

MORNING WORSHIP AT 11:00 A.M.

and then, there's weakness

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*Being disguised under the disfigurement of an ugly crucifixion and death,
the Christ upon the cross is paradoxically the clearest revelation of who God is.*

— Hans Urs Von Balthasar

Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Jen Porter

Opening Voluntary

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

“I Call to Thee”

J. S. Bach

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jeremy Bork

++ Call to Worship

One: Our God promises to do a new thing,

All: even here, even now.

One: We come to the Lord, who is rich in grace; and who is full of mercy.

All: We fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

One: Who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame,
and sat down at the right hand of God.

**All: Let us consider him who endured such opposition from
sinful people,**

One: so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

++ Hymn 203

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

Chereponi

Call to Confession

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Susan Jennings

**Holy God, help us to see the things that we put ahead of you. We
consider how we use our time; we think about where we place our
attention; and we know that our lives tell a story. What is it we value?
Do our lives proclaim your love? It is Jesus who heals. It is Jesus who
forgives. It is Jesus who speaks words of truth. Help us to know
nothing but Christ and him crucified. Have mercy on us. Lord, hear our
prayer.**

Silent Confession

Sung Prayer 434 (stanza 3)

**Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.**

One: Let the people say...

All: Amen.

The Assurance of God's Grace

One: In a world that offers so many old lies and false stories,
help us live into this truth:

All: We are held by a love that we are not required to deserve.

One: And nothing can separate us from that love of God. Nothing.

All: O Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief!

One: In the midst of our questions, doubts, and fears,
we are bold to make our home in your new creation.

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are accepted
and everything is made new. Amen.**

++ Stand as you are able

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++ Response Hymn 610 (stanza 3)

Christ speaks, and listening to Christ's voice

New life the dead receive;

The mournful waken to rejoice;

The poor in heart believe.

++ The Summary of the Law and the Passing of the Peace

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

One: Jesus said, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?”

**All: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all
your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.**

One: “You have given the right answer;
do this, and you will live.”

All: Do this, and you will live.

One: And so that you may live connected to God,
to one another, and to your own truest life,
may the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

“Oh How I Love Jesus”

Cantus Choir

Blessings with Younger Disciples

*(Children three years old through second grade may finish their time of worship in the Worship
Centers. Children's worship leaders will shepherd them from the Sanctuary to their rooms.*

Parents may pick them up in their worship rooms following the service.)

**In the pews: May the Lord be with each of you
as you worship together.**

Children: And may the Lord be with you as you worship here.

In the pews: Go in peace!

THE WORD

Introduction to the Scripture

Prayer for Illumination

Gene Ryan

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

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 1:18-29

New Testament p. 166

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

and then, there's weakness

Rev. Jen Porter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

2

**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.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People - *(The cup contains grape juice and the bread is gluten free.)*

The congregation will be served by the elders;

Please hold the elements until all have been served.

Closing Prayer

THE OFFERING

Receiving the Offering

Signing of the Friendship Register - The Deacons' Fund - Mark Abolt

(Please sign the friendship pad and pass it down the pew. Thank you!)

Offertory

“Ave Verum”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Ave verum Corpus, natus de Maria Virgine:

Vere passum,

immolatum in cruce pro homine:

Cuju latus perforatum, unda fluxit sanguine:

Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary:

Who has truly suffered,

Was sacrificed on the cross for mortals,

Whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood:

Be for us a foretaste (of heaven) during our final examining.

Sanctuary Choir

++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 (unison) - *adapted from the Lenten Devotional*

Holy God, with joy we remember that what we think is valuable isn't

always the best way to carry out your work. Help us to be brave and

to be willing to be something different than what everybody expects.

We give ourselves to you, to your love that makes itself known in the

world. May you surprise us again and again. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 515

“I Come with Joy”

Dove of Peace

++Charge and Benediction

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

“Prelude in F Minor”

J. S. Bach

The Charge

*Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold on to what is good.
Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak
and help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing
in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

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AHEAD IN WORSHIP

8:30a & 11:00a

LENT 2018
LIFE OUT OF DEATH

March 11—The Fourth Sunday in Lent
It's about Grace

Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching
Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10
Music: Chandler Stokes, Soloist at 8:30a
Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a

COMING UP IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 11 - 9:40 - 10:40 A.M.

In the Conference Room: The Cross and the Lynching Tree

A piercing study of the relationship of the cross of Jesus and the lynching trees of the American South. Join Kyle Nolan, Sherrill Vore, and members of the Racial Justice Action Group as they explore this text and its implications. Participants can find the book online or in stores.

In the Food Pantry (Downstairs): Lectio Divina

Gather with a small group praying each Sunday's lectionary texts. Join us in the ancient, participatory practice of reading, reflecting, and responding to Holy Scripture, praying as if in a conversation with God. Led by Larry Slager and Amy Strand.

In the Chapel: Advanced Care Planning as a Spiritual Practice

Over the past year, Westminster's Health and Wholeness Committee has partnered with Making Choices Michigan to facilitate conversations enabling individuals to make plans about their future health care. On **March 11** we'll consider how this process makes sense in the context of the life of faith. We'll watch and discuss the documentary film "Extremis," and Carol Robinson of Making Choices Michigan will join us. Facilitated by the Rev. Jen Porter.

In the Parlor: Dying to the False Self: The Enneagram for Leaders

A group for anyone invited to the January Leadership Retreat who wants to continue exploring the Enneagram's promise for deepening self-awareness. We'll enter with an eye to how it can help us lean into spiritual growth and prepare us to lead. Led by the Rev. Jen Porter.

Welcome to Westminster

If you are new to Westminster, this information may help you get oriented.

First of all, if you have any questions, please feel free to talk to any of the ushers or greeters or staff members. It's a pretty big church and not always easy to find your way around.

- Worship bags (younger children) and worship folders (older children) are available on the bookshelf in the narthex, and contain age-appropriate materials to help children engage with what they're seeing and doing.
- LARGE print bulletins—much easier on the eyes.
- Hearing devices are also available, as well as:
- T-loop hearing assistance: set your hearing aid to "T"
- More about **children**: We intend to be welcoming to all children. *Please let us know how we are doing.* Contact Nancy Greidanus—nancyg@wpcgr.org.
 - o All children are welcome to stay throughout the entire worship service. OR:
 - o Nursery rooms are located down the hall to the right of the Parlor, which is in the northeast corner of the Gathering Place. Nursery care is available from 8:15a - 12:30p (or 15 minutes after the conclusion of worship).
 - o Nurturing Centers: Children ages 3 and 4 may leave the service after the time of Blessings for stories, songs, and free play.
 - o Worship Centers: Children 4 years through second grade may also leave at the time of the Blessings to complete their worship in an interactive setting.

- **Coffee Hour**: Absolutely everyone is welcome, even if coffee is not your cup of tea!

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Jen Porter, Assoc. Pastor for Faith Formation & Pastoral Care
LiturgistsRev. Jeremy Bork, Minister for Youth and Their Families
.....Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership
.....Gene Ryan, Middle School Ministry Coordinator

Acolytes.....Vivi Duncan and Jocelyn Russell
(We also thank Monica Calderon for serving on 2/25 with Harper Davis)

Minister of MusicHelen Hofmeister

Music for Worship

8:30a - Hannah Donnelly, Flute
11:00a - Cantus Choir
Cara Hyink and Elise Greidanus,
Cantus Choir Directors
Sanctuary Choir
Janlee Richter, Accompanist

USHERS - Team C

8:30 am: Doug and Joanie Dowling, John and Sue Porter
11:00 am: Keith Combs, Kari and Chris Fuller, Ann and James Jarvis,
Kevin Larr, Ben and Sharon Vander Wilp, Rich Zimmerman

GREETERS

8:30am: Atrium.....Debra Mellentine

NURSERY

8:30 & 11:00 am: Staff
11:00 am: Volunteers.....Lindsay Larson

WORSHIP CENTER

8:30 am: - *Jesus and Bartimaeus*
LeaderElizabeth Maher

Center 1 - 11:00 am: - (5-year olds & Kndg.) - *Jesus and Bartimaeus*
LeaderKatie Prince

Center 2 - 11:00 am: - (1st & 2nd graders) - *Jesus and Bartimaeus*
LeaderTim Born
GreeterDavis Jennings

NURTURING CENTER - 11:00 am: - *Elisha and Naaman*

LeaderRebekah Weaver
GreeterKarys Russell

FLOWERS - The flowers in the chancel today are given by John and Sue Porter in celebration of their family.

Please remember in your prayers this week...

Welcome to Emmett William Pipher! Emmett was born on Tuesday, February 27 to new parents Sarah and Ben. Many blessings to all!

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 4-

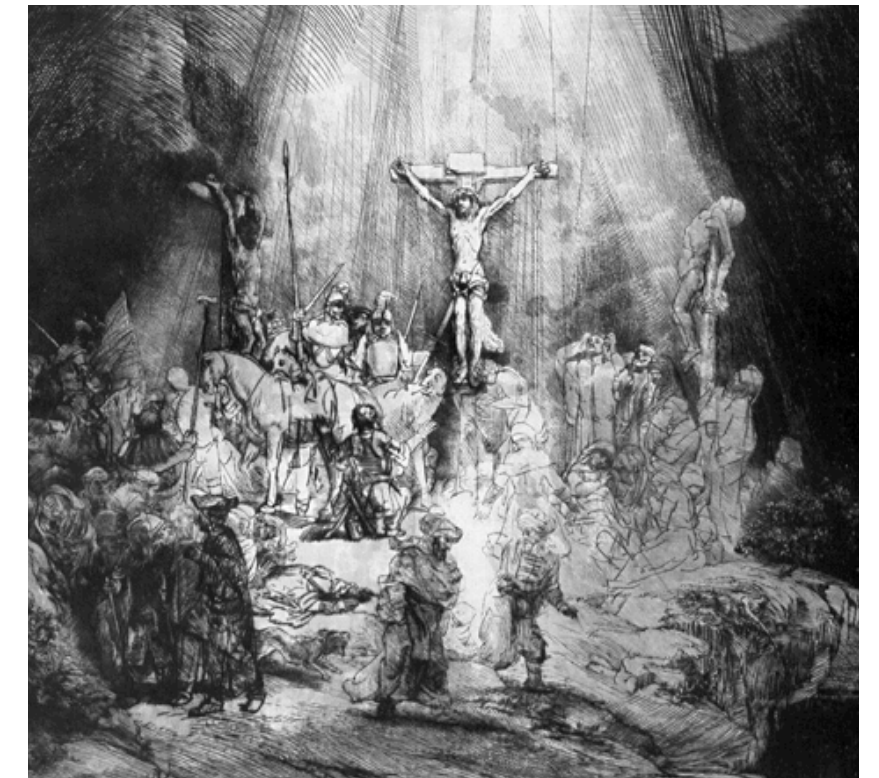
Lent is a time to quit running, to let ourselves be caught and embraced in love, like a sheep with safe pasture, like a traveler offered rich and unexpected food. Our life is not willed by God to be an endless anxiety. It is, rather, meant to be an embrace, but that entails being caught by God. **Prayer:** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. — Psalm 23:6
Devotion from Walter Brueggemann's book *A Way Other Than Our Own*.



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LENT 2018 LIFE OUT OF DEATH

Christ speaks and listening to his voice
New life the dead receive
The mournful awaken to rejoice
The poor in heart believe



The Three Crosses, Rembrandt

and then, there's weakness

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 4, 2018
11:00 A.M.