

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

Just as I Am, arr. G. Young
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CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 15

Leader: Who may abide in the presence of God?
People: **Who may live on God's holy mountain?**
Leader: All those who walk blamelessly and do what is right.
People: **All those who speak truth from their heart.**

***HYMN 441**

Hear the Good News of Salvation, Nettleton
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1. Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love. Such great kindness!
Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.

Refrain: Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin! How I love
you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

2. All the sins I have committed, to my Savior now I bring. I bow down with tears of
anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing: [Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**God of light, we confess that we live in the shadows of hypocrisy and self-righteousness.
We honor you with our lips, but we have not served you in our hearts. We are satisfied
with human traditions and norms and avoid your liberating truth. We have confused
meekness with weakness, holiness with social conformity, and anger with righteousness.
Forgive us, we pray. By the power of your word save us from the prison of our conceit
so that we may serve you with sincere hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord (continue
with individual confession...) Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, do not despair: God renews us by the word of truth, that we might become the first fruits of God's creation.

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amy Poland, Blessing of the Backpacks

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

SERMON

What Defiles, What Defines

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Lord's Prayer

*HYMN 630

Text and Music: Public Domain

Fairest Lord Jesus, Crusaders' Hymn

1 Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down, thee will I
cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

2 Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.

4 Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,
praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Crusaders' Hymn, arr. C. Ore

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Worship Note: -Please place offerings & friendship forms in the collection plates as you leave
the sanctuary. Coffee hour is outdoors after worship at the Yuma Drive entrance - join us!

Leaders Today:

Preacher: Rev. Scott Anderson
Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman
Ushers: Andrea Kenny & Lee DeSpain

Liturgist: Chuck Kamp
AV/Tech: John Tarr



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madinah Academy - Reception after Worship TODAY

Please join us and the staff of Madinah after worship today at 11am for a special reception with coffee and sweet treats as we celebrate our friendship and say good bye.

Fall Bible Study

Rev. Jessica Salt will kick off the Fall Bible Study Wednesday, September 8th, 12:30-2pm. This class will look at Hebrews and as of now, will remain online via zoom. All are welcome! If you'd like to join, please let Katie in the office know by August 29 so we can order you a study guide. Study guides are \$10.50 and available now in the office.

Rally Day Outdoors!

We are officially kicking off the Fall with Rally Day on **September 12 at 9:45am**. We will be holding worship outdoors at Rennebohm Park (115 N Eau Claire Ave). We will have coffee and sweet treats after. Feel free to bring a lunch and enjoy a picnic with you fellow Westminster friends. (Worship will be held at Westminster in the case of bad weather.)

Fall Education Starts

Starting Sunday, September 19 we will kick off our education programming including Children's time (during worship) and Adult Sunday School after worship. Please note, at this time there will be no children's Sunday School after worship.

Blessing of the Animals Sunday, September 26th

The Blessing of the Animals will be September 26 at Westminster. Invite your friends and neighbors to join you as you bring your pets to church for this special service at 9:45a. Please note that we have a few rules to protect both pets and human worshipers:

Dogs should be on leash or crated, cats should be crated, rodents, lizards, turtles, birds and snakes should be appropriately caged.

You may bring a picture of your pet in lieu of a live animal. Those who have ashes of their pets are welcome to bring them and children who do not have live pets are welcome to bring a stuffed animal. If you are unable to attend worship, you may email or drop off a picture of your pet for the service to Katie by **September 19** - info@westminstermadison.org.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Homebound Highlights: Shirley Dieter, Sally & Vern Forsberg, Ann Friedley, Millie Stevens

Members & Friends: Carla McCann, Kelly McCann, Gloria Stange, Nicholas Tortorich, Pat Marshall, Ruth Hein - her brother Bill and her friend Maureen.

