursery
9:00am-9:45am Confirmation Class, 228
9:15am-9:45am Westminster Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
10:20am-11:30am Children 1st & 2nd Grades, 103 , 105
10:20am-11:30am Children Pre-K & K, 101
10:40am-11:30am Children 3rd & 4th Grades, 109
10:40am-11:30am Children 5th-8th Grades, Theater
11:00am-12:30pm Coffee & Conversation, Fair Trade Fellowship Hall
11:15am-12:15pm Knox Ringers Rehearsal 207, 203, 205
11:30am-12:15pm Calvin Choir Rehearsal, 100 Choir Room
11:30am-12:15pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Theater
11:30am-12:15pm Genesis Singers Rehearsal, 104
11:20am-12:15pm Adult Education, West Parlor
11:30am-12:15pm Parent Fellowship, 211
5:00pm-6:00pm Knox Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
5:00pm-6:00pm Youth Advisors Meeting, 102
6:00pm-8:00pm Youth Dinner & Fellowship Grades 7-12, Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 9

- 9:30am-12:30pm** Sunshine Circle, West Parlor
6:30pm-8:30pm Bridge Interest Group, West Parlor
6:30pm-8:00pm Buildings & Grounds Meeting, Library
6:30pm-8:30pm Young Adult Bible Study, Offsite
7:00pm-9:00pm DGMC Rehearsal, 100 (Choir)

Tuesday, March 10

- 4:30pm-6:00pm** Personnel Committee, West Parlor
7:30pm-8:30pm Westminster Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary, Choir Room

Wednesday, March 11

- 9:00am-12:00pm** Staff Meeting, West Parlor
10:00am-12:30pm ID Ministry, 101, 103, 105
2:00pm-4:00pm Home Communion-Lincoln Park, Offsite
5:00pm-6:00pm Lenten Study, West Parlor
6:00pm-6:40pm Lent Taizé Service, Sanctuary
6:40pm-7:30pm Lent Taizé Dinner, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 12

- 1:00pm-3:00pm** Home Communion-Bethany Village, Offsite
5:30pm-6:30pm Fellowship Committee, West Parlor
6:00pm-7:15pm Carillon Bells Rehearsal, 301
6:00pm-7:15pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal, 207, 203, 205

Saturday, March 14

- 1:30pm-4:00pm** Westminster Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

* Please note these dates and times are subject to change. This calendar does not include all private meetings and events in the church. Please contact church staff to reserve meeting space.

“The Church’s One Foundation” (442)

The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the Word;
From heav'n he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.
Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With ev'ry grace endued.
Though with a scornful wonder
This world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.
Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.
Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
May live eternally.
“Lord, When I Came Into This Life” (522)
Lord, when I came into this life
You called me by my name;

Today I come, commit myself,
Responding to your claim.

Within the circle of the faith
As member of your cast,
I take my place with all the saints
Of future, present, past.

In all the tensions of my life,
Between my faith and doubt,
Let your great spirit give me hope,
Sustain me, lead me out.

So, help me in my unbelief
And let my life be true:
Feet firmly planted on the earth,
My sights set high on you.

“To God Be the Glory” (485)

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory: great things he has done!
Great things he has taught us, great things he has
done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our joy and our wonder, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory: great things he has done!