



**First Sunday in Lent: “The Problem”**  
**Matthew 4:1-11**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

is called by God to be an inclusive community of faith,  
abiding in God’s love, and committed to:  
Enjoying God, Following Jesus, and Growing Disciples

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**A Service for the Worship of God**  
*First Sunday of Lent*  
February 22, 2026

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

**Chiming the Hour**

**Prelude**

**Words of Scripture**

Psalm 150:6

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord!**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Mary Anne Wilson

**\*Call to Worship**

from Psalm 32

Happy are those who trust in the Lord.

**God's steadfast love surrounds us.**

May we be glad and rejoice.

**Let us worship the Lord together!**

**\*Hymn #41**

**"O Worship the King, All Glorious Above"**

LYONS

# 41 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!  
 2 O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace,  
 3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,  
 4 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love:  
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,  
 Al - might - y, your power has found - ed of old;  
 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
 whose char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form;  
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
 it streams from the hills; it de - scends to the plain,  
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
 and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.  
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

Addressing the first two stanzas to the singers of the hymn and the last three to God, this free paraphrase of Psalm 104 recasts the psalmist's imagery with baroque verve. Though it was first published in England, the tune has been more popular in North America than there.

## Call to Confession

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, who no longer suffer in silence, but name their sin and seek God's grace. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin together.

## Prayer of Confession

**Lord God, you know the ways of good and evil. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. You know our nakedness, and you know our sin. We confess that we have disobeyed your word, denying your providence and care and relying on our own cleverness.**

We pause for a time of personal prayer.

**Have mercy on us we pray: cover us with your grace, feed us with the bread of life, and recreate us in your image; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

### \*Response of Praise

Hymn #643

*All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,  
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given;  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,  
the God who was and is, and shall be ever more.*

### \*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### Time for All God's Children

#### Prayer of Illumination

#### Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 2:15-17, 2:1-7

<sup>2:15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.<sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;<sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?"<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;<sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"<sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die;<sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."<sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.<sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

#### Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.<sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.<sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."<sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

## Reading from the Epistles

Romans 5:12-19

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned — <sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

This is the Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**“The Problem”**

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

*Sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin,  
so death spread to all because all have sinned.  
Romans 5:12*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

## Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Trusting in God’s promises, let us pray for the world,  
the church, and our needs, saying,  
Holy God, **hear our 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.**

## Call to Offering

\*Offertory Hymn #833

**“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”**

ST. MARGARET

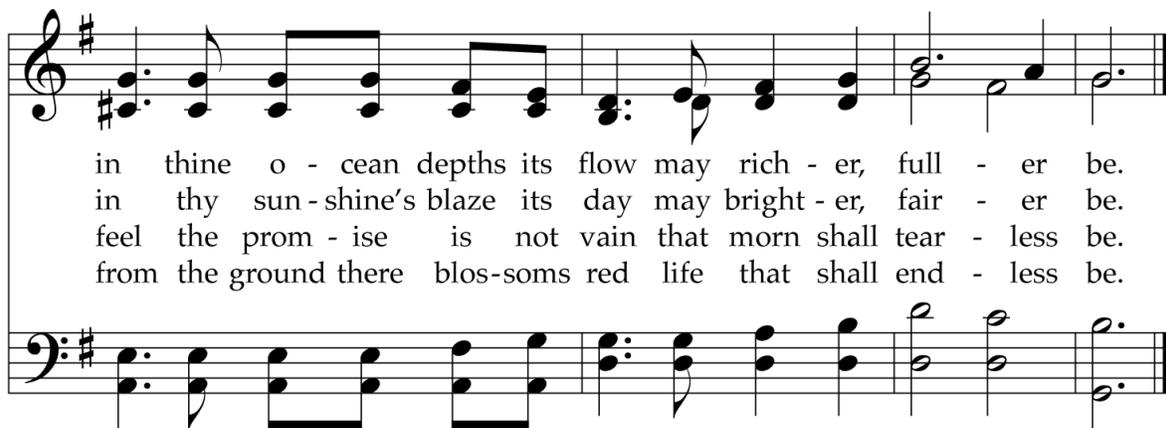
# O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833



1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my  
2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my  
3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not  
4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not



wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that  
flick - ering torch to thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that  
close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and  
ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and



in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.  
in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.  
feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.  
from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

TEXT: George Matheson, 1881, alt.  
MUSIC: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

ST. MARGARET  
8.8.8.8.6

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**Apostles Creed (Ecumenical)**

**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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead; the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he sits on the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #543**

**“O Christ, Surround Me”**

GREEN TYLER

SENDING

# God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

# 543

## O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,  
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

## **Charge and Benediction**

### **Postlude**

[\*All stand as they are able.]

*The sanctuary flowers are given by the McDonald-Autry family  
in loving memory of Yoshi, a faithful and beloved companion.*

## Serving Today at Westminster

Organist: Claire Kuhl  
Liturgist: Mary Anne Wilson  
Host: Wicker Family  
Sunday Study: Tim Rogers  
Children's Sunday School: Kathy Gillespie

## Today at Westminster

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Choir Room ( <i>Adults</i> )	
Sunday School	9:00 am	Children's Wing ( <i>Children and Youth</i> )	Worship
10:00 am	Sanctuary		
Children's Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children's Wing	
B&G Stewards	11:15 am	Choir Room	

## This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 – 1:00	M-Th	
Chair Yoga	5:00 pm	Monday	Fellowship Hall
BEMA Discussion Group	6:00 pm	Monday	Joe Gettys Classroom
Lenten Lunch	12:00 noon	Wednesday	Immanuel Lutheran
Better Together	5:15 pm	Wednesday	Fellowship Hall
Books & Brown Bags	6:00 pm	Wednesday	Joe Gettys Classroom
PFLAG	6:00 pm	Thursday	Fellowship Hall
Meditation	10:00 am	Saturday	Fellowship Hall
John Bacot Memorial Service	10:30 am	Saturday	Wesley Commons

## Next Sunday, March 1

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Choir Room ( <i>Adults</i> )	
Sunday School	9:00 am	Children's Wing ( <i>Children and Youth</i> )	Worship and
Communion 10:00 am	Sanctuary		
Children's Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children's Wing	

*Next Sunday we will celebrate Communion together. As you prepare your heart for the Table, please remember to pick up a purple bag, fill it with nonperishable food items, and return it on Sunday to support our local food pantry. Thank you for sharing Christ's love in this tangible way!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Study Opportunities at Westminster

**Sunday Adult Study:** Tim Rogers leads us in Chapter 2 of our Lenten Study: *The Last Supper*, by Will Willimon. Discussion is rich. Prereading is recommended by not essential. All are welcome!

**Books and Brown Bags** will gather at 6:00 on Wednesday in the Joe Gettys Room We continue our discussion of *How to Know a Person* by David Brooks, focusing on the final section, "I See You With Your Strengths."

**Greenwood Community Lenten Lunch Series** Gather at Immanuel Lutheran for worship at 12:30 P.M. Enjoy a light lunch before (12:00 Noon) or after (1:00 P.M.) the service. \$2.00 donation to help cover the cost of lunch, offering supporting Greater Greenwood United Ministries.

**Easter Lily Dedications** are a wonderful way to honor a loved one. Lilies for \$20 each by filling out the order form on the table in the narthex and offering plate along with your check or by completing the form available on submitting your payment to the church office. Lilies will adorn the sanctuary morning and can be taken home after worship. Deadline to order is Sunday,



can be purchased placing it in the the website and on Easter March 29.

**Mark your calendar for these upcoming dates and check your *Westminster Times* for more details.**

- ❖ **Mondays at 5:15 PM** – Chair Yoga, WPC
- ❖ **Wednesdays at Noon** – Lenten Lunches & Worship Services at area churches
- ❖ **Wednesday, March 4** – Family Night Supper with Boston College Students, 6:00 PM,
- ❖ **Saturday March 14** – All church workday. 9:00 – 1:00 (Rain Day, March 21)
- ❖ **Saturday, March 28** – Easter Egg Hunt, 3:00 PM, WPC
- ❖ **Thursday, April 2** – Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion, 7:00 PM, WPC
- ❖ **Sunday, April 5** – Easter Sunrise Service at Camp Fellowship (details coming soon)
- ❖ **Sunday, April 5** – Easter: Flowering of the Cross in the Courtyard, 9:00 AM; Worship at 10:00 AM, WPC
- ❖ **June 1-5** – Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) for students 4K-8<sup>th</sup> grade.