



Westminster  
Presbyterian Church

January 19, 2025  
Racial Justice Sunday

PRELUDE "Tis the Gift to be Simple" arr. Paul A. Tate

WELCOME

PREPARATION MUSIC "The Lord is Kind and Merciful" Jeanne Cotter

INTROIT "What Does the Lord Require?" #97 (*Lift Up Your Hearts*)  
***What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?  
To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.  
Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God  
What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?  
To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.***

CALL TO WORSHIP (from *Sacraments and Seasons*, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program)

In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst...

**Come worship a God who feeds the hungry.**

In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed...

**Come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.**

In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumors of war...

**Come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.**

In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness...

**Come worship a God who gives life meaning.**

Come worship a God whose grace and love know no end.

\*HYMN "God, You Spin the Whirling Planets" #285 (*Hymnal*)

***God, you spin the whirling planets,  
Fill the seas and spread the plain,  
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,  
Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.  
We, created in your image,  
Would a true reflection be  
Of your justice, grace, and mercy  
And the truth that makes us free.***

***You have called us to be faithful  
In our life and ministry.  
We respond in grateful worship***

***Joined in one community.  
When we blur your gracious image,  
Focus us and make us whole.  
Healed and strengthened as your people,  
We move onward toward your goal.***

***God, your word is still creating,  
Calling us to life made new.  
Now reveal to us fresh vistas  
Where there's work to dare and do.  
Keep us clear of all distortion.  
Polish us with loving care.  
Thus, new creatures in your image,  
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere.***

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER

(adapted from PC (USA) Racial Equity Ministries resources)

**O Lord our God, you have made each person in your own image— your holy handiwork, crowned with beauty. Yet we have denied your image in others. We have allowed prejudice to obscure our vision of our neighbors. We have built up oppressive systems that mistreat the many and favor the few. We have remained silent and safe while others have suffered.**

**Forgive us, God of grace. Work in us we pray, to free us from the sin of racism, and from the selfishness, dishonesty, and cowardice that cause us to resist change. Give us the courage, strength, and compassion we need to begin to dismantle walls that divide. Show us how to be part of building community and hope for all; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### SILENT PRAYER

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

May God, who is holy and just and full of grace,  
hear our prayers and lead us in the way of justice and true community.

**Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

ANTHEM "Peace" Mock and Nichols

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

SERMON "Hope-Filled Seeing" Pastor Jerry

HYMN "Live Into Hope" #332 (*Hymnal*)

***Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!***

***Live into hope the blind shall see with insight and with clarity,  
Removing shades of pride and fear – a vision of our God brought near.***

***Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,  
The right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.***

***Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.***

MISSION INTEPRETATION

Rev. John Best for the Racial Equity Group

PRAYER

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 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" #404 (*Hymnal*)

***Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light; Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

***When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;  
When my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall; Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE "Be Rooted in Hope" ©Paul Vasile, used by permission

***Be rooted in hope. Be tended in grace,  
Nourished by light from God's loving face.  
Bear fruit that will last and let your lives be  
A sign of the peace that can heal and set free. (repeat)***

POSTLUDE

"Sweet, Sweet, Sweet"

arr. Mark Hayes

