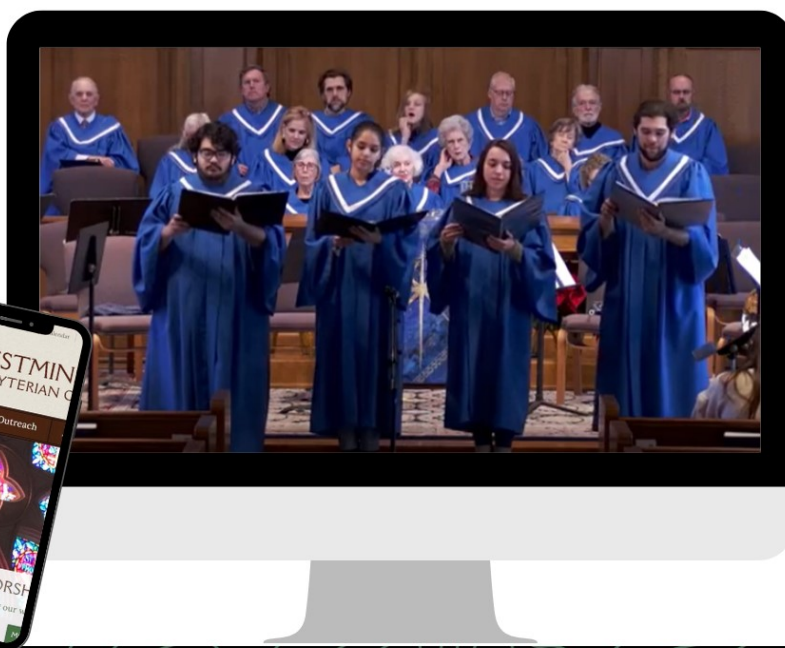
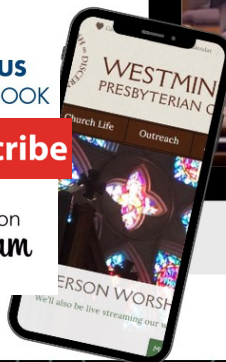


Welcome!

Thank you for joining our virtual worship service. We're glad you're here this evening! You can access our livestream each week on **Facebook** and **YouTube**.

Feel free to send us a **chat** during the service. And **scan the QR code** to sign our Friendship Register — we want to know you're here with us today! Please note, prayer requests are not published online for privacy reasons.

We use the **Glory to God** and **Sing the Faith** worship hymnals. Look for the copies of each song at the end of this bulletin.





Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

11 a.m.



Sing into our hearts, O Spirit, the holy word of life. Tell us who we are and to whom we belong, so that we may live with gratitude for all that you have done. Amen.

Gathered by the Spirit in Christ's Name

Prelude

Ah, Holy Jesus
Marti Ahern, Piano

arr. by P. Keveren

Tolling of the Bell

Welcome in Christ's Name

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle

Introit

In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful

GTG #654

*Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning:

People: God created the heavens and the earth.

Leader: In the beginning:

People: God called all things good.

Leader: Throughout creation's story:

People: God's love has endured.

Leader: Throughout our own histories:

People: God has been present with us.

Leader: Today as we gather:

People: Let us remember God's goodness.

Leader: Today as we gather:

People: Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

GTG #23

Confession of Sin

The Rev. Charlotte Trafton

Call to Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

By the gift of your grace we are saved, O God, from all that separates us from you. Still, we would rather believe that we can earn your love. Still, we would rather believe that we are in ultimate control. Forgive us when we do not recognize the radical gift of your grace; have mercy when we fail or refuse to share that grace with another. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again. Amen.

Silent Confession

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart O God; may I be like you.
You are the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.**

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Act of Praise

As a Child Rests

GTG #474

(refrain) **As a child rests in its mother's arms, so will I rest in you.**

*The Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken

GTG #455

First Lesson: Ezra 4:8-13

Dr. Paul Stubbs

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson: Psalm 136

Congregational Response: For God's steadfast love endures forever.

Sermon

Pleading, Cursing, Praising: Conversing with God through Psalm 136 Ellen Williams Hensle

*Hymn

We Give Thanks Unto You

GTG #75

(Verses 1 and 2: All; Verses 3-6: Choir; Verses 7 and 8: All)

Affirmation of Faith from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.

Pastoral Concerns

Prayers of the People

Give Thanks to God

Invitation to Share

Offering of Ourselves and of God's Gifts to Us

A portion of the tithes and offerings we return to God this morning supports Manos de Cristo's language-learning programs and citizenship classes.

Offertory *For the Beauty of the Earth* arr. by John Rutter

*Response *Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries* (Verses 1 and 6) GTG #653

*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 God thanks and praise...

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.

Sent to Live Out a God-Sized Vision of Love

*Hymn *Blessed Assurance* GTG #839

Benediction

Postlude and Going Forth *Minuet and Trio in G* W.A. Mozart