

MORNING WORSHIP AT 11:00 A.M.

It's about Grace

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which God loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved... — Ephesians 2:4-5

Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Chandler Stokes

Opening Voluntary

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

“Jesu, meine Freude”
Theme and Variations

Johann Walther

Sharing the Life of Westminster

++ Call to Worship

One: When we contemplate your love for us, O God,

All: We remember how powerful your love is.

One: When we survey the wondrous cross,

All: We remember that you have given us life out of death.

One: We remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

All: We remember that we belong to you in life and in death.

One: We remember that we are your children.

All: Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

++ Hymn 223

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Hamburg

Call to Confession

Heather Colletto

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, we confess that, in the wounds of this life, we often lose our bearings. We forget how vast your love is. We forget how utterly kind your heart is. And then we can feel powerless and afraid. Our fears grow and can run our lives. We can fear not only death, but we fear so much in life. Teach us again to trust in you and in your grace. Relieve our fears, and have mercy on us. O Holy God, 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.**

++ 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

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” *Bach/ arr. Robert Leaf*

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,

Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;

O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!

Yet, in this time of sorrow, I joy to call thee mine.

Jennifer Soles, Clarinet

Sanctuary 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

Rev. Jen Porter

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

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 20:1-3
Ephesians 2:1-10

Old Testament p. 107
New Testament p. 192

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

It's about Grace

Rev. Chandler Stokes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Kyle Nolan

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

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.

THE OFFERING

Receiving the Offering

Signing of the Friendship Register

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

Offertory

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

John Ireland

see Hymn 209 for text

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)

Holy God, in your creative power, you have given us life. And in your mercy, you have given us new life in Christ. We dedicate ourselves anew to your gentle way. Guide us to trust in your perfect and unchanging love, to trust the rich promises of your grace, that we might have life and bring life to your warring world.

Help us live toward that day when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone; sorrow forgot, and love's purest joys restored. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 819

“Be Still, My Soul”

Finlandia

++Charge and Benediction

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

“Jesu, meine Freude”

Final Variation

Johann Walther

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.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

8:30a & 11:00a

LENT 2018
LIFE OUT OF DEATH

March 18—The Fifth Sunday in Lent
It's about Love

Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching
Scripture: John 12:20-33
Music: Kate Huizenga-Reed and
Sarah Huizenga-Johnson, Sopranos at 8:30a
Kirk Singers, Cherub Choir, and
Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a

COMING UP IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 18 - 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. Carol Robinson of Making Choices Michigan will join us once again as we hear from members of Westminster about their experiences having the advanced care planning conversation and how that experience has impacted their faith.

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

Preacher Rev. Chandler Stokes, Senior Pastor Head of Staff
Liturgists Heather Colletto, Director of Communications & Mission
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Assoc. Pastor for Faith Formation & Pastoral Care
..... Kyle Nolan, Minister for Faith Formation & Mission
Chapel Host Kelley Barr, Elder for Worship
Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister

Music for Worship

8:30a - Chandler Stokes, Soloist
11:00a - Jennifer Soles, Clarinet
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 - This Sunday's greeters are Deacons

8:30 am: Atrium Joshua Leckrone
Narthex Eric and Tracy Lanning
11:00 am: Atrium Sally and Chuck Russell
E. Narthex Lexy McCulloch
W. Narthex Patti Haist

NURSERY 8:30 & 11:00 am: Staff
11:00 am: Volunteers Ashley Wierenga

WORSHIP CENTER

8:30 am: - *Jesus and Zacchaeus*
Leader Elizabeth Maher

Center 1 - 11:00 am: - (5-year olds & Kndg.) - *Jesus and Zacchaeus*
Leader Katie Prince
Greeter Ian Dengerink-Van Til

Center 2 - 11:00 am: - (1st & 2nd graders) - *Jesus and Zacchaeus*
Leader Lisa Smith
Greeter Eliza Dengerink-Van Til

NURTURING CENTER - 11:00 am: - *Come to Me*

Leader Carla Fortuna
Greeter Sandy Van Brouwer

THE ROSE ON THE COMMUNION TABLE today is in celebration of the birth of Emmett William on February 27 to parents Sarah and Ben Pipher.

Please remember in your prayers this week...

Our prayers are with Bill Simcek as he was hospitalized last week for an infection.

Also, our love and sympathy to Eric and Tracy Lanning on the death of Eric's sister, Barb Imfeld, on Monday, March 5. Barb was also a special aunt to Stuart, Gabe, and Charlie.

DEVOTION FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 11-

The promise of God is for the here and now, and for you. That promise, however, allows no short cut, no light for the city without the fast of genuine humanness. The fast of humanness is the condition of Easter, when all God's children in this place come to new life. Imagine a new city, brilliant in its light, powerful in its common faith, beloved in its shared humanity. The light is promised to us. The fast is required of us. **Prayer:** *Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? — Isaiah 58:6*

Devotions 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*



It's about Grace

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 11, 2018
11:00 A.M.