

Elijah

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

-1 Kings 19:11-12

Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Chandler Stokes

Opening Voluntary

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

"Prelude in D minor"

J. S. Bach

Janlee Richter, Organ

Sharing the Life of Westminster

++Call to Worship

Emily Anderson

One: This is our ancient story:

All: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God.

One: In him was life and the life was the light of all people.

All: Be thou our vision, our Lord of our hearts.

One: You rose to rule this world with love.

All: Heart of our own hearts, whatever befall.

One: You have gone with us, and you are with us now.

All: We, ever with you, and thou with us, Lord!

++ Hymn 450

"Be Thou My Vision"

Slane

Call to Confession

Rev. Jeremy Bork

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, you raised Christ from death to rule this world with love.

You offer us resurrection hope and new life. And sometimes we would prefer answers. You offer us grace upon grace. And yet we regularly want something less than that. We live as if we were not loved. We live as if you were not God, and we fall prey to fear and hopelessness.

Holy God, hold us close in our anxiety and pain, and set us free to love and serve you, in the joy of your resurrection. In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

John Weaver



The Assurance of God's Grace

One: No failure lies beyond the healing of God's grace; no pattern of living beyond the reach of change.

All: God's love is perfect, and it is the power of new life.

One: God has the power to change us, to transform us into who we were called to be.

All: In the power of God's love we are forgiven, we are accepted, and everything is made new. Amen.

++Response Hymn 232 (stanza 4)

Easter Hymn

Sing we to our God above—Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love—Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host—Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—Alleluia!

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

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

One: Our Lord Jesus said:

All: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

One: This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:

All: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

One: And to empower you in this way, may the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture and Sermon

Elijah

Felix Mendelssohn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

THE OFFERING

Receiving the Offering - Signing of the Friendship Register

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

Call for the Offering

Rev. Jen Porter

Offertory

Elijah
(continued)

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Holy God of Glory and Lord of Love, we dedicate ourselves anew to following your way: to living without all the answers and to pursuing you in the way, the truth, and the life. Keep us faithful to you, as we live in joy and in hope, trusting in the power of your Holy Spirit. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

++Hymn 611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Hymn to Joy

++Charge and Benediction

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

"Werde munter, mein Gemüte" BWV 1118

J. S. Bach

The Charge

Go into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold on to all that 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.

Elijah tells of several key incidents in the life of the 9th century prophet. In Part 1, God brings on a drought because of Israel's faithlessness; Elijah proves that his God is the true and only one; and rain returns to the parched land. In Part 2, Elijah flees to the wilderness, resigned to the failure of his mission, but his spirit and strength are restored by the appearance of God and he ascends into heaven. Basically, it's the story of a good man who fights against evil and finally rises to heaven in a fiery chariot. --Notes by Rick Philips

Orchestra

Flute
Judith Kempf

Timpani
Daniel Karas

Bass
Michael Hovnanian

Oboe
Kathleen Gomez

Violin I
Eric Tanner
Christopher Martin
Grace Kim

Organ
Janlee Richter

Clarinet
Stephanie Hovnanian
Joel Scheckman

Violin II
Linda Nelson
Leslie Wilkinson

Orchestra Contractor
Diane Helle

Bassoon
Andrew Genemans

Viola
Andrew Pool
Barbara Corbató

Horn
Richard Britsch

Trumpet
Scott Thornburg

Cello
Lee Copenhaver
Stacey Tanner

Trombone
Nathan Musch

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

8:30a & 11:00a
EASTERTIDE WORSHIP

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE - ONE SERVICE AT 10:00A

May 27—Trinity Sunday
The Song May be the Reason You Believe
Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching
Scripture: Luke 1:46-56
Music: Sanctuary Choir

WORSHIP AT CAMP HENRY 10:00A
May 27—The Sacrament of Communion
Co-heirs with Christ
Rev. Jen Porter preaching
Scripture: Romans 8:14-30
Music: Cheri Reid, Soprano
Janlee Richter, Keyboard

June 3—The Second Sunday after Pentecost
Calling All Her Children: Welcome and Charge
Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching
Scripture: Selections from Romans 15
Music: Sanctuary Choir at 10:00a

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

TODAY'S OFFERINGS (MAY 20) 9:40 -10:40 A.M.

IN THE CHAPEL: CRC Office of Race Relations Series Part III

The Bible's Call to Dismantle Whiteness, Rev. Dr. Reggie Smith, Director
In this session, participants will learn about how the Bible's call to discipleship demands that we seek racial justice as a spiritual discipline.
Note: Participants in this series are encouraged to prepare by reading Waking Up White by Debby Irving

IN THE FOOD PANTRY (DOWNSTAIRS): Lectio Divina

We will continue offering the opportunity to experience the practice of Lectio Divina through the end of the program year. Now is your chance to join us in the ancient, participatory practice of reading, reflecting, and responding to Holy Scripture, praying as if in a conversation with God:

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

Preacher Rev. Chandler Stokes, Senior Pastor Head of Staff
Liturgists Emily Anderson, High School Ministries Coordinator
..... Rev. Jeremy Bork, Minister for Youth and Their Families
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Assoc. Pastor for Faith Formation & Pastoral Care

Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister

Music for Worship
8:30a - Barbara Corbató, Viola
Janlee Richter, Piano and Organ
11:00a - Sanctuary Choir
Janlee Richter, Organ
Orchestra

USHERS - Team B

8:30 am: Bernard and Kathy Smith, Rolleen and Bill Westfall
11:00 am: David Abbott, Randy Block, Daryl Fischer and Dan Gleason,
Larry Hollenbeck, Mary Jane Lamse, Steve Marshall,
Barry McKey, Wayne Spillane, Rob Wybrecht

NURSERY 8:30 & 11:00 am: Staff
11:00 am: Volunteer..... Duncan Family

WORSHIP CENTER

8:30 am: - *God's Gift of the Holy Spirit*
Leader Chris Dugan

Center 1 - 11:00 am: - (5-year olds & Kndg.) - *God's Gift of the Holy Spirit*
Leader Amy Strand

Center 2 - 11:00 am: - (1st & 2nd graders) - *God's Gift of the Holy Spirit*
Leader Tim Born

NURTURING CENTER - 11:00am: - *A Song in the Night*

Leader Kathy Born

Please remember in your prayers this week...

Thank you to our Westminster family for the prayers, cards, and loving support shown to Bernie and me during my hospitalization and recovery these past several weeks, Kathy and Bernie Smith.

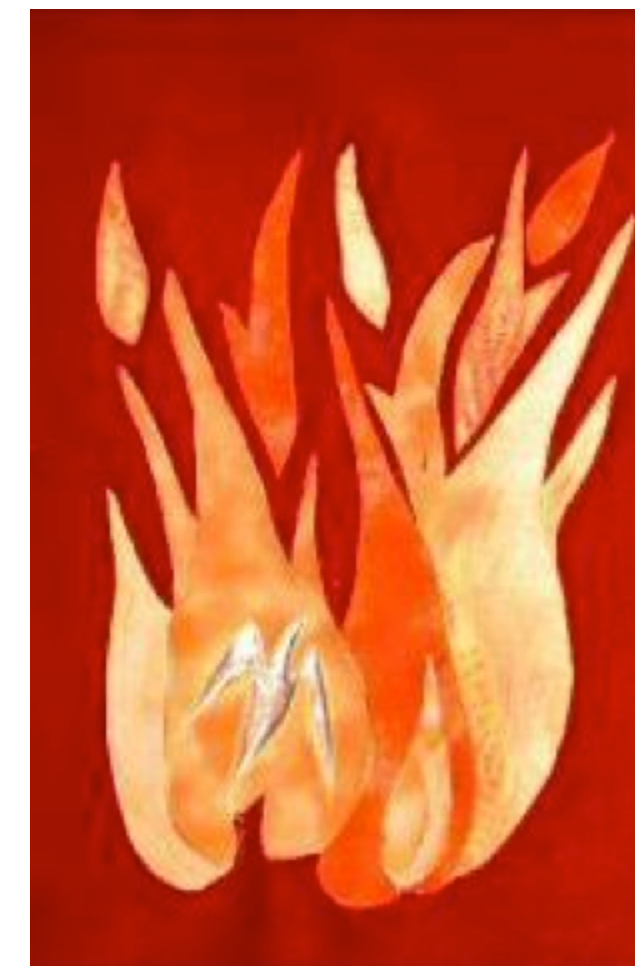
Our prayers continue for Mark Walters and his family after the death of his wife in January. A celebration of Sandie's life was held at Westminster on May 20. May God's peace surround them all.

DEVOTION FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 20

On May 17, 1968, Catonsville Nine, which included two Catholic priests, entered the Selective Service offices in Catonsville, MD, and burned several hundred draft records in a direct action against the Vietnam War. They were arrested, tried, and found guilty of destroying government property. After the nine were sentenced, one of the priests, Dan Berrigan, asked the judge if the Lord's Prayer could be recited. All in the courtroom, including the judge and prosecuting attorneys, rose and joined in the prayer.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus Christ, set freedom on our hearts and let us not rest until it comes. (Adapted from Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, p. 282)*

PENTECOST



Elijah

PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 20, 2018
11:00 A.M.