



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



John Z

"Abundance"

9.13.2020

Gifts in the Wilderness: God in the Rear View Mirror

THE TWENTIETH
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 18, 2020

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

Gifts in the Wilderness: God in the Rear View Mirror

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*Blood-red sun rises into autumn ripened sky
Splitting gray morning open like softened stone
and something gentle is spilling through,
embracing me in the curl of a vast upturned palm,
the light touch of a wide welcoming hand.
And did Moses wish he could stay in just this kind of moment
Grace unfolding around him and within...
the way I wish this moment could stay in me... —“The Moses Moment,” Andrew King*

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

“Children of the Heavenly Father” *arr. Robert Hobby*
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

++Call to Worship

Francis Heethuis, Zak Porter, Kyah VanBrouwer (Third Graders)

++Opening Hymn 188

“Jesus Loves Me!”

Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, “Let them come to me.”**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Prayer of Confession

Nancy Greidanus

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

Holy God, you show us your ways, yet we often stray from your path. You know us and love us deeply, yet we leave you out of our daily lives. You never leave us, yet we doubt your presence with us. You have given us all things in Christ, yet we seek fulfillment from material possessions and worldly success. Forgive us, O God, and restore in us the reflection of your face...

Silent Confession

The Assurance of God’s Grace

++ Response Hymn 490

“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”
(stanza 2)

Beach Spring

**Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.**

++Stand as you are able

++Passing the Peace of Christ

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

Blessing of the Third Grade Bibles

Eddie Engbers, Gwen Hausig, Frannie Heethuis, Katie Kloostra, Breslin Lawrence, Zak Porter, Drew Postma, Tiernan Ripmaster, Nolan Sharpe, Kyah VanBrouwer, Lucas VanderWoude, and Sophie Wurl.

Ministry of Music

“A Simple Song”
Cheri Reid, Soprano

Leonard Bernstein

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

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

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Scripture

Exodus 33:12-23 (Third Grade Liturgists)

Old Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Gifts in the Wilderness: God in the Rear View Mirror

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith

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

(We affirm our faith together to remind us who and whose we are.)

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, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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 Stewardship

Offering Our Lives

++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 trust you, Lord God, to multiply the blessings these gifts represent. Use them to pour out your love and grace on our broken and fearful world, that we all may be healed and whole. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 12

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

St. Denio

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
‘tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

“Processional”
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

William Mathias

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Liturgists Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Executive Pastor
..... Francis Heethuis, Zak Porter, Kyah VanBrouwer, Third Graders
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families
Stewardship Liturgists..... Carol Lautenbach, Dave Driscoll, Suzann & Mark Ogland-Hand
Stewardship Liturgists from October 11 Julia de Jonge, John Nienhuis, Daryl Fischer
Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister
Worship Musicians..... Cheri Reid, Soprano, Bruce Klein-Wassink, Baritone
Technology Team Rachel Kamstra, Stella Sheckler, Peter Larson, and Dan Cisler

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Livestreaming from the Westminster Sanctuary

October 25 – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Gifts in the Wilderness: A Vision for the Future

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching
Scripture: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Music: Diane Helle, Violin
Eric Richter, Tenor

November 1 – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints' Day

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Jen Porter preaching
Music: Hugh Griffith, Bass
Helen Hofmeister, Harpsichord

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, or contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org.

DISCONTINUATION OF PRE-WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP AND POST-SERMON DISCUSSION

GROUPS: In these unprecedented days of pandemic and live streamed worship, we have been experimenting with different opportunities for connection. While some of these ways are finding traction, others aren't. Due to limited participation, we are discontinuing pre-worship fellowship and post-sermon discussion groups over Zoom. However, we will continue to seek out meaningful ways for us to connect with one another. If you have questions, concerns, or new ideas, please contact one of the pastoral staff.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP 2020:

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY is **OCTOBER 25, 2020!** While we are not able to worship in person, the worship and work of Christ's Church here at Westminster is alive and well! We look forward to celebrating God's abundance in culminating our month of Stewardship during the 10 a.m. worship service on October 25. A special thanks to all who have turned in their pledges already! If you haven't had a chance to submit your pledge, please do so either by mail or by using the link [here](#). THANK YOU for sharing your abundance in this COVID wilderness! Grace and peace, your Stewardship Committee.



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

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: We are thrilled to report that as of October 14, we have received 38 pledges totaling \$167,000. Nineteen of those pledges were increases over last year's pledge. That is a great start. Please get your pledge in as we continue to support the ministry and mission of Westminster.

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.

TODAY IS 3RD-GRADE BIBLES SUNDAY! The Westminster family will give each of its 3rd graders a personal Bible. The Bibles will be dedicated in the worship service. This is a meaningful time in the life of the church as we see God's faithfulness to the next generation. This year, we have paired the children with deacons who will be their Bible Buddies and who will present their Bibles to them in person.

PARKING LOT PARTY TODAY! An All Church Event from 3:00p - 4:00p! Bring your banks or donations for the BUILD THE BANK campaign, bring old T-shirts to make into food pantry bags, bring your own beverage, or just bring yourself! We'll have a chance to see each other in person (with masks, of course), have packaged snacks, and contribute to the food pantry with our money and by making T-shirt bags. Please park on the street so children can bring their scooters and can play in the parking lot or playground.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING 2020 - BUILDING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD OF PEACE:

Every year on World Communion Sunday, together with churches throughout our denomination, we receive this special offering which helps the church promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. 25% of this offering stays with our local congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. Please give as generously as you are able to support this work by [clicking here](#).

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE AND THE SESSION are excited to announce Westminster's participation in the launch of an IAF-affiliated broad-based community organizing effort in Grand Rapids. The Momentum is growing! The GRAND RAPIDS AREA BROAD BASED ORGANIZING TEAM Launch Event is **Saturday, October 24 at 11 a.m.** Westminster is one of the founding organizations of this team and we hope to have dozens of Westminster members attending. Rev. Robert Dean from New Life Church of God in Christ will be the Launch Day speaker. Register for this virtual event at bit.ly/momentumwmi.

THE WAY FORWARD group continues to meet regularly discerning our path in these COVID days. The group has recently created guidelines for small groups of 25 or fewer to meet in the church. Groups that would like to do that must follow the guidelines and make arrangements with Kathy Cisler, (kathrync@wpcgr.org) or Brad Hambelton, (bradh@wpcgr.org) in advance. During Advent, in addition to our Sunday live streamed services, the Way Forward Committee, in collaboration with the Worship Committee, is exploring ways to offer safe small group worship experiences offered at various times. Keep your eyes peeled for more information.

SHARE A SONG OR PRAYER: Does your family have a special song or prayer that they use before meals or before bedtime? The Westminster family would like to add it to our monthly Memory Verse and Prayers list. Contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org to share it with us!

CENTERING PRAYER: Join us for a time of quiet to connect to the holy within. This group shares time to check in with one another and as Richard Rohr says, "sitting in silence to open to God's love and our love for God." Whether we are new to this practice or continuing, all are invited to gather together. Led by Sara Zallar on **Thursday evenings**. Contact Sarah Zallar at smjohnso614@hotmail.com to register.

THE WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP has resumed meeting (via Zoom). Our next meeting is **Sunday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be discussing "Refugee" by Alan Gratz and, of course, new readers are always welcome. Anyone who has questions or is interested in being added to our emailing list can contact Marcie Beck at beckmarcella7@gmail.com. A tour de force from acclaimed author Alan Gratz (Prisoner B-3087), this timely, and timeless novel tells the powerful story of three different children seeking refuge. All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers - from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. Published in 2017, it received positive reviews that praised both its style and historical accuracy. Including: (among many others) 2018 National Jewish Book Award Winner for Young Adults YALSA 2018 Best Fiction for Young Adults

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FROM CAMP HENRY FOR THE FALL:

Fall Work Day | Saturday, October 24th | 9:30-3pm | All Ages

It's all about giving back to the place that gave us so much. Join us on Saturday, October 24th as we help brighten and better camp! Projects include: cutting trees down, leaf clean up, cutting & splitting firewood, plant grass, spread woodchips, and more! Lunch is included! Please RSVP [here](#) so we can plan accordingly

Trail Rides | Various Fall Dates | Ages 10+ | \$20 per person

Camp Henry offers Trail Rides on our Camp Horses with their trained and knowledgeable staff. Bring your family and friends to camp for a scenic trail ride! Book your ride at camphenry.org/events.

Camp 'n Treat | October 31 4:00p-7:00p: Looking for an awesome way to celebrate Halloween? Camp Henry is hosting Camp 'n Treat - with trick or treating, pony rides, fall activities, a costume contest, snacks, and more! This is a free event with a suggested donation of \$5 per person. Safety precautions will be in place. All ages. RSVP at camphenry.org/events.

Dad and Me Weekend | Nov 6-8, 2020 | All Ages | \$99 (4 & under free)

Dads, Uncles, and Grandpas! Get ready for a weekend packed full of activities at camp and quality time with the kids. You can look forward to some serious outdoor fun! Both sons and daughters are welcome. Registration for all of them are at camphenry.org/events or call camp at 616-459-2267.

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 already open. Go to the Camp Henry website to register for Summer Camp 2021 at camphenry.org or call for more information.

FROM THE FOOD PANTRY: A COUPLE OF COVID 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. **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, 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, or Mary Carrington at mwc545@sbcglobal.net. Any questions, please contact Mary Carrington at mwc545@sbcglobal.net or at (616) 633-5460. The time to start planning is now. GO SCOTS!

WESTMINSTER FOOD PANTRY BENEFITS FROM SPARTANNASH FOUNDATION: Westminster Food Pantry is proud to partner with the SpartanNash Foundation during its retail scan campaign to provide hunger relief in the local community. **Between October 23 and November 3**, store guests who visit the Breton Village D&W will have the opportunity to donate \$1, \$5 or \$10 at any checkout lane, with 100 percent of dollars raised going directly to Westminster Food Pantry. Please shop and donate during this special opportunity for our Westminster Food Pantry.

Calendar of Events

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

SUN. OCT 18

8:30 am Confirmation
10:00 am Livestream Worship
10:00 am 3rd Grade Bibles (online)
2:00 pm Youth Group
3:00 pm All Church Event in Parking Lot

MON. OCT 19

6:00 pm Mission Partnership Comm. (online)
6:30 pm Trustees (online)
7:00pm Facilities Committee (online)

TUES. OCT 20

12:00 pm Memorial Trust (online)
7:00 pm Nominating Committee (online)

WED. OCT 21

5:00 pm Way Forward Group (online)
7:00 pm Bible Study (Parlor)
7:00 pm Children & Family Committee (offsite)

THURS. OCT 22

10:30 am Food Pantry
2:00 pm Inner Compass Group (online)

SUN. OCT 25

8:30 am Confirmation
10:00 am Livestream Worship and
Stewardship Dedication Sunday
4:00 pm Youth Group

MON. OCT 26

7:00 pm Social Justice (online)

SUN. NOV. 1

Daylight Savings Begins

8:30 am Confirmation
10:00 am Livestream Worship and
4:00 pm Youth Group