



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*The Good Shepherd, Julien Dupre*

*I Was...and You...*

## REIGN OF CHRIST

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NOVEMBER 22, 2020

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

REIGN OF CHRIST

*I Was...and You...*

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*"Justice is what love looks like in public."*

– Cornel West

Opening Voluntary

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

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

arr. Richard Hillert

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Call to Worship

Nancy Greidanus

**++Opening Hymn 268**

**"Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

*Diademata*

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;  
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.**

**Prayer of Confession**

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

**Loving and merciful One, we confess that we fail to love as you love. We push aside those whom we believe are the least in your kingdom. We allow the powers of this world to rule our lives, and we silence our witness to your kingdom. We fail to see your kingdom in each other. Form in us a new vision of community in which there is neither east nor west, neither south nor north. We pray for the sake of your kingdom that is both now and not yet...**

*Silent Confession*

**The Assurance of God's Grace**

**++ Response Hymn 536**

**“Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen”**  
(stanza 2)

Surge Ecclesia

**Rise, transformed, and choose to follow  
after Christ, though wounded, whole;  
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed  
to release and to console.  
Alleluia, alleluia: Christ, our present, past, and goal.**

**++ Passing the Peace of Christ**

*(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)*

**Ministry of Music**

“Hymn of Promise”  
*(previously recorded on July 5, 2020)*  
Maria Schoon, Soprano  
Michael Furman, Baritone

Natalie Sleeth

## THE WORD

**Prayer for Illumination**

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

**Scripture**

Matthew 25:31-46

New Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*I Was...and You...*

Rev. Lynette Sparks

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Affirmation of Faith**

from *A Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)*

Susan Jennings

*(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.**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world  
good and makes everyone equally in God's image to live as one community.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit  
justifies us by grace through faith and binds us together with all believers in the one Body  
of Christ, the Church.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can  
separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**The 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 to 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.

## Focus on Mission: Thanksgiving In-Gathering

### Offering Our Lives

Offertory

“Panis Angelicus”  
(previously recorded on July 26, 2020)  
Viviana Kloostra, Soprano

César Franck

**++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

We praise you, O Lord, for you have created us in your own image, you have claimed us as your beloved people, and you have called us to be a blessing for others. Use the gifts of your good creation and the works of our hands to lift up those who are oppressed, to break down dividing walls, and to build up your church. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

### ++Closing Hymn 37

“Let All Things Now Living”

Ash Grove

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God our creator triumphantly raise;  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:  
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,  
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

“Now Thank We All Our God”  
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

arr. Craig Phillips

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff  
Liturgists ..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families  
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership  
Minister of Music ..... Helen Hofmeister  
Worship Musicians ..... Kathy VanderVelde, Soprano; Maria Schoon, Soprano; Michael Furman, Baritone;  
..... and Viviana Kloostra, Soprano  
Technology Team ..... Rachel Kamstra, Stella Sheckler, Peter Larson, and Dan Cisler

### **AHEAD IN WORSHIP**

*Recorded from the Westminster Sanctuary*

**November 29 – First Sunday of Advent**

***Longing In Hope***

Rev. Laurie Hartzell preaching

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1 and Romans 8:18-25

Music: Quartet: Hannah Deboer, Elise Tripp,  
Eric Richter, and Josh Leckrone

**December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent**

***Longing for a Shepherd***

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

Music: Jeff Wilkinson, Tenor  
Andrew Wilkinson, Flute

We're glad you worshiped with us today! If you'd like to know about the life and ministry of Westminster, visit our website at [westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org), or contact Susan Jennings at [susanj@wpcgr.org](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org).

## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:**

Thank you to the 252 people who have pledged 915,245 so far in this year's Stewardship Campaign! Though the formal season is over, it is not too late to turn in your 2021 pledge. You can do that by accessing the link below. You can do that by accessing the link [here](#). We give thanks to God for abundance—even in the wilderness!



**REMINDER:** If you haven't been able to keep up with your 2020 pledge, now would be a perfect time to catch up!

**ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS:** Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Kathy Cisler had been working on expanding ways for people to make donations digitally. We recognize that many are facing new and unforeseen financial implications in the wake of this pandemic and this message is not meant to put any pressure on people. However, we are also aware that many are able to continue, or increase, their offerings to help us pay our bills, our staff, and continue our ministry that brings justice, peace, and hope into a world God loves. Please [click here](#) for a document that provides information on new ways you can give digitally to the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathy through her phone number at the church, (616) 717-5533.

**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.



### **BUILDING USE AND WORSHIP CHANGES FROM THE WAY FORWARD COMMITTEE:**

In light of the rapidly rising number of COVID cases in our area, yesterday's Governor's orders, and a deep concern for the well-being of our community, we are implementing the following changes for at least the next three weeks (and potentially longer, depending on public health developments):

- There will be no in-person group meetings (both indoor and outdoor) at the church, including youth groups.
- Sunday morning worship will be pre-recorded; it will still be aired at its usual 10am time via our YouTube channel on Sunday mornings.
- Staff are encouraged to work remotely as much as possible.
- The Food Pantry will continue to operate as it has throughout the pandemic, as will WCDC.

One thing will not change: we will continue to live in faith and hope. Please continue to pray for and support all who are laboring tirelessly to develop effective responses to COVID, as well as for those who are affected physically, emotionally, spiritually, and economically by this pandemic.

**WESTMINSTER FOOD PANTRY AND THE \$16.65 CHALLENGE:** Last year, the Westminster/Downtown Food Pantry's fall food drives and "In-Gatherings" were the most successful ever. We expected the 2019 record would be bettered in 2020. However, with COVID-19, we just can't do it in the same manner. As a result, we are calling this year's "In-Gathering" the **\$16.65 Challenge**. [Click here](#) for the brochure giving you all the facts. You may also contact Angie Kelley at [angiek@wpcgr.org](mailto:angiek@wpcgr.org) for more information.

**INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION:** On **Monday, November 23 at 7:00pm** the 21st Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration, "Gratitude in Times of Challenge," will host a virtual celebration. Join us for a celebration where many traditions and cultures will come together to give thanks for one another, even in the midst of adversity and division. Through song, dance, prayer, and storytelling we will share gratitude with and for our West Michigan neighbors. A virtual free will offering will be taken for the work of Family Promise which works to eliminate homelessness in our community. To register for this event please [click here](#), or go to their website, [interfaithunderstanding.org](http://interfaithunderstanding.org), or call 616-331-5702. A link to access the celebration will be sent to all registrants.

**SPECIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 12 –** Each week, take a look at the Children's Ministry Resources on our church website. There are various videos, songs and prayers, and also different levels of Children's Bulletins. If you download a bulletin, you will find a game code printed on the bulletin that you can use to play games that fit with the worship text each week.

**BROAD-BASED ORGANIZING:** As Westminster lives into its commitment to broad-based organizing in West Michigan, we invite you to build your own skills to help us in this work. On **Thursday, December 10th from 6-8pm** on Zoom, join with others from across West Michigan for one of two sessions to build your broad-based organizing skills and go deeper to organize within Westminster. Register now at <http://bit.ly/organizewmi>.

**THE WPC YOUTH GROUP** will be meeting via ZOOM today at 4 p.m. A fun ZOOM game and the chance to check in and consider how God is with us in these crazy days will be part of this hour long meeting! Whether you are a YOUTH GROUP regular or just want to gather with these friends for the first time, please join us! [Click here](#) for Zoom link.

**STEP INTO ADVENT: ADVENT KITS:** As Advent draws near, our Faith Formation team is putting together Advent kits for all ages to help us walk through Advent from home. Households can pick up a kit on Sunday, November 29, from 11am to 1pm, or Wednesday, December 2, from 6 to 8pm. These materials will also be available online. If you would like to pick up a kit, [sign up here](#).

### **GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FROM CAMP HENRY FOR THE FALL:**

Camp Henry is excited to be holding the Camp Henry Annual Luncheon this year as a virtual event. An anonymous donor has offered a generous matching challenge for this year. This donor will match 1:1, dollar for dollar, every dollar that is raised at the luncheon this year up to \$100,000. Please consider joining Camp Henry for this annual event. A live streamed Annual Luncheon will be available to view at Noon on November 20. Feel free to watch right at noon that day—**or as you find time that evening or weekend**. There will be videos, photos, interviews, and a short program to help tell people more about the mission, vision, and ministry of Camp Henry—and about the amazing life changing successes and accomplishments that have happened during 2020, even during a worldwide pandemic. [Click here to donate](#).

### **Cabins and Lodges now on VRBO**

Looking for a warm and safe place to stay with your family? Look no further because you can now rent a cabin or lodge! The cabins and lodges are heated and have bathrooms. The lodges are two cabins connect with a middle common sitting area. Check out the VRBO postings for more info! Contact Jordan for reservations at [jordanb@camphenry.org](mailto:jordanb@camphenry.org) or (616) 717-5571

**Camp Store Bundles** | Bundles are still available at our online store! There's a bundle for every occasion!

Back to School • Birthday • Camp Henry Starter Pack • Cozy • Holiday • Mystery (\$30, \$45, & \$60 options)

Wow your friends and family with these popular Camp Henry items! Order yours [here](#).

**Also, Summer Camp 2021 registrations are open** and ready to reserve a spot for your child. Go to the Camp Henry website to register for Summer Camp 2021 at [camphenry.org](http://camphenry.org) or call 616-459-2267 for more information.

Has the cold weather made you think about summer? Below are the dates & rates for next summer.

Day Camp | Ages 5-8 | \$245-285

Mini Camp | Ages 7-11 | \$425-450

Regular Camp | Ages 8-17 | \$650

Frontier Camp | Ages 10-17 | \$750

Wakeboarding Camp | Ages 10-17 | \$775

Climbing Camp | Ages 10-17 | \$725

Service Crew | Ages 13-17 | \$525

Teen Adventure | Ages 13-17 | \$725-775 Frontier Camp | Ages 10-17 | \$750

Wakeboarding Camp | Ages 10-17 | \$775

Climbing Camp | Ages 10-17 | \$725

Service Crew | Ages 13-17 | \$525

Teen Adventure | Ages 13-17 | \$725-775

**FROM THE FOOD PANTRY: A COUPLE OF REQUESTS... MASKS!** The pantry is open on each Thursday and practices COVID masking and social distancing. Our clients really appreciate washable masks, and we are having a hard time keeping up. This will greatly enhance our ability to continue to serve safely. Also donations of **winter gloves and hats** would be appreciated for our pantry clients. New or gently used would be welcomed and may be dropped off on Thursdays when the Pantry is open (10:30a-2:30p). **RECEIPTS:** the pantry is still participating in the *SpartanNash Direct Your Dollars* program. Please remember to mail in your D & W and Family Fare receipts to the pantry. The entire receipt. For each \$150,000 in receipts, the pantry receives \$1,000! This is a great revenue source for us. Keep praying for this ministry – It is vital to our purpose to help those in need.

**THE FLORENCE AND MINNIE BEHL SCHOLARSHIP TO ALMA COLLEGE:** If you are a high school junior or senior with many decisions ahead to make, consider the advantage Westminster members and relatives of members have at Alma College. Alma College is a Presbyterian liberal arts school located about 50 miles north of Lansing. Visit their website, [www.alma.edu](http://www.alma.edu), and you will get a sense of the wonderful educational opportunities available. The Behl scholarship program offers approximately 10% of the yearly cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board to members of WPC and 5% to relatives of Westminster members. Applications for the scholarships are available in the WPC office by contacting Kathy Cisler at [kathrync@wpcgr.org](mailto:kathrync@wpcgr.org), or Mary Carrington at [mwc545@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mwc545@sbcglobal.net). Any questions, please contact Mary Carrington at [mwc545@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mwc545@sbcglobal.net) or at (616) 633-5460. The time to start planning is now. GO SCOTS!



### **Christmas Poinsettia Donation**

We invite you to donate a poinsettia in memory of, or in honor of, someone special to you. These flowers will fill our Sanctuary during worship.

**Donation: \$10.00 each** **Deadline for Order: Thursday, December 3, 2020**

**Please email Becky Wells at [beckyw@wpcgr.org](mailto:beckyw@wpcgr.org) to place your order. Include in your email, who is donating the poinsettia, who the poinsettia is in honor of, or who this is in memory of. You may make your payment by clicking on this [link](#). Or, you may send your check to the church, attention Kathy Cisler.**



**21ST ANNUAL**  
*Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration*

**"GRATITUDE IN TIMES OF CHALLENGE"**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 @ 7PM**

A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

A link to access the celebration will be sent to all registrants

Join us for a celebration  
where many traditions and cultures will come together to giving  
thanks for one another, even in the midst of adversity and division.  
Through song, dance, prayer, and storytelling we will share gratitude  
with and for our West Michigan neighbors. A virtual freewill  
offering will be taken for the work of Family Promise which works to  
eliminate homelessness in our community.

InterfaithUnderstanding.org  
Register at <http://bit.ly/interfaiththanks20>  
616-331-5702



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

**SUN. NOV. 22**

10:00 am .....Online Worship  
4:00 pm .....Zoom Youth Group

**MON. NOV. 23**

7:00 pm ..... Social Justice Committee online

**TUES. NOV. 24**

10:00 am .....Advent Decorating Sanctuary  
5:00 pm ..... Communication Committee online  
6:00 pm .....Mission Partnership Committee online

**THURS. NOV. 25**

**Food Pantry-Closed**  
**Thanksgiving Holiday**

**SUN. NOV. 29**

10:00 am .....Online Worship

**WED. DEC. 2**

7:00 pm ..... Youth Committee online

**THURS. DEC. 3**

10:30 am .....Food Pantry  
5:00 pm ..... Tech Team  
7:00 pm ..... Worship Committee

**SUN. DEC. 6**

10:00 am .....Online Worship  
4:00 pm .....Zoom Youth Group