

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day

April 29, 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. - 1 John 4:11-13

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candles

Call to Worship:

Leader: We gather this morning in the presence of the Triune God:

People: **Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.**

Leader: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

People: **Loving, Teaching, Empowering.**

Leader: Three in One, and One in Three.

People: **The God who loves us and has been seeking us for all eternity.**

All: **Then let us join our hearts and voices to worship God!**

*Hymn: *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* #4

*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, we know that in so many ways we have run from you. We have ignored your call. We have closed our eyes to your presence. We have disbelieved your mercy. We have disregarded your words. We have belittled ourselves. We have forsaken others. So we ask again for your forgiveness. We ask you to stay with us as we turn away from what is wrong and hurtful to what is life-giving and true. And hear now our silent prayers we lift to you. . . .

Time for Personal Confession

Response: *Lord, Have Mercy* #51

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

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

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! 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:

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalter: **Psalm 22:25-31**

Leader: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

People: **The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!**

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

People: **For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.**

Leader: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

People: **Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

Scripture Reading: **First John 4:7-21**

Anthem: *This Is My Father's World* arr. Forsberg

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: *We All Are One in Mission* #733

Scripture Reading: **Acts 8:26-40**

Sermon: **To the Ends of the Earth** 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: *Will You Come and Follow Me* #726

*Benediction

*Choral Response: *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* #541

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Ushers: Gary Atkins Lois Hejl
 Sue Atkins Al Hejl
 Shepherd: Margaret Sultenfuss
 Liturgist: Johnny Brown
 Reader: Lynnae Perdue

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 29

5:00 pm Youth

Monday, April 30

5:15 pm Soul Sisters

Tuesday, May 1

1:00 pm Sanctuary Guild
 5:30 pm Handbell Practice

Wednesday, May 2

7:30 pm Choir Practice

Sunday, May 6

9:30 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Children's Choir
 11:00 am Worship Service
 5:00 pm Youth

**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
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**Westminster
 Presbyterian Church
 Nacogdoches, Texas**



April 29, 2018
 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8:26-31, 35-40 (NRSV)