

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day

March 18, 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. . . . I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.  
~ John 15: 9,11 (NRSV)*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candles

Call to Worship:

Leader: In the light of this day we have gathered;

People: **We are a community that is one, bringing our questions and our joy.**

Leader: In the song and silence we will listen –

People: **What is it that God would have us hear this day?**

Leader: In our praise and our prayers we will remember

People: **That God's glory shines around us and within.**

All: **So let us worship God.**

\*Hymn: *When Morning Gilds the Skies* #667

\*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**Holy Lord, God of life, hear our prayer: Forgive us when we follow those paths that do not lead to life, that lead instead to violence, or hate, or fear, paths that lead to dread and death. Forgive us when we forget that you offer us life, life that is abundant and eternal, life that began at the creation of all things. Forgive us, turn us to the right path, and let your love and grace flow over us and the world. Hear our silent prayers as we pray in Jesus' name and for his sake. . . .**

Time for Personal Confession

Response: *Lord, Have Mercy upon Us* #575

**Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: Hear the Good News: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! We are made alive and set free to go out into the world as the loving, gracious people of God!

People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri: *Glory Be to the Father* #581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, amen.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings:

Offertory  
\*Doxology: **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; #606  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

Prayer for Illumination:

**Living God, help us to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalter: **Psalm 51: 1-12**  
People's part paraphrased by Michael Morgan; to the tune of ST. FLAVIAN, #166

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: **Have mercy, LORD, according to the measure of Thy love; blot out my sin, and from my heart all wickedness remove.**

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

People: **The failings of my deeds and thoughts are ever in my sight; release me from the path of death, and set my course aright.**

Leader: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

People: **Into my secret heart send truth, let wisdom in me grow; O wash the evil from my hands, and make me pure as snow.**

Leader: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

People: **A clean and upright heart, O LORD, exchange for mine of stone; Thy Holy Spirit meld with mine, and leave me not alone.**

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

People: **A contrite heart is Thy desire, my offering, the same; my lips unlatch, my mouth engage Thy praises to proclaim.**

Scripture Reading: **Jeremiah 31:27-34**

Anthem

Time for Young Disciples  
(Preschool children may return to their pew or gather at the piano door where today's shepherd will lead them in a time of special activities.)

\*Hymn: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* #306  
verses 1-3, 5

Scripture Reading: **John 15:1-11**

Sermon: **Tomato Vines and Jazz Choir** Jennifer Marshall

\*Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

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: *Christ Be Beside Me* #702

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response

Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able

**ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Ushers: Michael Maurer Dee Allums  
Amy Maurer James Allums  
Liturgist: Zach Marshall  
Reader: Barbara Stump

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, March 18**

5:00 pm Youth

**Monday, March 19**

1:00 pm Circle Meeting  
5:15 pm Soul Sisters

**Tuesday, March 20**

5:30 pm Handbell Practice

**Wednesday, March 21**

April newsletter deadline  
7:30 pm Choir Practice

**Thursday, March 22**

9:30 am Circle Meeting

**Sunday, March 25**

*Palm Sunday*

9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Children's Choir  
11:00 am Worship Service  
12:00 noon Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt  
5:00 pm Youth  
6:00 pm Session Meeting

**TODAY'S FLOWERS**

The beautiful flowers have been placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God in loving memory of Lynne Burgess by her family.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church  
(PCUSA)**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church exists to declare God's love for all through Jesus Christ, to nurture and encourage spiritual growth, to maintain the integrity of divine worship, and to share the love and joy found in Christ by giving ourselves to our community and to the world.**

**THE SESSION**

Class of 2018

Bobbie Ann Anderson  
Clarence Bahs  
Deborah Dalton  
Kristi Hachtel  
Michele Peck

Class of 2019

Bruce McNellie  
Robin Moore  
Ray Taylor  
Patricia Thompson  
Betsy Tucker

Class of 2020

Ken Deppisch  
Bennie Kitchens  
Terry Kline  
Terri Moehring  
Barbara Stump

**THE INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP at Westminster Church is always open to persons who wish to join us in witness and service to Jesus Christ. If you are interested in church membership or desire more information about this congregation, please indicate on the Friendship Pad or speak to the pastor, or one of the elders following the service.**

**MINISTERS:**

All the Members of the Congregation

**CHURCH STAFF:**

Pastor Steve Newton  
Associate Pastor Jennifer Marshall  
Director of Music Deborah Dalton  
Organist James Pitts  
Nursery Coordinator Myra McNellie  
Presbyterian Women Moderator Sue Atkins  
Treasurer Sue Atkins  
Secretary Sally Newton  
Children's Choir Director Elise Gavin  
Handbell Choir Director Myra McNellie  
Newsletter Editor Sally Newton  
Youth Leader Johnny Brown

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - Noon, Monday – Friday  
Church Office Phone: 936-564-0203 Fax: 936-564-0204  
Website: [www.westpreschurch.com](http://www.westpreschurch.com)  
E-mail: [wpc4u@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:wpc4u@suddenlinkmail.com)  
903 North Street; Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

**Westminster  
Presbyterian Church  
Nacogdoches, Texas**



**Marsh 18, 2018  
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.*

*John 15:1-5 (NRSV)*