

Westminster By-The-Sea Presbyterian Church
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The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Sumner
The Rev. Dr Radford Rader

July 4, 2021
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Gathering

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(Those who wish to prepare a juice product and some bread may place them near your seat, and perhaps light a candle if you can do so safely. Then you may pray this prayer over your bread and cup: “O God of Love: I ask you to bless this food before I partake of it, and set it apart for this Holy use, that the bread may be the Bread of Life for me, and the cup may be the Cup of the New Covenant. Amen.)

PRELUDE “Father Most Holy” Wold

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Sumner

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Rader

One: O Lord, we thank you for our freedoms.

All: We thank you for your grace.

One: We thank you for salvation.

All: and for your steadfast love!

HYMN OF Praise “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies” *Materna*

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesty above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw;
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for patriot’s dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Unison as desired)

God of our Nation: we admit that we are a nation with flaws that need mending and neighbors who need caring. There is strife across our land and assaults that take away life and liberty. This is not the nation that was created over 200 years ago. Mold us and make us after thy will, while we are waiting, yielded and still." In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE (Unison)

America

"God bless our native land; firm may she ever stand
through storm and night: when the wild tempests rave,
ruler of wind and wave, do thou our country save
by thy great might!"

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST LESSON

Psalm 48: 1-8

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God.
His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.
Within its citadels God has shown himself a sure defense.
Then the kings assembled, they came on together.
As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic,
they took to flight; trembling took hold of them there,
pains as of a woman in labor,
as when an east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.
As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts,
in the city of our God, which God establishes forever.

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Third Heaven, and Thorn, and Grace"

Dr. Sumner

HYMN

“This is My Song”

Finlandia

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

PASTORAL PRAYER

RECEPTION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS

This congregation continues to need offerings to support the staff and missions we have. You may mail checks to us or have your checks mailed regularly from your bank at no cost to you. Otherwise, you may give by credit or debit card by going to www.wbts.org and clicking “Donate now.”

OFFERTORY

“Allegretto”

Bohm

DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(Unison)

Great God, we do not boast in what we have but in your gracious giving. We do not boast in what we give but in what great works you will do with our gifts. Our prayer is for all people to know you, love you and give thanks to you. To this end, we dedicate the offerings made to this church. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and who trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may come to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus. Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity. (From the Directory of Worship)

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER CONTINUES WITH SUNG RESPONSES

Land O Rest

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power God of might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest!
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest; hosanna in the highest!

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Amen. Amen. A-men.

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.

THE COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN "My Country 'Tis of Thee"

America

My country tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing,
land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,
from every mountain side let freedom ring.

My native country thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

Our Father's God, to thee, author of liberty; to thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Festival March"

Burkhardt

FLOWERS are given by Deanna Minaberry to the Glory of God.