

WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

PRELUDE

Easter Song, arr. S. Ward¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God.

People: Let all the peoples praise you.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

***HYMN 246**

Christ Is Alive!, Truro²

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

3 In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

4 Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Loving God, we confess that we are an anxious people who deny your blessing and

fail to keep your word. Forgive us, we pray, for these and all our sins, that we might live in peace and reflect your love in the world. (continue with silent confession...)
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Let your hearts be still, for God loves you and forgives all your wrongdoing.
Beloved, receive the peace of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***ACCLAMATION HYMN 587**

Alleluia!, Celtic Alleluia³

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amy Poland

After the Children's Message, children may join Children's Time in room 11.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 67 - HYMN 341 *O God, Show Mercy to Us*, Thaxed⁴

1 O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace; and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face, so that your way most holy on earth may soon be known, and unto every people your saving grace be shown. Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing; in every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.

2 For you will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness, and on the earth all nations will your just rule confess. Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing. Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring. The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessing send, and all the earth will worship to its remotest end.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to

what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

SERMON

Leading Like Lydia

***HYMN**

*We Sing of Loyal Lydia, Kingsfold*⁵

1 We sing of loyal Lydia who dealt in purple dye, a woman Paul and Silas found at prayer in Philippi. Her heart was warmed when she heard Paul relate God's love for all. She and her household were baptized. They answered God's clear call.

2 This widow tested culture's rules by opening her home to Paul and those who came to hear how they such faith could own. When Paul and Silas were in jail, she suffered deep despair. Yet when the jailer was transformed, she knew God answered prayer.

3 When her friends moved from Philippi, they left believers blessed. And Lydia helped the church to grow as they their faith confessed. May we today our witness share that other hearts be stirred. Let us take courage as we dare to daily live God's Word.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 243

*Be Not Afraid, Taize Ecumenical Community*⁶

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia! Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY

*Adagio, Symphony No. 2, F. Mendelssohn*⁷

***DEDICATION HYMN 609** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, Lasst Uns Erfreuen*⁸

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Giving God, as spring bursts forth its blossoms in witness to your love, you bless us from generation to generation with the new life of Easter faith.

People: All that we have and all that we are come from you, O God, so we gladly share this offering, that others too may be blessed, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 767

Together We Serve, San Anselmo⁹

1 Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending God's love to the last and the least.

2 We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.

3 We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

4 Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D Major, G.F. Handel¹⁰

Leaders Today:

Pastor: Rev. Scott Anderson

Liturgist: Roger Fletcher

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: John Tarr

Ushers: Ann Rowley



WORSHIP NOTES

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WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS - May 22

Festival of Hymn Singing Next Sunday

On Sunday, May 29, worshippers will join in a Festival of Hymn Singing for Ascension Sunday. Joe Chrisman, Minister of Music, will lead the congregation in singing great hymns celebrating Christ's ascension and reign. Be sure to warm up those voices and invite a friend to join you at Westminster on Sunday, May 29.

Graduates!

Please let the church office know by **May 27th** if you or a member of your family is graduating from high school or college this spring. We would like to recognize all 2022 graduates. Call 608-238-3121 or info@westminstermadison.org.

Prayer Doves for Peace

Please join us in praying for peace in our world. You are invited to stop by the Prayer Doves for Peace table in the narthex and add your prayers for peace. Write or draw your prayer on one of our peace doves and leave it in the basket. These prayers will be used to create a prayerful art installation for Pentecost.

Fellowship Survey

The Fellowship committee would like to gauge the congregation's interest in resuming prior Fellowship events (or adding others). Please take a moment today to fill out this quick survey. There are paper copies in the Narthex (by the coat racks) or check your email announcements to do it online.

Pentecost Offering

When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ. Twenty-five percent will support the Young Adult Volunteer program, providing yearly service opportunities around the world. Another twenty-five percent goes to Ministries with Youth. Ten percent supports ministries to improve education and provide safe havens for at-risk youth. And forty percent of funds raised will stay with our congregation to help support local programs for youth. In the past, we have used our funds to support our Adopt-A-School programs. If you would like to donate, you can do so any-time through Pentecost on **June 5**. Make checks payable to Westminster and mark "Pentecost" in the memo. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

After Worship

Sunday School and Children's Time will be taking a break for the Summer after today, but please feel free to join us for fellowship coffee hour after worship! And stay tuned for more special programming including details on Vacation Bible School!

Save the Dates!

The Thursday Group invites all to join them for their Summer Garden Tours. The tentative schedule is below (4th Thursday of month). More details coming!

June 23rd - Allen Centennial Gardens and Memorial Union

July 28th - Olbrich Gardens and Daisy Cafe

August 25th - Rotary Gardens and Citrus Cafe in Janesville

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Care List: Nell Seiberlich, Shirley Toomey, Kathy Waggener, Wade Waggener, Joel Jones

Members & Friends: Ken Kummerow (Lu's nephew), Pat Marshall