

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. — Mark 1:13

Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Chandler Stokes

Opening Voluntary

(A musical prayer offered on behalf of the people of God.)
“Intonation” and “Variation I”
from *What Wondrous Love Is This*

arr. David Dahl

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

++ Call to Worship

Karys Russell

One: Holy God, you created us human and mortal.

All: And you have claimed us as your own.

One: You call us to remember who we are and whose we are.

All: We abide, evermore, in life and death, with you.

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

All: We belong to you in life and in death.

One: We remember that we are children of God.

All: We belong to you in life and in death.

One: We come to worship you, O God.

++ Hymn 166 “Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

St. Flavian

Call to Confession

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, in the pain and fears of this life, somehow we lose touch with you and with ourselves. Disconnected, we even let the finest virtues separate us from you. We turn humility into self-destruction. We turn our giftedness into arrogance. We turn reverence into terror, confidence into self-centeredness. Holy God, deliver us from our brokenness. 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.

++ Response Hymn 610 (stanza 3)

**Christ speaks, and listening to his 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

“Lord, Bow Thine Ear”

F. Mendelssohn

*Lord, bow thine ear to our prayer.
Zion spreadeth her hands for aid;
and there is neither help nor comfort.*
Kathleen Vander Velde, Soprano,
Margi Hankins, Mezzo-Soprano
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 and learn 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

Heather Colletto

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

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:9-15

New Testament p. 34-35

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

It's about Humility

Rev. Chandler Stokes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. David Baak

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 “Variation II: When I Was Sinking Down”

arr. David Dahl

from *What Wondrous Love Is This*

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

++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, made of us a new creation, through the grace of Jesus Christ. As we your people have met to offer praise and prayer, may we in fuller measure find what it is we share in Christ—in humility and boldness. And so we give ourselves to you, and with the church through all ages, we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 409

“God Is Here!”

Abbot's Leigh

++Charge and Benediction

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

“Variation IV: And When from Death I'm Free”

arr. David Dahl

from *What Wondrous Love Is This*

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

February 25—The Second Sunday of Lent

Rev. Chandler Stokes Preaching

Scripture: Mark 8:31-9:1

Music: Westminster Winds at 8:30a and 11:00a

Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a

COMING UP IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - 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: The Good Funeral: Death and the Life of Faith

The Presbyterian Church views the Christian funeral as the completion of our baptism, when we die with Christ so that we might also be risen with him. But how does this experience shape us? Led by the Rev. Chandler Stokes and Stephen Baron.

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!

47 Jefferson Ave. SE • Grand Rapids, MI 49503 • www.wpcgr.org • (616-456-1456)

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Chandler Stokes
 LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Assoc. Pastor for Faith Formation & Pastoral Care
Karys Russell, Youth Liturgist
Heather Colletto, Director of Communication & Mission
Rev. David Baak, Executive Pastor
 Acolytes.....Jocelyn Russell and Mason Woods
 Minister of MusicHelen Hofmeister

Music for Worship

8:30a & 11:00a - Kathleen Vander Velde, Soprano
 and Margi Hankins, Mezzo-Soprano
 11:00a - 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.....David Slack
 NarthexDebra Mellentine
11:00am: Atrium.....Genny Bratschie
 NarthexDarcy Kraus

NURSERY

8:30 & 11:00 am:..... Staff
11:00 am: Parent Volunteers..... Carla and Joel Fortuna

WORSHIP CENTER

8:30 am: - *How the Church Tells Time/Lenten Puzzle*
 Leader Chris Dugan

Center 1 - 11:00 am: - (5-year olds & Kndg.)-*How the Church Tells Times/Lenten Puzzle*
 LeaderJennifer Molitor

Center 2 - 11:00 am: - (1st & 2nd graders)-*How the Church Tells Times/Lenten Puzzle*
 Leader Erin Molhoek

NURTURING CENTER - 11:00 am: - *David and the Giant*

Leader Carla Fortuna
 Greeter Deb Larson

FLOWERS - The flowers in the chancel today are given by Rick and Trish

Spafford
 in celebration of their son, Christopher's birthday. Flowers are also given by Carol

Please remember in your prayers this week...

Our love and sympathy to Chris, Amy, Meg, and Abby Strand on the loss of their father and grandfather. Chris' father, Sheldon Strand, died peacefully at home on Tuesday, February 13 in Ohio. May they feel supported by God's presence and the love of family and friends during this difficult time.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18-

The love message from God this week is from Ephesians 1:4-5. "In LOVE God predestined us to be adopted as his children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will." God loved us even before we were born! We are the children God wanted so much that he worked out an incredible adoption plan in order that we could be his children forever. Thanks be to God!

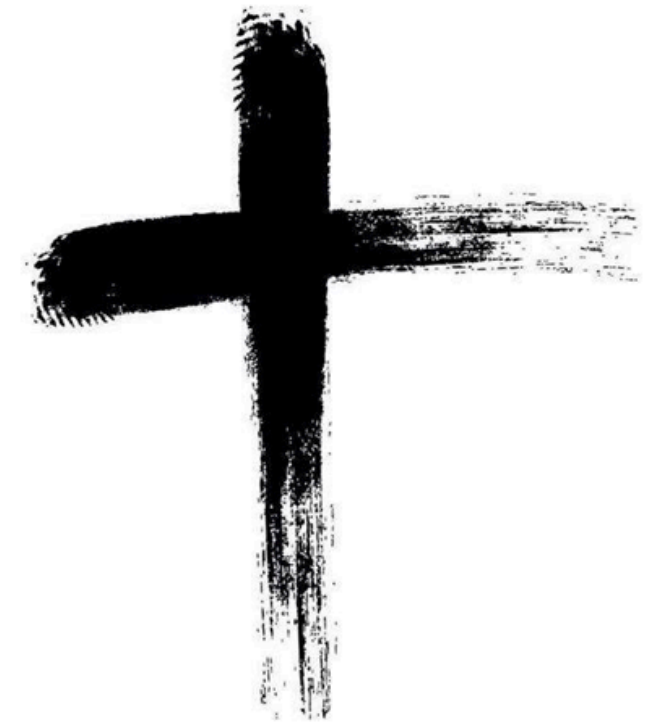
Prayer: God of all love, we find it hard to fathom that you loved us before we even were born. May your love empower us to live as your children.



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 Humility

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

11:00 A.M.