

Paul's Shipwreck

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

...it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. — Galatians 2:20

Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Jen Porter

Opening Voluntary

(A musical prayer offered on behalf of the people of God.) "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Georg Kauffmann

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Palm Sunday Anthem: "The Liturgy of the Palms" Mark 11:1-11

Jody W. Lindh

(see insert for text)

Handbells: Ian Dengerink Van-Til, Sami Durocher, Karsten Kotchenruther, Meg Strand Chapel Singers Carol Choir

++ Call to Worship

Maren Gregg

One: We long to hear your voice, O God.

All: We long to know that you are near.

One: Silence any voice within us but your own.

All: Open our ears to hear your loving Word.

One: Keep us near to you, near enough for us to follow closely.

All: As we continue the journey, O God, keep us near to you.

One: Even as you continue into Jerusalem, even as you go into what is so hard.

All: All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Redeemer!

++ Hymn 196

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Valet will ich dir geben

Call to Confession

Rev. Chandler Stokes

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, sometimes even with the smallest set-backs we are reluctant to push through. Even when we are sure it is the right thing to do, we do not persevere. We say that we are too tired or too worn-out to stay on track. God, forgive us. Help us to trust in you, to trust in your strength and to lean into your amazing grace. 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)

Azmon

Christ speaks, and listening to his voice

New life the dead receive;

The mournful waken to rejoice;

The poor in heart believe.

We will not have Worship or Nurturing Centers today so that the elementary-aged children may remain to witness the choir musical. Preschoolers who prefer not to remain through the whole service may be taken by their parents to the Nursery during the Passing of the Peace.

++ 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.

THE WORD

Introduction to the Scripture

Nancy Greidanus

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:31-39

New Testament p. 158

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Paul's Shipwreck

Words by Tom S. Long Music by Allen Pote

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People 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 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 - The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected this morning.

Signing of the Friendship Register

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

Offertory

"Hymn of Promise"

Natalie Sleeth

++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, we dedicate ourselves to your holy way. You are with us, and you are our hope. Teach us to trust your love, to lean into your great strength and to follow you faithfully. Lead us in your paths for your sake. In Christ's name we pray Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 188

"Jesus Loves Me!"

Jesus Loves Me

++Charge and Benediction

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

"In Thee Is Gladness"

Ronald Nelson

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 29—Maundy Thursday
Communion Service at 7:00p**

And then, there's Jesus.

Rev. Jen Porter preaching
Scripture: Matthew 26:14-46
Music: Lee Copenhaver, Cello
Sanctuary Choir

**April 1—Easter Sunday
The Resurrection of the Lord
We Have Been Told**

Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching
Scripture: Mark 16:1-8
Music: Sanctuary Choir and Brass
at 8:30a and 11:00a

COMING UP IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 25 & UPCOMING- 10:40 A.M.

Today, March 25

In the Chapel: Life Out of Death Plenary Gathering

On Palm Sunday, as Lent draws to a close and as we look with anticipation toward the resurrection hope of Easter, we invite everyone who has participated in the lenten faith formation offerings gathered under our theme to a plenary conversation where we'll reflect on the experiences we've shared during the season.

Sunday, April 1

No Adult Faith Formation Offerings - Break for Easter
On Easter Sunday, we will not have any Adult Faith Formation or Racial Justice Conversations between services. We hope you have a chance to enjoy the fellowship of the Easter Brunch as we celebrate Christ's Resurrection together.

**Sunday, April 8 - In the Chapel: Politics, Justice, and the Artist
In the Food Pantry: Lectio Divina**

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 Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families
..... Maren Gregg, Youth Liturgist
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Assoc. Pastor for Faith Formation & Pastoral Care
Chapel Host Suzan Bylsma

Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister

Music for Worship

8:30a & 11:00a - Chapel Singers (Middle School Youth) and
Carol Choir (3rd, 4th, & 5th Graders)
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..... Leza Moerland
Narthex Debra Mellentine

11:00am: Atrium..... Leza Moerland
E. Narthex..... Betty Webber
W. Narthex Donna Zimmerman

NURSERY

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

There will be no church school on Easter Sunday.

Worship and Nurturing Centers will be offered at 8:30a and 11:00a.

Please remember in your prayers this week...

Congratulations to Sarah and Rob Pasquinnuci on the birth of their son, Samuel Edward on March 14 in OH. Samuel joins his big brother Robert, and grandparents are Jan and Bob Stone. Many blessings to all!

Blessings upon the Woods family as they are in the process of adopting Jeremiah Joseph, born May 10, 2017. Parents are John and Lori and big brothers are Kaden and Mason. We pray for Jeremiah's continued development and attachment to the family.

Prayers of healing and strength for Ann Bobroff as she recovers from hip surgery.

DEVOTION FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 25—

A Collect for the Presence of Christ

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.
(BCP, pg 71)

From the *Episcopal Book of Common Prayer*



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*



PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

**MARCH 25, 2018
8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**