Westminster
Presbyterian Church

LITURGY FOR AUGUST 23, 2020
12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gathering Words **Jim and Janelle Collier**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
To sing praises to your name, O Most High;

To declare your steadfast love in the morning,
And your faithfulness by night,

By the music of the lute and the harp,
By the melody of the lyre we celebrate.

For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work;
At the works of your hands we sing for joy.

Opening Prayer **Jim and Janelle Collier**

God of the cosmos, we give you thanks.
You seek us more than we seek you.
You mend lives while we rend communities.
You breathe life though we speak death.
We know that as humans we are frail; we are not perfect; we struggle in life.
Yet you, O Lord, search after us each day in order to renew your relationship with us,
And to make us whole.
May we learn to better behold your face, your presence, your life-giving being.

May we, in this gathering, be made more aware of your ever-present spirit.
May we better learn to rest in your strength, stand in your power,
And glorify your holy name
By participating in your actions of peace, justice,
Faith, healing, love, and community.

In your magnanimous name, we pray.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 401 Here In This Place

Scripture Reading Genesis 28:10–19a Rev. Matthew J. Skolnik

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran.
11 He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set.
Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.
12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth,

the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13 And the Lord stood beside him and said,
"I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac;
the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;
14 and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth,
and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east
and to the north and to the south;
and all the families of the earth
shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.
15 Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go,
and will bring you back to this land; f
or I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said,
"Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!"

17 And he was afraid, and said,
"How awesome is this place!
This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

18 So Jacob rose early in the morning,
and he took the stone that he had put under his head
and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.
19 He called that place Bethel.

Sermon Stand Rev. Matthew J. Skolnik

Invitation to Offering

Hymn No. 775 I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

Prayer of the People **Jim and Janelle Collier**

God, our Creator,
Your will for us and for all your people
Is wholeness and salvation:
Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Son of God,
You came that we might have life
And have it in abundance.
Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit,
Dwelling within us,
You make us temples of your presence:
Have mercy on us.

A time of silence is kept after each petition

For all who are in need of healing…
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are disabled by injury or illness…
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are troubled by concussion or burdened by pain…
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all whose increasing years bring weariness…
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are about to undergo surgery…
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who cannot sleep…
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who suffer injustice and for those who hand it out…
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who do not have the strength to stand, and for those who come alongside…
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who divide, demean, and destroy…
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who practice the healing arts…
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God,
We commend all whom we pray,
Trusting in your mercy;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 547 Go, My Children

Benediction Rev. Matthew J. Skolnik

*Note: Gathering Words adapted from Psalm 92:1–4. Prayer of the People adapted from the Book of Common Worship, pages 737–738.