

Welcome to Worship at Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church, located at 4950 W. Pratt Avenue in Skokie, Illinois.

Faith in Jesus Christ is the mark of a Christian and a disciple of Christ, and is therefore the only requirement for membership in this Church. Please prayerfully consider joining this family of faith - talk with our Pastor, and learn more by visiting us at www.cwupc.org and on Facebook: Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church.

Assisting us in worship today are Elizabeth Brown; Sam Grosby, tenor and George Radosavljevic, piano; Pat Radosavljevic - Music Director; and Pastor Stuart Barnes Jamieson.

**The Session, Deacons, Trustees, Officers, and Staff of
Carter - Westminster United Presbyterian Church**

Session Ruling Elders: Georgette Joseph, Carolyn Kapteyn, Najeba Badal, John Yonan, Elizabeth Brown, David Americus, Peter Ellyin, and Doris Nadder.

Deacons: Phyllis Boba, Irene Ellyin, Neena Ishu, Helen Oshona, Hilda Karam, and Shirley Rustemeyer.

Trustees: Donald Rustemeyer; Hugh McBride, Mac McClendon, and Robert Rustemeyer.

Staff and Church Leaders:

The Rev. Stuart Barnes Jamieson, Pastor
Clerk of Session - Georgette Joseph
Music Director and Organist - Pat Radosavljevic
Church Administrator - Anna Torgerson
Church Treasurer - John Yonan
Financial Secretary - Doris Nadder

Becoming the Beloved Community

**Carter - Westminster United
Presbyterian Church**

Gathered for Worship

Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.



July 23, 2023

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude

Toccata
Pat Radosavljevic, organ

Douglas Wagner

Greeting, Welcome, and Announcements

One: The Lord be with you. All: And also with you.

* Call to Worship - from Psalm 139 verses

One: O God, where could we go from your Spirit?

All: **Where could we escape your presence?**

One: If we rise above the earth, there you are! If we make our beds in the grave, there you are!

All: **If we take the wings of the morning and fly to the farthest sea, even there your hand will lead us, and in your gentle arms you will hold us.**

One: We could say, "Let the night cover us, and everything about us be total darkness,"

All: **But even the darkness is not dark to you: the night is bright like the day, and with you even the darkness is light**

One: In your light, Lord, we turn to you.

All: **In your presence, we worship.**

* Hymn # 657 Search Me O God / Cleanse Me

MAORI

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, your creatures cry, creation groans, but we turn away; we surround ourselves with noise. We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility: we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy. It's hard to imagine that we might make a difference.

Life-giving God, wash us clean. Restore our imagination and our hearts. Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins until we love with abandon and our hands reach out in blessing, for the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Amen

Time of Silence for Personal Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

One: ...Believe the good news.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Response: **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!**

* Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

(Without leaving your seat, share the peace with those around you)

Word Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 (p. 577-578)

One: The Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.**

Time with Young Disciples

Second Lesson: Matthew 13: 24-30; 36-43 (p. 14-15)

One: The Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message: "Looks Can Be Deceiving"

Affirmation of Faith *(see insert)*

* Hymn *(see insert)*

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

Sharing of Joys and Concerns - Prayers of the People - The Lord's Prayer

Thanksgiving

Time for Generosity

Offertory Waft Her Angels Through the Skies George Frederic Handel

Sam Grosby, tenor and George Radosavljevic, pianist

* Doxology # 815

"Praise God"

OLD HUNDREDTH

* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Gracious God, thank you for these gifts given this day and for the many gifts of our lives. May they be used ever and only to glorify you. Amen.

Sending

* Hymn #572

Blessed Assurance

ASSURANCE

Charge and Benediction

Postlude:

Comfort Ye (recit) & Every Valley Shall Be Exalted (aria) G.F. Handel

Sam Grosby, tenor and George Radosavljevic, pianist

(You are asked to remain seated for the Postlude)

* Going Forth

**Please rise in body and/or in Spirit*