Westminster Presbyterian Church

LITURGY FOR AUGUST 30, 2020
13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gathering Words **Jim and Francis Bonk**

Let us give thanks and proclaim God's greatness;
Let us sing praise and tell of God's wonderful deeds.
We trust your promises, O God.

Let us worship with joy and be glad that we belong to God.
We trust your promises, O God.

Seek God's presence and strength without ceasing.
Remember the marvelous deeds of the Lord.
We trust your promises, O God.

God's principles hold throughout the earth,
And God's eternal covenant remains,
For all generations past and those yet to come.
We trust your promises, O God.

Opening Prayer **Jim and Francis Bonk**

Eternal God, we live surrounded by your grace and wisdom. Help us to really trust your promises of care, so that we may live with confidence and know that our lives are secure in your love. Give us the courage we need to face the troubles of our times and to show your love everyday in all that we do. We make our prayers in the spirit of Christ who shows us how to live faithfully and courageously. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 643 Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET

Call to Confession **Jim and Francis Bonk**

"All praise and thanks to God, the one eternal God, who was and is and shall be evermore." When we contemplate the awesome majesty of God and the gracious kindness of God toward us, we are moved to wonder and humility. As we think about the goodness of God we are moved to recognize our own shortcomings in living up to the potential God has placed in us. Knowing this, please join me in acknowledging our need for honesty and renewal.

Prayer of Confession **Unison**

God of grace, you draw us to yourself, even when we turn away from your presence. Your love reaches out to embrace us wherever we are, whatever we do. For such love we offer our deepest thanksgiving. Yet we confess that we have not loved you as you have loved us. We have taken credit for the gifts you so generously give us, and have used them selfishly instead of sharing our bounty with others. We have turned away from people in need, hoarding for ourselves the time, energy, and resources that you have freely given us. Forgive our lack of love. Empower us by your Spirit to love you with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Assurance of Pardon **Jim and Francis Bonk**

God's patience and perseverance are beyond our comprehension. No matter how long it takes, no matter how many times we ignore God's gracious invitation, God is always ready and eager to welcome us back into the divine love.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and renewed to live as righteous children of God. Thanks be to God for every gift of divine grace.

Scripture Reading Romans 8:18–27, 31–39 Rev. Jim Collier

18I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed
to us. 19For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; 20for the creation was
subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21that the creation
itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

22We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; 23and we have the first fruits of
the Spirit, grown inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24For in hope we were
saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? 25But if we hope for what we do not
see, we wait for it with patience.

26Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very
Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. 27And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of
the Spirit, because the spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

31What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32He who did not withhold his
own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33Who will bring any
charge against God's elect? It is God who justified. 34Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who
was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. 35Who will separate us from the love
of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."
37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am convinced that
neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor height,
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our
Lord.

Sermon Staying Up When Life Gets Us Down Rev. Jim Collier

Hymn No. 816 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee NEUMARK

Prayer of the People **Rev. Jim Collier**

Closing Hymn No. 372 O For a World AZMON

Benediction Rev. Jim Collier

**Note: Gathering Words adapted from Psalm 105*