

**WESTMINSTER CHURCH  
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**

*Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 3B5*

*“Trusting God, nurturing disciples for Christ,  
being empowered by the Holy Spirit”*

**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**...We Gather to Worship God...**

**Call to Worship**

**Announcements:** We are glad you are with us today and welcome your online voices joining with us. We welcome James MacGlashan and thank him for his musical contributions.

1. **Birthday Train:** We have no (known) birthdays for this week
2. **Children’s Choir!** Westminster is going to start a children’s choir for the community. We are very excited about this adventure! We are looking for 7 year olds and up who love to sing. Start date is Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. The expectations for singing in the Westminster service are once every four or five weeks. The choir would not be expected to sing in the worship service every week. Please contact me, Charlene Wilson, Peter Scoffield or Westminster Church if you know someone who would like to be part of this.
3. **Adult Choir.** Choir practice will start on September 15<sup>th</sup>, right after the children’s choir practice. Come and join us.
4. **Communion.** World Wide Communion Sunday is October 2nd.

**Offerings and Tithes:** Our Session would like to encourage our members and friends to prayerfully consider your contributions to our ongoing ministry here at Westminster. Contributions may be made in person, by mail, or by e-transfer to [office@westminsterchurch.ca](mailto:office@westminsterchurch.ca). We thank you for your continued support and prayers.

**Hymn:** Cornerstone (Lyrics below)

**Opening Prayer:**

God of gentle rains and warm sun, God who encourages growth;

**we are creatures who sometimes grow quickly, and sometimes get stuck.**

God of freedom, of liberation, of binding ropes being cut;

**we are bound in ways we don't always understand or recognize.**

God of exodus and exile and homecoming, God who calls us to leave where we are and come home;

**help us to have the courage to make the journey and to trust in the path.**

God of health and healing, God who wants us to be made whole;

**we come as people who are wounded in body and in spirit, people who seek healing.**

God who has laid out a way for us to live, who has given us rules for living in community;

**we come as people who sometimes go astray, people who stretch the rules.**

God of Grace, we come as people who live through that Grace.

**And so we praise you for the growth, we rejoice in being set free, we dance along the path that leads us home,**

**we give thanks for the healing we have received, we relax in the knowledge that we are forgiven and we live as people of Grace. Amen.** (Rev Gord, Worship Offerings)

## **...We Listen to God's Word...**

### **Word of God:**

**New Testament: Colossians 2:6-23**

**Hymn:** Your grace is enough (Lyrics below)

### **Message:**

A truck driver was hauling a load of 500 penguins to the zoo. Unfortunately, his truck broke down. He eventually waved down another truck and offered the driver \$500 to take the penguins to the zoo.

Later that afternoon the first truck driver got his part delivered and was finishing up his repairs when just ahead of him he saw the second truck driver crossing the road with the 500 penguins waddling single file behind him. He jumped out of his truck, ran up to the guy and said, "What's going on? I gave you \$500 to take these penguins to the zoo!" To which the man responded, "I did take them to the zoo. But I had enough money left over so now we're going to the movies!"

That guy didn't fully understand what he was supposed to be doing. Likewise, many believers today are fuzzy about their sense of purpose, and more concerning, fuzzy about the basics of their faith. Fuzzy purpose, fuzzy faith was in the Colossian's situation.... and it's different apparently from what the Galatians were going through. The Galatians, if you recall, were struggling with a "works righteousness" theology. There was a faction of Christians who were teaching that you had to believe in Christ but also follow the Jewish Law including circumcision...this led to Paul's famous quote in Galatians 3 "you foolish Galatians! Who has so bewitched you?" In today's letter to the Colossians we don't know all the details of what was leading the Colossians astray, but what is surmised is that there was a kind of "mystery" cult being set up. That the news was out that there were secrets only known by a chosen few....but that if you followed them they would parcel out the *mystery* to you. Paul's aim in addressing the Colossians is to keep them from falling victims to this clever propaganda.

To be fair, one can see how such a propaganda would have its roots in common essentials. It is true that there are some things that are hidden from unbelievers...there are things which are hidden in Christ, by the sheer fact of a lack of belief. Those who do not believe, especially those who refuse to believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour cannot understand the real meaning of life because they don't have Christ. True meaning and purpose are hidden from them until they bow before Jesus and his full authority over their lives.

But it is another thing entirely to say that once you have Christ, once the Holy Spirit infills the believer, that there are still more “secrets” that you need to find out about in order for your salvation to be complete.

While these false teachers taught that secret knowledge was reserved only for those who were initiated into their mysteries, Paul tells them to be fully assured of their relationship with Christ. Genuine wisdom is centred fully and completely in Jesus Christ.

Earlier in this letter, Paul outlines that the “mystery” is actually Christ in us, the hope of glory. Personally, I continue to be amazed at how God would allow me to experience salvation through Christ. I certainly don’t deserve it, and neither do you. When we contemplate the magnitude of this truth, we will engage our time, our talents, and our treasures and serve accordingly.

The essence of this ancient heresy that was threatening the mission of the Colossians is still with us today, in fact it may be stronger throughout the Christian church today, than it was in those days. We call it the “Jesus plus” syndrome.

Loved ones, every person needs to be cleansed from sin. Every person needs to be released from the burden of guilt, filled with the Holy Spirit, and made whole spiritually by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit. So many falsehoods are circulating today about how a person comes to be a Christian. Let me state it very plainly for us: Salvation isn’t gained by being good (for while we were still sinners Christ died for us Romans 5:8)..and there is nothing you can do which will make God love you more!. Salvation isn’t gained by doing good...salvation is gained by receiving Christ into your life and living in Him even as He lives in you. **It’s never Jesus plus...it’s just Jesus!** Remember...we were loved before we were loveable, we were saved before we were worthy, and we are empowered before we are responsible. It’s never Jesus plus...it’s just Jesus. \*\*\*Paul...I resolved to know nothing but Jesus and him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Loved ones, hear this, in Jesus Christ, we are complete (9-10). Let’s look at Colossians 2:9-11: “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.” The phrase, “in Christ” shows us that Jesus is the centre of God’s saving activity. When we put our faith in Christ, we are included in what He has done. All the fullness of deity lives in Him. As we’ve already established in Colossians, if you want to know what God is like, then look at Jesus. The phrase, “lives in bodily form,” means to “dwell permanently.” Jesus is not just a way to God; He is the only way because He is God Himself.

Listen carefully. Not only does all the fullness of God dwell in Christ, all believers are filled with the fullness of Christ. The tense of this verb in Greek indicates that this fullness is a permanent experience. One translation puts it this way: “And you are in Him, having been completely filled full with the present result that you are in a state of fullness.” If you have put your faith in Christ for forgiveness of sins, then there is nothing lacking in your relationship with God. There’s not some extra blessing or another experience you need to have for your salvation to be sealed.

Let's focus on verses 4-5: "I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is." Just as one germ can infect the entire body, Paul recognized the threat of false teaching. These teachers deceived by using faulty logic and by enticing people with words that sounded good. Their error was carefully packaged and presented. Paul did not focus on fine-sounding arguments...again in 1 Corinthians 2:4: "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power."

But we need to be under no illusions as to the utter seriousness of the impact of Paul's teaching here and in other letters to the Churches of his day... Jesus plus can kill you...it can lead you down the path of complete destruction in your faith, it can lead you to place false hope, false trust in some smooth talking charlatan...seemingly logical ideology.

Romans 12: 2-3: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

It is far too humanly possible to be misled by a manipulative ideology, theology, person...I know it too well in my own past. If we are in a weakened state, if we place our sense of self-worth on someone else's approval, the truth of Christ can be compromised in our lives, often with devastating results. We just need a brief look at our world to see how completely awful this can be.

The message of Paul to the Colossians and to us today, who also desperately need to hear this message...is that in Jesus Christ is all the fullness of God. He is sovereign, He is sufficient, He is eminently capable, He is transcendent over all things and He is in love with you. You need nothing more than Jesus and you need nothing less than Jesus...**but you must have him....** and if you have him... you have everything you can ever need. Believe this in every situation of your life... in the good days and the bad days...you have Jesus and He has you, and that is everything you will ever need.

## **...We Respond in Service...**

### **Prayers of the People:**

O Lord, Our God, Your grace abounds; and we receive its abundance; and you exceed our expectations and needs. There is never a day that we cannot list the manifold gifts of your abounding love. From morning until nightfall, we are upheld by encompassing care.

Having been raised by Christ, we will set our minds on your heavenly splendor. We will trust your Holy Spirit to guide us when earthly desires distract us. We confess again that we are prone to temptation, but by your grace we can put on the new nature that Jesus gives us.

Claiming our inheritance as your sons and daughters, we shall go forth to all people as witnesses to your love. Let us not covet what our neighbours enjoy. Prevent our worship of false gods, and

stop our tongues when we would speak poorly of a sister or brother. When we eat, make us mindful that you are the source of all nourishment; when we drink, may it be the cup of new life. Help us to be glad in the joy of the Spirit, for then we shall give you the glory and honour you are due. Hear us now as we pray together the words your Son taught us to pray... Our Father ... Amen.

**Hymn:** The Church's One Foundation

**Benediction**

**Cornerstone**

**Your Grace Is Enough**

<p>Verse 1          My hope is built on nothing less          Than Jesus' blood and righteousness          I dare not trust the sweetest frame          But wholly trust in Jesus' Name          (REPEAT)</p> <p>Chorus          Christ alone cornerstone          Weak made strong in the Saviour's love          Through the storm He is Lord          Lord of all</p> <p>Verse 2          When darkness seems to hide His face          I rest on His unchanging grace          In every high and stormy gale          My anchor holds within the veil          My anchor holds within the veil</p> <p>Interlude          He is Lord of all</p> <p>Verse 3          When He shall come with trumpet sound          Oh may I then in Him be found          Dressed in His righteousness alone          Faultless stand before the throne</p> <p>CCLI Song # 6158927          Edward Mote   Eric Liljero   Jonas Myrin            Reuben Morgan   William Batchelder          Bradbury</p>	<p>Verse 1          Great is Your faithfulness O God          You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart          You lead us by still waters into mercy          And nothing can keep us apart</p> <p>Pre-Chorus          (So) remember Your people          Remember Your children          Remember Your promise O God</p> <p>Chorus 1          Your grace is enough          Your grace is enough          Your grace is enough for me</p> <p>Verse 2          Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob          You use the weak to lead the strong          You lead us in the song of Your salvation          And all Your people sing along</p> <p>Chorus 2          Yeah Your grace is enough          Heaven reaches out to us          Your grace is enough for me          God I sing Your grace is enough          I'm covered in Your love          Your grace is enough for me for me</p> <p>CCLI Song # 4477026          Matt Maher</p>
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## **Prayers - Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup>**

*Romans 12:12 says... "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer".*

### **Praise**

Lord we praise you for your promise of answered prayers. Even when we do not see we know you are at work and we are grateful; thank you for your faithfulness to us Lord.

We praise you for answered prayer for Beth's friend's son who survived a brutal accident and is recovering and we pray for continued improvement.

For Bonnie who will have an affordable apartment on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

For Wayne Godfrey who was honoured for his 70 years of service to the Boy Scouts of Canada with the silver acorn award.

For the property company that is willing to take on our rental units. It has been a difficult year or so trying with Ken trying to find someone who will look after them after our last person retired. We are hopeful this company will work out for us.

For the children that have said that they are interested in the children's choir. Peter and I are very hopeful that this can be started this fall.

For being back with the congregations after holidays and seeing everyone again.

For Carl Meierhoff receiving the news that his cancer should be treatable.

For Grayson whose cancer treatment is scheduled to be finished on September 11th!

### **Prayers.**

We pray for the children and families preparing to return to school. We ask for your hand to lead and guide everyone and remember our children are still adjusting and catching up post COVID. We pray for all teachers and staff in our schools. We pray for the young people starting post secondary school, especially those who are preparing to leave home for the first time. Lord guide their hearts towards you. Protect them and lead them into your plan for their life. We pray for Wany as he begins his post secondary studies at the University of Windsor. Help him as he settles into this new community and may he enjoy his next stage of education.

We pray for Ursula Hagen who is in hospital. Be with her and her family as she needs to move to a nursing home that provides more care for her. This will be a big change her and Reagan.

We pray for Beth's father-in-law who is dealing with Alzheimers and end of life issues. We ask for comfort for him and his wife and all of the family at this time.

### **Lord, we pray for those who are dealing with cancer.**

We pray for Dennis, Susan's friend and continue to lift him up before you for a good response to the treatment in extending his life.

We pray for Grayson who is finishing his cancer journey. May he be excited about his life beyond treatment. We pray for Charlotte has her cancer journey continues. Give her and her family strength and courage.

We continue to pray for Peter's sister-in-law who is still battling cancer. Be with her and be with Peter and his family as they try to support her.

We pray for Sharon's friend, Patsy who has only one more cancer treatment to do. That must bring excitement and relief.

We pray for Les Dool as he is now facing a diagnosis of cancer. Be with his and his family as they find out what the new diagnosis means. Give them strength, give them courage and be with them.

**Lord, we pray for those who are facing a variety of other medical issues.**

We pray for Karli Dionisi's aunt, Holly Davis who had a stroke late July and has a long recovery ahead of her. Lord, give her strength and determination to do the physiotherapy. Give everyone patience as they wait to see what she is able to do. We pray for healing for her.

We pray for Charity who is still healing from surgery that happened before the summer. Be with her, Lord, as she still has pain from the wound and healing is slow. Give her patience as she waits for the healing to be complete. Lord, give her support and help as she waits.

We pray for Jackie and his ongoing health issues. He is doing a little better and really appreciates these prayers for him.

We pray for Noella who has moved into the Great Northern Retirement home and seems to be enjoying this transition. Be with her son, Guy Thibodeau, as he continues to recover from a heart attack and surgery. Be with him in his recovery. May he be aware of your presence Lord as he seeks you. Just a note - the daughter is so thankful for this prayer group who have been praying for her mother and brother.

We pray for my son, Brendan, as he recovers from a broken bone in his foot. Lord, may he heal quickly. May he be patient with his crutches and with the time he has off work.

We pray for Linda's son who is going to have more surgery on his shoulder. Be with him as doctors decide what the next step is for his healing.

For Debbie and Neal Mathers as they support their daughter, Irene. Tests are being done to figure out a diagnosis and it is difficult to wait and worry about what she might be dealing with. Lord, be with them in their fears and worries. Give them strength and courage.

We pray for Pam Dearing and her husband, Ron, who are recuperating from covid and summer holidays. Be with them as they recover and may they get the rest that they need so that they can again resume their regular activities.

We pray for Susan's brother and sister-in-law who have just received notice that they have to leave their condo rental by October 31. Lord, be with them as they look. It is very discouraging right now with the rental market being so tight. Lord, please provide a home for them.

**Other prayers.**

Lastly, Lord, we pray for the churches of St. Paul's and Victoria as they face changes again. May they put their trust in you and experience your presence with them at this time.

## Congratulations to Scouter Wayne Godfrey

On behalf of the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church, we want to extend congratulations to Wayne Godfrey upon receiving the *Silver Acorn Award* and his *70-year certificate* from Scouts Canada. Outstanding Service Awards are given to Scouters who exceed the requirements and expectations of their position or role and positively impact the youth and adult members of Scouting with whom they work.

Upon speaking with Rod MacDonald, we learned that Rod's father Bruce MacDonald was our first Scouts Canada leader and in September 1952, formed Westminster Scout Group 11 – meaning it was the 11<sup>th</sup> group to form in Sault Ste. Marie.

Bruce recruited Jack Hollingsworth as his Second Leader and at the first winter campout taking place in December 1952, Jack recruited Wayne Godfrey to help. Wayne was hooked. He did his formal training with Scouts Canada in the spring of 1953.

Rod stated that Wayne received the 70-year certificate recognizing his length of service and it was actually issued last year, with Wayne being only one of three men in Canada in the year, to earn this recognition.

The Silver Acorn Award is awarded for especially distinguished service to Scouting over a minimum of 20 years and is reserved for recipients who have served “on the ground” in Scouting with extraordinary service in the Scouting program.

When asked, Rod provided a few highlights of Wayne's extraordinary service as a front-line leader that earned him this high recognition.

Scouts Canada has various age levels: Beavers ages 5-7, Cubs ages 8-10, Scouts ages 11-14, Venturers ages 15-17 and Rovers ages 18-26.

- When Venturers came up as a new level of the program for more senior scouts Wayne signed up for scoping sessions to form this section and then he offered to be the Venturer advisor for Westminster Scouts Group 11.
- When Scouts Canada was developing a handicap scouting program, Wayne sat on the provincial committee and provided input.
- Wayne served as an advisor with Rovers Scouts, the 18 – 26 age group.
- He has served on service teams for various camps including Blue Springs the main training camp where he was quartermaster.
- Wayne was the Sponsor Liaison between Westminster Scout Group 11 and the church, in his role on the Board of Managers and Session.
- Finally, as recently as this year the Beavers asked him to sit in as a Second Leader to help out when they needed that role filled.

Scouts Canada describes the Silver Acorn Award as “meaningful” which they further define as *being significant to both the recipient, recognizing outstanding service, and to Scouts Canada, promoting the excellence of our volunteers both inside and outside of the Movement.*

On behalf of the congregation of Westminster, we thank Wayne for his many years of service through our Scout Group Westminster Group 11.