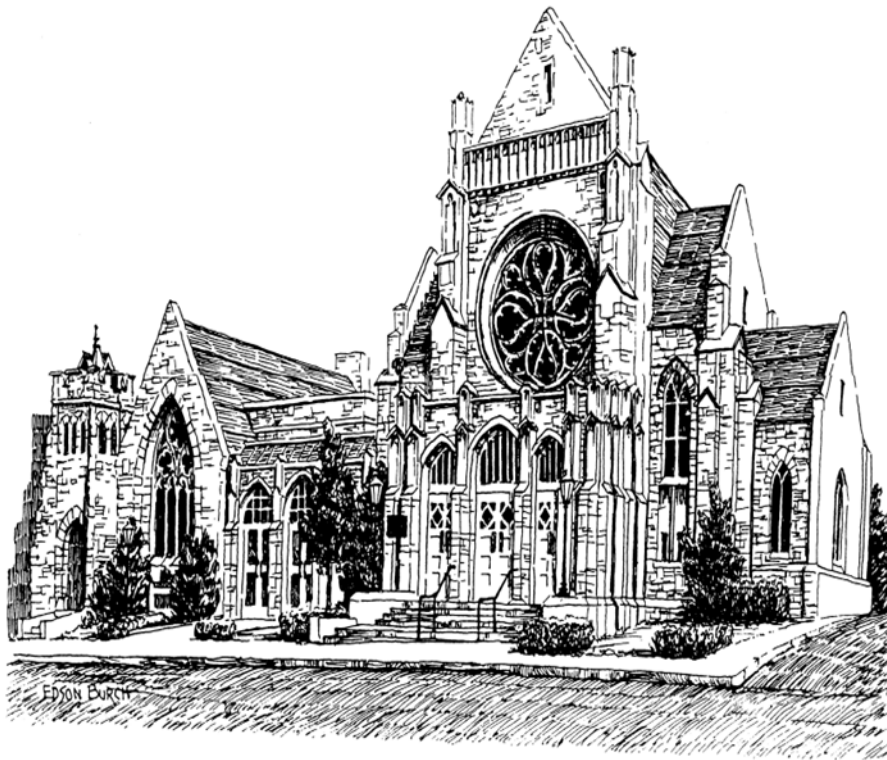


WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service for the Lord's Day
November 22, 2020
9:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION
We seek to live Christ's love,
welcome all people and joyfully serve God.



Service for the Lord's Day

✦ *When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

~GATHERING FOR GOD'S WORD~

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE (Pulpit)

As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

✦ LITANY FOR THE REIGN OF CHRIST (Lectern)

Harriet Hall, Liturgist

Let the heavens be glad
and let the earth rejoice!
Christ will reign forever and ever.

The Lord is robed in majesty
and girded in strength.
Christ will reign forever and ever.

God has established the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.
Christ will reign forever and ever.

The kingdom of this world
has become the kingdom of our Lord.
Christ will reign forever and ever.

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior,
you pour out your power for the powerless
and your salvation for the lost.
Remember us in your new creation,
so that we may live in peace with you
in the presence of the Holy One,
to whom be all honor and glory,

through you, in the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

✠CALL TO CONFESSION (Font)

In Christ, God came to reconcile all things,
making peace through the blood of the cross.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Righteous God,
you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.
We confess that we have not bowed before him,
and are slow to acknowledge his rule.
We give allegiance to the powers of this world,
and fail to be governed by justice and love.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all,
that we may be loyal ambassadors,
obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

SONG

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God has rescued us from the power of evil
and claimed us for the realm of Jesus Christ,
in whom we have redemption.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Amen.

✠PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

and also with you.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

~PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Lectern)

Janice Seele, Liturgist

Sovereign God,
let your Word rule in our hearts
and your Spirit govern our lives
until at last we see the fulfillment
of your realm of justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Pew Bible, pg. 803

¹¹For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince

among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

SERMON (Pulpit)

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel III

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

~RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD~

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Through Jesus Christ, God has shown us
the sovereignty of divine love
in compassion for the least, the lost, and the lonely.
Therefore, we pray, saying,
Compassionate Lord, receive our prayer.

God, we live in a world of plenty
in which the poor struggle for daily bread.
We pray for those who lack the basic necessities of life
and those who willingly share the resources you have given.
Open our eyes to your presence among the poor of the world
and free them for joyful giving.
For the poor, the benevolent, and the hard-of-heart,
Compassionate Lord,
receive our prayer.

God, you admonish us to offer hospitality to the stranger
and to welcome the weary.
We pray for travelers,
for those who emigrate to new lands,
for refugees of political and religious wars,
and for those who have no place to call home.
Bless those who offer refuge to the wayfaring stranger.
Convict the conscience and open the heart
of any who would raise walls of self-preservation and isolation.
For the stranger, for those who minister to them,
and for those who would refuse them,
Compassionate Lord,
receive our prayer.

God, you hear the cry of all who are in distress.
Heal those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit, (especially ...)
Comfort them in their need and help those who care for them.
We also pray for those who abandon the sick
and suffering out of fear.
Teach us to serve our sisters and brothers
and to share the burden of disease of body, mind, and heart.
For the sick and those in distress, for those who are for them
and those who are afraid to offer fellowship to them
Compassionate Lord,
receive our prayer.

God, Jesus our Lord was a prisoner of Rome before his execution,
and he instructed his disciples to visit those in prison.
We pray for those who are incarcerated:
for those who are guilty of crime
and for those who may be unjustly imprisoned.
Save the lost, reprove the haughty, liberate the captive,
and let your disciples be a sign of your forgiving, liberating love.
We also pray for those who work in prisons,
that they may respect the humanity
of the women and men they guard
and not be overwhelmed by the moral dangers of their employment.
For prisoners, for those who minister to them,
and for those who guard them,
Compassionate Lord,
receive our prayer.

Almighty God, confirm our prayer
with the dedication of our lives to ministry;
in the name of Jesus Christ,
by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION (Font)

In gratitude for the immeasurable gift of Jesus Christ,
let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, use us, and these gifts,
to feed the hungry, clothe the naked,
and honor your presence in all people;
through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

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.**

HYMN

CHARGE (Pulpit)

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

With the eyes of your heart enlightened,
receive the hope to which God has called you in Jesus Christ.
Glory be to God!

BENEDICTION

May God who seeks the lost keep you;
may God who brings back the wandering heart uphold you;
may God who binds up the injured heal you;
may God who strengthens the weak empower you,

now and forever.

POSTLUDE

WORD OF WELCOME

The worship service is a special time for all our members, but there are necessary changes designed to keep all safe.

For the sake of all attending worship, **masks** are required while in worship.

During the **passing of the peace**, congregants should not leave their pews or offer handshakes or hugs. A smile and a nod or a friendly hello across the aisle can serve as a physically-distant sign of peace. We encourage creativity!

For the **offering**, we encourage everyone to give their contribution online. No plate will be passed during the service. Designated offering receptacles will be near sanctuary exits if you prefer to give in person.

If you have any **questions** about the procedures as outlined, please see one of the pastors or Betsy Wacker.

MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Edwin Zumwinkel III	efc@wgpc.org
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Assistant for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries: Cherstin Byers	chb@wgpc.org
Custodial Supervisor: Pete Brennan	(314) 962-9210 ext 3212

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www.wgpc.org
314-962-9210

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY VESPERS BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1

With the change in season and the coming dark evenings, MiniMeets and Gospel Medicine are on pause until the spring. Instead, join us for Vespers (a traditional evening service celebrating light) on Zoom each Sunday at 7pm beginning today, November 1. The zoom link is found on the Friday Flash.

NICARAGUA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP—”Seguir Adelante—Go Forward!”

Our presbytery’s covenant relationship with the community of Plan Grande #2 Nicaragua has been active for 20 years, Gracias a Dios! Despite economic downturns, political unrest, and social disruptions in both countries and the global impact of COVID-19, and we remain committed to our promises of mutual love and support. **“Seguir Adelante—Go Forward!”**

COVID-19 forced the cancelation of our annual fund-raising dinner, but the needs of 34 high schoolers and 7 college students have not stopped! WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE STUDENTS of Plan Grande #2. We want to share their stories to engage and inspire you to “seguir Adelante—go Forward” - even in these challenging times. We hope to raise the funds necessary to provide the support they and their families need in order to continue focusing on education and their futures. **Our goal for the remainder of 2020 is \$5000!**

Join us for a Zoom Gathering on Monday, November 9th from 5:30—6:30pm for stories and updates. No tickets, no admission, no meal (sorry!) - but plenty of opportunity for you to learn and to share in the mission to support the community of Plan Grande#2 and these great young people.

RSVP to pg2nicaragua@gmail.com and you will be sent the Zoom link to join the event. Let us know if you have any questions!

Donate online at www.glpby.org between Nov. 1-30 or anytime at www.wgpc.org/give (select “Nicaragua” from the “select a fund” menu). Checks made to “Giddings Lovejoy Presbytery” may be mailed c/o Harriet Hall to 20 North Maple Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119.

RECURRING EVENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP—SUNDAYS FOLLOWING ONLINE WORSHIP

Put the coffee on; grab a sweet treat; and be ready to see your friends, make new friends and enjoy the comfort and laughter of fellowship. See the Friday Flash for the Zoom link.

THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS: A WEBINAR FROM INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP OF GREATER ST. LOUIS-MONDAYS AT 7PM

For our Fall Adult Education we will be joining this great opportunity to explore the religions of the world with Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis. Dr. David Oughton, president of the Board of Interfaith Partnership and retired professor of the world's religions at Saint Louis University, will be teaching a weekly fifteen part lecture series on the World's Religions via Zoom. The course is free and open to all, and participants are encouraged to come to as many or as few sessions as they are able. If you have any questions about this programs, feel free to contact Interfaith Partnership. Register here and let Pastor Hannah know once you're registered.

BLACK LIVES MATTER VIGIL

Our Black Lives Matter vigils with other churches along Lockwood continue on Friday nights from 6:00-6:30pm. Meet in the WGPC parking lot, wear a mask, and bring your chair if you need one.

