

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inviting All, Exploring Faith, Experiencing God

2155 University Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001 | (563) 583-1729 | <http://wpcdbq.org>



MAY 21, 2017

9:30 A.M.

"Take a hard look at Jesus. He's the centerpiece of everything we believe."

(Hebrews 3:1 [The Message](#))

"And what about you? Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29)

TO OUR GUESTS: WELCOME! Thanks for joining us for worship. More information about Westminster Presbyterian Church is available on the Welcome Table in the back of the Sanctuary. We encourage you to fill out the Friendship Binder found in your pew and please join us for coffee and conversation in the Narthex after the service. In the Spring and Fall, Pastor Murry hosts "Welcome to Westminster" orientation meetings for anyone who would like to know more about Westminster or is considering the possibility of church membership. ***The next series of meetings begins today!***

- Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.
 - Childcare for children 5 and under is provided in the Nursery down the hall from the Sanctuary.
 - Children's activities, books and crayons are on the small table in the back of the Sanctuary.
 - * All who are able may stand.
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Prelude

Luke Tyler, Organist

Words of Greeting

Ruth 2:4

Hal Murry

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

"Thank You Youth Teachers!"

Lisa Fast

"Pictorial Directory"

Hal Murry

****Greeting Our Neighbors***

****Introit #319***

"Spirit"

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness, Blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, Stir me from placidness, Wind, wind on the sea.*

****Call to Worship***

(from Psalm 139)

Hal Murry

Leader: If I went up to heaven, you would be there.

People: *If I went down to the grave, you would be there too!*

Leader: If I could fly on the wings of dawn, stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean --

People: *Even there your hand would guide me; even there your strong hand would hold me tight*

Leader: Let us worship God...

****Hymn #457 vs. 1,2,5*** "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

**Invitation to Confession*

Hal Murry

**Unison Prayer of Confession*

Gracious God, you encourage us with your love, bringing new life out of death. We confess that we need your life-giving power in our lives and our relationships. We have hurt others and been hurt by them. Too frequently we are angry or afraid. We are not sure when to assert our needs and when to care for others' needs. We continue to live in ways which do not lead to peace and justice. Forgive us, O God. Pour your Spirit of wisdom and healing upon us, that by our lives and our loving, we may glorify you, through Jesus Christ the Risen One. Amen. (Moment of silence for personal reflection.)

**Assurance of God's Forgiveness*

Hal Murry

**Response #210*

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

*Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our eternal home.*

Youth Anthem

"How Can I Keep From Singing?"

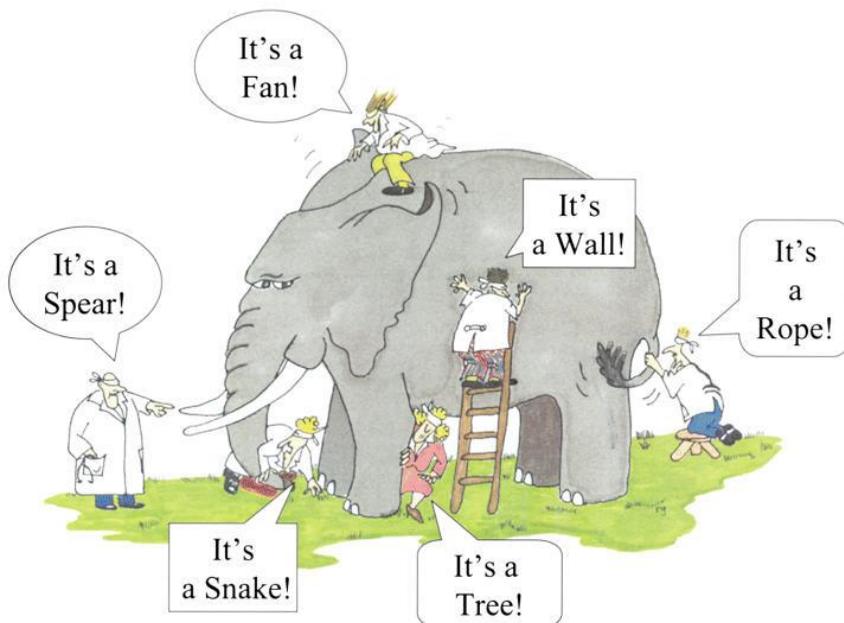
arr by Michael Burkhardt

Youth Choir
directed by Mike Jozefowicz

Children's Message

"The Blind Men Defining an Elephant"

Hal Murry



Sermon: "Speaking of God..."

1. Paul talks about God in Athens
2. **Today's Scripture: Acts 17:15-34**
3. What can WE say about God in our time and place?
 - God is real
 - Jesus matters
 - There is "a way" of life that is sustainable

Scripture: Acts 17:15-34 (CEB)

¹⁵ Those who escorted Paul led him as far as Athens, then returned with instructions for Silas and Timothy to come to him as quickly as possible.

¹⁶ While Paul waited for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to find that the city was flooded with idols.¹⁷ He began to interact with the Jews and Gentile God-worshippers in the synagogue. He also addressed whoever happened to be in the marketplace each day. ¹⁸ Certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers engaged him in discussion too. Some said, "What an amateur! What's he trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods." (They said this because he was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹ They took him into custody and brought him to the council on Mars Hill. "What is this new teaching? Can we learn what you are talking about? ²⁰ You've told us some strange things and we want to know what they mean." (²¹ They said this because all Athenians as well as the foreigners who live in Athens used to spend their time doing nothing but talking about or listening to the newest thing.)

²² Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. ²³ As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.' What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. ²⁴ God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples made with human hands. ²⁵ Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. ²⁶ From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn't far away from any of us. ²⁸ In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore, as God's offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. ³⁰ God overlooks ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change

their hearts and lives. ³¹ This is because God has set a day when he intends to judge the world justly by a man he has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

³² When they heard about the resurrection from the dead, some began to ridicule Paul. However, others said, “We’ll hear from you about this again.” ³³ At that, Paul left the council. ³⁴ Some people joined him and came to believe, including Dionysius, a member of the council on Mars Hill, a woman named Damaris, and several others.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn #275*

"God of Our Life"

**Litany of Praise for God*

Leader: God, you are the Creator. You created the world and everything in it. You spun out galaxies and stars. You formed the mountains and the oceans. You imagined and made elephants and ants, whales and minnows, corn and roses and people.

People: Praise God, who is greater than we can imagine.

Leader: God, you are forever. We know that everything you made has a beginning and an end. Even mountains are born and die. But you always have been and always will be.

People: Praise God, who is greater than we can imagine.

Leader: God, you are more than a father or mother. You made us, and you know all there is to know about each of us. You are always with us, always ready to respond when we pray.

People: Praise God, who is greater than we can imagine.

Leader: God, you are greater love than we can imagine. You came among us as Jesus to show us that love. You care for us and forgive us, even when we do not deserve it.

People: Praise God, who is greater than we can imagine.

**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.

Giving of Our Offerings

Please use this time to pass the Friendship Binder found at the inside end of your pew.

Offertory

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
by Charles Converse / arr. By Linda R. Lamb

Youth Handbells

**Song of Thanksgiving #276* "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**Hymn #356*

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

**Blessing*

Hal Murry

**Response #438*

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

*Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.*

**Postlude*

Luke Tyler, Organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFTER WORSHIP TODAY:

Hal Murry leads "*Welcome to Westminster*", a four-Sunday course that covers some of the basics of Christianity in general and Westminster Church in particular. The class is especially designed for anyone considering church membership and/or desiring a "refresher". ALL are welcome! Child care is provided. The class will meet in the Board Room fifteen minutes after worship.



GREEN TEAM TIP #6 – Support local, organic farmer, farmer's market in your area. The food is nutritious and delicious, and uses less of our non-renewable resources.

STARTS TODAY! - **The Green Team has 2 boxes available to RECYCLE BATTERIES and old PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES.** It is important that with the prescription bottles that all your personal information has been removed. It is a simple, but great way to stop putting things in the landfill that do not belong there. The boxes are located at the information counter in the Narthex. If you have questions contact Linda Stovall at LinStov@aol.com

GREEN TEAM HOSTING CHAPTER MEETING - This afternoon our Westminster Green Team will be hosting the monthly meeting of the Dubuque Chapter of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light (I IPL) from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room. This group represents all of the Green Teams from Dubuque area churches. You can find out more about the work of I IPL by visiting the website at www.iowaippl.org. Westminster is a congregate member of I IPL.

CIRCLE DINNER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THIS TUESDAY - The Mission Team is seeking volunteers to help with the Circle Initiative Dinner on **Tuesday, May 23**. We will do prep work the day before if needed. We need to have the food in place by 5:30 PM and we serve at 5:45 PM at Prescott School. Sign up at the information counter in the Narthex and you will be contacted. If you have questions contact Susan Taylor at taylorse@iastate.edu or Linda Stovall at LinStov@aol.com

WESTMINSTER LIFE AND MINISTRY: MAY 21, 2017

Church Office Number: 583-1729	Rev. Hal Murry: 580-4196
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Rev. Hal Murry, Teaching Elder	Missional Community Dev: Rev. Lindsay James
Church Administrator: Mary Kay Pancratz	Financial Secretary: Becky Jenkins
Custodian: Tim Till	Faith Formation Leader for Youth: Lisa Fast
Nursery: Amy Ehlers/Emily Meeker	Care Ministry Coordinator: Glinda Manternach
Adult Choir/Adult Handbells: Pam Crawford	Youth Choir: Lizz Tyler
Band/Youth Handbells: Sally Stulken	Timbrel & Lyre: Dr. Luke Tyler
Organist/Pianist: Dr. Luke Tyler	
Refreshments & Bldg Care: Breiner/Maas	Head Usher: Terry Flynn
Greeters: Tom & Linda Stovall	Ushers: Dan & Wendy Tabraham
LaDesha Turner & Janet Neumeister	Gidget Maas, Mary Breiner
Bruce Hallahan	

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

DUBUQUE FOOD PANTRY is launching a new program called "**LUNCHES TO GO**" - For children ages: Newborn to 18 years old, Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fridays 10:30 - Noon Starting Friday, June 2 - Friday, August 18. Each child will get his or her own lunch bag to fill. This is open to any child in the Dubuque Area. Call 583-4440.

ANNUAL TREE OF LIFE MEMORIAL SERVICE & LIGHTING CEREMONY - hosted by Hospice of Dubuque, **Tuesday, May 23rd at 7:30 p.m.** in Washington Park to honor and remember loved ones - both living and deceased. Donations are being received NOW. Each light symbolizes a donation made in the name of a loved one. Lights will remain lit through Memorial Day.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER:
MAY 21ST THRU MAY 29TH

Sunday, May 21st

8:00 a.m. Youth Handbells Rehearsal, SA
8:30 a.m. Sun. School Brunch, SS Hallway
8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, LOFT
8:40 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, FH
9:00 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, SA
9:30 a.m. Worship, Rev. Murry preaching
9:30 a.m. Mandarin Worship, BR
10:30 a.m. Camp Wyoming Bake Sale, Ntx
10:40 a.m. Youth Sunday School, Classrooms
10:45 a.m. Mandarin Sunday School, CR
10:45 a.m. Welcome to Westminster, BR
1:30 p.m. Worship at Bethany Home
2:00 p.m. Interfaith Power & Light, BR
4:00 p.m. 6th Grade Yth Grp, Keller's Farm
4:00 p.m. M.E.S.S. Yth Grp, Keller's Farm

Monday, May 22

6:00 p.m. Mission Meeting, CR
6:00 p.m. Pack 20, FH
6:00 p.m. Scout Master Mtg, BR
7:00 p.m. Scouts Parent Mtg., BR
7:00 p.m. Troop 11 Boy Scouts, FH

Tuesday, May 23

9:00 a.m. English Tutoring, CR

Wednesday, May 24

9:00 a.m. Mandarin Baptism Class, CR
10:30 a.m. Small Handbell Group, LOFT
4:45 p.m. Pizza in the Park

Thursday, May 25

6:00 p.m. Session Mtg., BR
7:00 p.m. Table Tennis, FH

Friday, May 26

HOTLINE DEADLINE

Saturday, May 27th

7:00 p.m. Timbrel & Lyre Rehearsal, SA

Sunday, May 28th

8:00 a.m. Timbrel & Lyre Rehearsal, SA
8:40 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, FH
**9:30 a.m. Worship, Rev. Lyle VanderBroek
preaching**
9:30 a.m. Mandarin Worship, BR
10:45 a.m. Welcome to Westminster, BR

Monday, May 29th

**MEMORIAL DAY
OFFICE CLOSED**



**FROM YOUR WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION:**

Planning ahead is part of effective stewardship. Plan your will now - and include a bequest to Westminster Presbyterian Church.