

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

Sentences of Scripture Brendan Omicioli

Opening Voluntary (A musical prayer offered on behalf of the people of God.) "Prelude in B-flat Minor" Adrian Pool, Piano

Sharing the Life of Westminster Susan Jennings

Call to Worship (We gather around sacred symbols to become aware of God's presence and our presence here.)

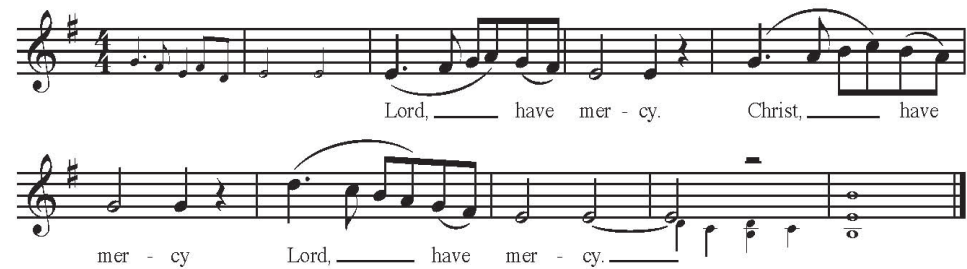
++ Hymn 1 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" Nicaea

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

Prayer of Confession (unison) O Lord our God, you are the one who gives gift upon gift. You have birthed us to new life, blessed us with hope, and have given your very self. Like a lover, you call us to arise and come away. But we are a distracted people. We are enticed by other voices. We are quick to forget your grace and miss your ordinary miracles all around us. All too often we have abandoned the widow and orphan. We have turned our ears from you and our eyes from others. Birth your word in us again, that we may follow your call and walk in your ways.

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison "Lord, Have Mercy" John Weaver



The Assurance of God's Grace

One: In a world full of questions and uncertainties, fears and failures, we find our center in this amazing grace: All: Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Nothing. One: Believe this good news of the gospel: All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are accepted, and everything is made new. One: We are beloved children of God, All: Free to make our home in God's new creation. Alleluia, Amen.

++ Response Hymn 749 "Come! Live in the Light!" (sing twice) We Are Called We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

++The Summary of the Law and the Passing of the Peace (A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

One: With what shall we come before the Lord? All: What can we bring? One: God has told us what is required: All: "To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God." One: Love calls us into community and into the world. All: And to empower us in this way, May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. One: And also with you.

Ministry of Music "Interlude" Adrian Pool, Piano

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

Scripture Reading James 1:17-27 New Testament p. 229 One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Religion That Is Pure Brendan Omicioli

RESPONDING TO THE WORD THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People - (The cup contains grape juice and the bread is gluten free.) Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward row by row starting in the front. On the pulpit side, use the aisles on the left of your section to come to the front and return by the aisle to your right. On the lectern side, use the aisles on the right of your section to come to the front and return by the aisle to your left. If you prefer to remain seated, an elder will come to you with the elements. Take the bread and dip it in the chalice. It is appropriate to respond by saying "Amen" upon receiving the sacrament.

Closing Prayer

THE OFFERING

Receiving the Offering - Signing of the Friendship Register (Please sign the friendship pad and pass it down the pew. Thank you!)

Offertory "Morning Song" Wilbur Held (melody from "The Union Harmony")

++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!

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Prayer of Dedication Holy God, in our baptism you have claimed us, at this table you have fed us. Let us be your people, the first fruits of your kingdom, that we might proclaim our faith with our lives. Give us the courage to care for the orphan and widow. Give us the courage to humbly listen and humbly proclaim so that our religion might be pleasing to you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

++Hymn 708 "We Give Thee but Thine Own" Schumann

++Charge & Benediction

Closing Voluntary Toccata on "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Michael Burkhardt

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.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP
8:30a and 11:00a

RESPONSES OF FAITH

September 9—The 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Right Here

Rev. Jen Porter preaching
 Scripture: Luke 9:57-62 & 2 Corinthians 5:1-7
 Music: Sanctuary Choir at 8:30a & 11:00a

September 16—The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Sue Rozeboom preaching
 On this Sunday our guest pastor, is
 Associate Professor of liturgical theology at
 Western Theological Seminary
 Music: Kate Reed and Sarah Johnson, Sopranos at 8:30a
 Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a

DEVOTION FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2 -

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change -James 1:17. Twentieth century theologian, Karl Barth, wrote that grace and gratitude "belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice and echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder [follows] lightning". If the essence of God is grace then to be God's people means to live in gratitude to the One who is continually the giver. **For reflection:** *What has God given you today? How might God be calling you to live a life of gratitude? (From Church Dogmatics Vol. VI, Part 1, p. 41)*

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 9:45a - 11:30a (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 • westminstergr.org • 616-456-1456

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Brendan Omicioli, Pastoral Intern
 Liturgists Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership
 Rev. David Baak, Executive Pastor

Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister

Music for Worship

10:00 am: Adrian Pool, Piano
 Janlee Richter, Organ

USHERS - Team B

10:00 am: Bernard and Kathy Smith, Rolleen and Bill Westfall, David Abbott, Randy Block, Daryl Fischer and Dan Gleason, Larry Hollenbeck, Mary Jane Lamse, Steve Marshall, Barry McKey, Wayne Spillane, Rob Wybrecht

GREETERS

10:00 am: Atrium..... Betty Webber
 E. Narthex..... Jan Tworck
 W. Narthex Mindy and Wayne Spillane

NURSERY

10:00 am: Staff

SUMMER WORSHIP CENTER FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 – SECOND GRADE:

During the summer months, we vary our curriculum to provide a time for children to apply biblical concepts to daily life situations by reading excellent children's illustrated books. Children will think and talk about how we should treat God's creation, each other, people who have lives that are unfamiliar to us; and what we can do to share God's love and beauty with others. We conclude our time together by lighting the Christ Candle and praying.

TODAY, SEPTEMBER 2—there will be no Worship Center or Nurturing Centers. Children three through second grade please continue to worship with your families in the Sanctuary. Children three and younger are welcome in the Nursery.

SEPTEMBER 9—We will be returning to our two worship services. Please register your children at the Children's check-in table before going to Worship & Nurturing Centers.

On this Sunday the Worship & Nurturing Centers will be reading books on friends, *Stand in My Shoes* by Bob Sorenson, *Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel, and *That's What Friends Do* by Kathryn Cave.

Children will share in an activity: They will pair up to ask "get to know each other questions." Such as; What is your favorite color, food, animal? Or, Do you go to .. school, if so which one?

On September 9 we will have one Worship Center at 8:30a and Center 1 - 11:00a: for (5-year olds & Kndg), and Center 2 - 11:00a: for (1st & 2nd graders)

NURTURING CENTER - 11:00a: (3 & 4 year olds)

Please remember in your prayers this week...

Prayers of healing to all our members and friends recovering from surgery or living with an illness.

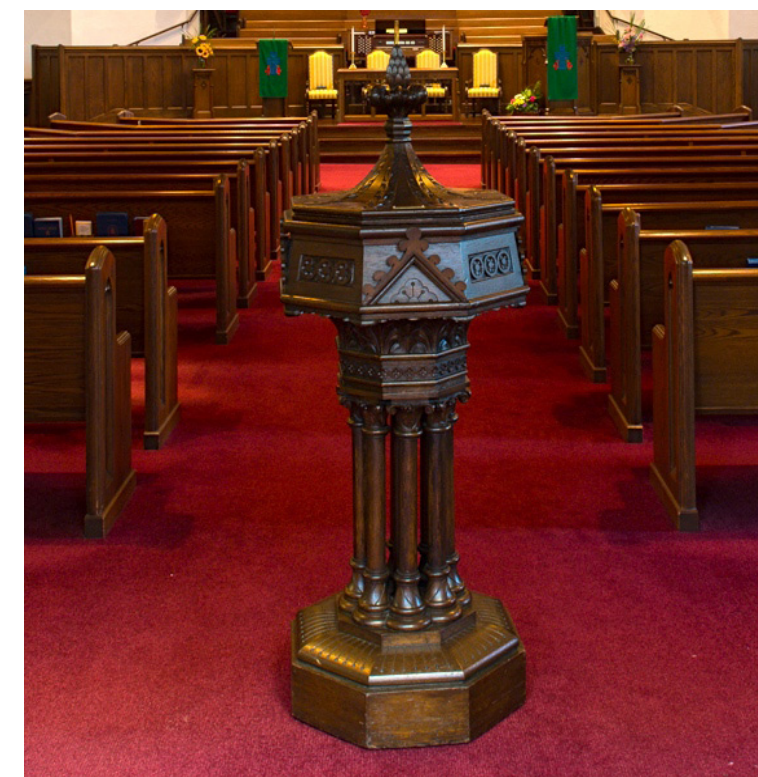
Prayers of gratitude for everyone at Camp 2018 experiencing community and the beauty of creation at Camp Henry.

You are invited to visit our columbarium on Sunday mornings from 9a - 12p to remember the saints and their loved ones in a quiet reflective space. You may also visit during our office hours (Monday through Thursday, 9a - 4p); please check in with the greeter for weekday access. The columbarium is accessible through the chapel in the southeast corner of the building.



WESTMINSTER
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RESPONSES OF FAITH



Religion That Is Pure

**THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
 AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 2, 2018
 10:00 A.M.**