



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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When Jesus Shows Up, Gospel Happens

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.
When Jesus Shows Up, Gospel Happens

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

If Jesus could transform common water into wedding wine, spit and dirt into new sight, troubled sea into a pathway, well water into living water, could Christ transform the waters of my life – shallow, murky, polluted, stagnant, sour – into a shower of blessing?

– Tom Lane

Opening Voluntary

(A musical prayer offered on behalf of the people of God.)

“Largo”
from *Winter, Four Seasons*
Eric Tanner, Violin
Stacey Tanner, Cello

Antonio Vivaldi

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

++Call to Worship

Nancy Greidanus

++Opening Hymn 395

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

Liebster Jesu

**Blessed Jesus at your word we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you.
By your gospel true and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night, filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living come but by your gracious giving.**

**Glorious Lord, yourself impart, Light of Light, from God proceeding.
Touch our lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit’s pleading.
Hear the cry your church now raises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.**

Prayer of Confession

(Trusting that God is love, we express our lament, our brokenness, and our failings to God.)

Lord God, we confess that we fail to see the signs of your presence among us. We see only scarcity when you provide abundance. We become impatient rather than wait for your timing. Our faith is weak when we encounter a crisis. We become discouraged and give up in the face of injustice, war, poverty, and indifference. We disregard your ways of peace. Forgive us, Holy One. Help us to see the world as you see it and to act justly as you would have us do. In your great mercy, hear our prayer...

Silent Confession

Assurance of God’s Grace

++Stand as you are able

++Response Hymn 202

**“An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare”
(stanza 2)**

O Waly Waly

**A lasting gift Jesus gave his own;
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his cross shall lift us up.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

Celebration of Three Year Olds:

Josephine Berends, Patrick DeLano-Taylor, Henry Hathaway, Lucia Jordan, William Ninemeier, Emmett Pipher, and Jeremiah Woods.

Ministry of Music

“Passacaglia”
Eric Tanner, Violin
Stacey Tanner, Cello

Halvorsen/Handel

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

(We pray that the words of Scripture may be encountered as God’s Word.)

Scripture

John 2:1-11

New Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

When Jesus Shows Up, Gospel Happens

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith

from “A Brief Statement of Faith,” Presbyterian Church USA

(We affirm our faith together to remind us who and whose we are.)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Prayers of the People

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Lenten Testimony

Steve and Cindy Baron

Offering Our Lives

Offertory

“Minuets I and II”
from *Sonata in C, KV 46d*
Eric Tanner, Violin
Stacey Tanner, Cello

W.A. Mozart

++Doxology (*means “words of glory”—they are a traditional expression of praise to God.*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

++Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, just as you gladdened the guests with your divine generosity at the wedding feast in Cana, so you fill us with gratitude for your generosity to us. We offer you these gifts with thankful hearts. Bless them and our lives to your service, that they may reveal your glory, nurture faith, and serve the common good. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 166

“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

St. Flavian

**Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray;
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.**

**As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.**

**And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.**

**Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy may we attain at last.**

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

“Prelude in F Minor”
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

J. S. Bach

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsNancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families
.....Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership
Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister
Worship Musicians Eric Tanner, Violin; Stacey Tanner, Cello; Janet Carter, Soprano; Lee Copenhaver, Tenor
Technology TeamBrad Sparks, Dan Cisler, Stella Sheckler, and Rachel Kamstra
Chat Host Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Pastoral Care

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Live Streamed from the Westminster Sanctuary

February 28— Second Sunday in Lent

When Jesus Shows Up, Tables Turn

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching

Scripture: John 2:13-25

Music: Cheri Reid, Soprano

Josh Leckrone, Baritone

March 7— Third Sunday in Lent

Guest Preacher Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis

NEXT Church National Gathering

Music: Viviana Kloostra, Soprano

Rebecca Russcher, Soprano

We're glad you worshiped with us today!
If you would like to know about the life and ministry of Westminster,
visit our website at westminstergr.org or contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATING OUR 3-YEAR-OLDS: February 21, 10am, Worship livestream.

In our February 21st worship service, join us virtually as we celebrate our 3-year-olds. When our Westminster children progress from the nursery to joining us in worship, we like to celebrate by giving them a Jesus Storybook Bible. Because we are not yet worshipping in person, we think it is even more important that our 3-year-olds have a Bible to read at home! This year, we paired up a member of the Children and Families Ministries Committee with a 3-year-old so they could give them their Bibles in person.

YOUTH GRAND RAPIDS WINTER WONDERLAND SCAVENGER HUNT: February 21, 1p.m - 3 p.m.

Meet in the church parking lot. Ok, so we had to postpone this once due to the cold weather! Let's try again. Bring your food for the food pantry and show up at church at 1 p.m. Dress warmly and bring your phone if you have one as the scavenger hunt is on a phone app (If you don't have one, no problems, you can share with someone!)

YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS INFORMATION MEETING: February 21 at 5 p.m. on ZOOM

Parents and youth are invited to join us via [ZOOM](#) for information about the trips being planned for middle and high schoolers this summer. The Middle School trip will be a camping experience in Nordhouse Dunes from June 13 - June 16. The High School trip, June 25 - July 1, will be an intercultural immersion experience in the Southside of Chicago followed by some camping at Devil's Lake, Wisconsin. Thanks to Camp Henry for their partnership on these trips.

THE WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP: Sunday, February 21 at 7pm, Online.

Another month, another thought-provoking book. The WPC Fiction Book Group will meet via Zoom to discuss *The Dutch House*. Critics raved that this is her most powerful novel to date: "a richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go. *The Dutch House* is the story of a paradise lost, a tour de force that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love, and forgiveness, of how we want to see ourselves, and of who we really are." New voices are always welcome! Email Marcie Beck at beckmarcella7@gmail.com for the link.

THE HISTORY OF GRAND RAPIDS IN BLACK AND BROWN: Monday, February 22 at 6 p.m.

Sponsored by the GR Museum. The presentation will feature three panelists, Dr. Randal Jelks, Dr. Todd Robinson, and Dr. Delia Fernandez. Please register for this virtual presentation on Monday, February 22 at 6 p.m. through our ticketing system [here](#).

LABYRINTH 101: Mon. Feb. 22, 6:30pm, Zoom.

One of our at home practices this Lent is to pray with the finger labyrinth. Each week we will explore a different way to use it in prayer and reflection. This one-time zoom meeting is for any who are new to the labyrinth and would like to learn more about what it is. If you've experienced the labyrinth, you are welcome to come and begin again. Join the Zoom meeting [here](#).

BROAD BASED ORGANIZING TRAINING 101 AND 102: February 25 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Zoom.

The Grand Rapids Broad Based Organizing Team will be offering trainings once again this month. Even if you have already gone through these trainings, you may wish to attend again to continue deepening relationships with our partners. You must register and can that by accessing the link on this [flyer](#).

YOUTH WINTER FUN AT CAMP HENRY: February 28 from 2 - 4 p.m. at Camp Henry

Join us for a time of connecting with God, nature and each other at Camp! We will have some time playing crazy games in the "Jake" and also have time to reflect on our relationships with God and each other. Cost is \$5. Parents may stay and fellowship around some fire pits. We need a head count for hot chocolate. Youth and parents who plan to come must sign up [here](#) by February 21.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT WESTMINSTER? If you would you like to learn more about Westminster and our ministries, or considering becoming a member, please contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org or 717-5542. We are trying to garner interest in a new member orientation for this winter/spring. Thank you!

YOUTH MAILING LIST: Did you know that each week an email is sent to youth and their parents with information about the upcoming youth events? If you didn't know this, have a teen living in your home, and would like to be on this email list, send a note to Laurie at laurieh@wpcgr.org. She will be sure you get on the list!

REGISTER FOR NEXT CHURCH NATIONAL GATHERING!: March 5-7, Live- Streamed.

For a number of years, elders and staff from Westminster have participated in the annual NEXT Church National Gathering. NEXT Church supports and equips Presbyterian congregations, develops leaders, and strengthens connections to have an impact on God's evolving world. Joel Schultze, Westminster's Elder for Mission Partnerships, serves on the NEXT Church board. This year's FREE live-streamed gathering, entitled Breaking, Blessing, Building: A Call for the Common Good, is available to ALL at no charge! The event includes worship with inspiring preachers, keynotes and workshops on dismantling racism, housing justice, and more. You may learn more information and register [here](#).

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: These groups meet every Wednesday to read a chapter of scripture each week and hold a few questions to share in conversation. Groups gather via zoom at 7:00 pm. Members, visitors, friends are welcome. [Sign up here](#).

PHONE SYSTEM CHANGES: If you need to call the church or reach a staff member, please call 616-456-1456. That number will get you into our automated system. Our direct dial phone system is currently in a time of upgrading and for now; the 717 numbers are not working. Thank you for your patience.

THE DEACON'S FUND: This fund was established many years ago to assist church members with short term financial needs, such as utility payments, transportation, and insurance payments. The fund is generously funded by the congregation, and we want to put it to use for those that have been hard hit by under-employment, illness, or other unforeseen circumstances. To initiate a request, please contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org or 456-1456. All information will be kept confidential.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: This is a reminder that each Sunday, our Children's Worship team creates videos for children that go with the themes of Sunday services and our church calendar. You can find these videos on the Westminster YouTube Channel. Contact Nancy at nancyg@wpcgr.org for more information.

CAMP HENRY HAS A NEW WAY TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY: Need a spot for your family to play or exercise? Check out our Jacobs Recreation Pavilion! Full-length court, Basketball, Volleyball, and Pickleball Walls can open for access to fresh air and Bathrooms are available. Connect with Jordan Bont, Guest Experiences Director, to reserve your spot! Email jordanb@camphenry.org or call 231-652-6472.

SPOTLIGHT: DAY CAMP | AGES 5-8: Day Camp is the perfect way to get a taste of Camp Henry while still sleeping at home. Each day has a theme and new adventures await! Day Camp is for ages 5-8 and lunch is provided. Each session runs Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 4:00pm. Dates and Rates: Cost: \$245 (Transportation from Grand Rapids \$40). Week 3: July 5-9, 2021; Week 4: July 12-16, 2021; Week 5: July 19-23, 2021. Learn more [here](#).

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS: Please [click here](#) for a document that provides information on ways you can give digitally to the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office at 616-456-1456.



Using Engage Giving by Scanning the QR Code: Scan the code using a QR code reader app or the camera on your phone or mobile device. It will take you to the Engage Giving log-in window where you can follow the directions above for giving using the website

WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY FACEBOOK GROUP: If you're on Facebook and haven't already, please join our WPC Community Group! We share reflections after services, our pets, our joys, and church updates in the group as another way to stay connected during these times. [Click here](#) to join the group.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

WESTMINSTER'S BUILDING IS STILL CLOSED
ALL MEETINGS TAKE PLACE VIRTUALLY
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOOD PANTRY

SUN. FEB. 21

10:00 amOnline Worship
1:00 pmYouth Downtown Scavenger Hunt
4:00 pmYouth Group
5:00 pmYouth Group Trips Parent Meeting

MON. FEB. 22

12:00 pmText Talks
6:30 pmLabyrinth 101
7:30 pmSocial Justice Committee

WED. FEB 24

4:00 pmWay Forward Meeting
6:30 pmNew Elder Training
7:00 pmStained Glass Task Force

THURS. FEB 25

10:30 amFood Pantry
6:00 pmBroad Based Organization Training

SAT. FEB 27

9:00 amAll Leadership Retreat

SUN. FEB 28

10:00 amOnline Worship
2:00 pmYouth Winter Fun Day

MOVING FORWARD

Broad-based Organizing 101 & 201
Thursday, February 25, 2021
6:00 PM — 8:00 PM on Zoom

REGISTER at <http://bit.ly/feb25train>

ORGANIZING 101:

If you're new to broad-based organizing or looking to understand the concepts a little more, this session is for you. What exactly is broad-based organizing and how does it work? Our families & institutions face incredible pressure. Where do these pressures come from? How do we build the power to act effectively on them through broad-based organizing? Presenter: Chevon Chatman, Senior Organizer, Working Together Jackson (MS).

ORGANIZING 201:

We're all anxious to get to work on an issue. Jorge Montiel, Lead Organizer, Coloradans for the Common Good, will address the ABCs of working on an issue. How do you decide what you're going to work on? What if not everyone in the sponsoring team supports the issue selected? What have been the results of addressing a particular issue? If you're already familiar with and confident about broad-based organizing principles, this session is for you.

*We're building momentum -
now it's time to build our skills to organize.
Join us for one of two sessions to build your skills
and go deeper to organize your institution.*

Find us on Facebook – West Michigan Community Organizing
Contact at organizewmi@gmail.com or (616) 710-1431