



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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When Jesus Shows Up, Life Is Sacrament

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 14, 2021

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

When Jesus Shows Up, Life Is Sacrament

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

Walking the labyrinth clears the mind and gives insight into the spiritual journey. It urges action. It calms people in the throes of life transitions. It helps them see their lives in the context of a path, a pilgrimage. They realize that they are not human beings on a spiritual path but spiritual beings on a human path. To those of us who feel we have untapped gifts to offer, it stirs the creative fires within. To others who are in deep sorrow, the walk gives solace and peace.

– Lauren Artress

Opening Voluntary

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

“If Thou But Trust in God to Save Thee”

J.S. Bach

Helen Hofmeister, Harpsichord

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

++Call to Worship

++Opening Hymn 463

“How Firm a Foundation”

Foundation

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God’s excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.**

**“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.**

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Lynette Sparks

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

God of mercy, you have offered us abundant freedom and grace. You have come to us with words of life, spreading a table before us. And yet, we have often held back from living fully. Forgive our indifference to the suffering around us, the cracked and jagged edges of our world that we avoid. Forgive the brittle words we have thought and spoken, the relationships we have not tended. Show us what it means to love again. Lord, hear our prayer...

Silent Confession

Assurance of God's Grace

++Response Hymn 698

**"Take, O Take Me as I Am"
Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

John L. Bell

++Passing the Peace of Christ

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

Ministry of Music

"Chaconne and Variations"
Helen Hofmeister, Harpsichord

G. F. Handel

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture

John 4:1-42

New Testament

One: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

When Jesus Shows Up, Life Is Sacrament

Rev. Jen Porter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith

from "A Brief Statement of Faith," Presbyterian Church USA
(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, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Lenten Testimony

John and Meredith Baker

Offering Our Lives

Offertory

"Wondrous Love"
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

arr. David Dahl

++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!**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Laurie Hartzell
Rev. Lynette Sparks

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 543 **"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"**

Green Tyler

**God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

**Bind to myself the Name of Holy,
great cloud of witnesses enfold,
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

**Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

**Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Prelude in A Minor"
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

J.S Bach

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Pastoral Care
Liturgists Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership
..... Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Associate Pastor for Youth and Mission
..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister
Worship Musicians Kathy Vandervelde, Soprano; Bruce Klein-Wassink, Baritone
Technology Team Dan Cisler, Rachel Kamstra, and Peter Larson
Chat Host Erin Molhoek

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Livestreamed from the Westminster Sanctuary

March 21— Fifth Sunday in Lent

When Jesus Shows Up, Stones Fall

Rev. Laurie Hartzell preaching

Scripture: John 8:1-11

Music: Janlee Richter, Organ

Jeff Wilkinson, Tenor

March 28— Palm/Passion Sunday

When Jesus Shows Up, Hosannas Resound (for a Time)

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching

Scripture: John 12:12-16

Music: Helen Hofmeister

Janlee Richter, Piano

Harper Davis, Tristan Gerville-Réache, Maren Gregg,

Henny Maher, Nadia Schoon

We're glad you worshiped with us today!
If you would like to know about the life and ministry of Westminster,
visit our website at westminstergr.org or contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINDING OUR WAY FORWARD IN THESE COVID-19 DAYS: At its March 1 meeting, the Session approved a recommendation from The Way Forward committee that we do a test run on opening the building for groups and allow the youth group and the Stained Glass Task Force to meet in person at the church. The youth group will meet on Sundays at the church starting March 14. The groups will gather in clusters of no more than 20 people in a space with masks and social distancing protocols followed. The Session, with guidance from the Way Forward Committee, is beginning to consider the possibility of opening for worship with limited numbers handled by reservations. More details will be available in April and May. The church has been pleased to offer funeral space for groups under 50 to two families during this pandemic and will continue to offer that for families as needed. The church staff is beginning to be able to get vaccinated. So far, one staff member is fully vaccinated and three staff members have had their first shot. Please keep our Way Forward Committee and Session in prayer as we discern the path of safely opening up and living into new invitations from God's Spirit!

YOUTH GROUP IN PERSON: **Sunday, March 14, Middle School at 2:30 and High School at 4:00.**

Come join us for a time of games and fellowship. The Middle School Group will continue exploring some of their questions about faith. This week's question: What is Prayer? And Do I have to bow my head to pray?

THURSDAY NIGHT CONNECTION: **Thursdays, March 18 -March 25, 6:30 p.m., Zoom.**

Mark Thursdays in March with our community. What happens when Jesus shows up? We will hold our theme together at 6:30 on Thursday evenings. All are welcome for a time of led reflection and conversation. There are no signups, come as you are available for this shared time on [Zoom](#).

DID YOU MISS ATTENDING THE NEXT CHURCH NATIONAL GATHERING? Good News! We have purchased a group subscription for the Westminster community to access all of the content from this past weekend's NEXT Church National Gathering – Breaking, Blessing, Building: A Call for the Common Good. You will have access to recordings of worship, workshops, and speakers, as well as discussion guides and other resources. To access these resources: 1. Go to <https://nextchurch.net/product/group-subscription-access/>. Enter our church's passcode: NEXT327. Follow directions to add product into your cart and checkout (it will be free!).

THE WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP: **Sunday, March 21, 7:00 p.m., Zoom**

The WPC Fiction Book Group is meeting via Zoom for fellowship and lively discussion. On Sunday evening March 21 @ 7:00 we will log on to discuss UNSHELTERED by Barbara Kingsolver. On April 18 we will celebrate Poetry Month with a discussion of African American poetry, including the Young Adult novel in verse, BROWN GIRL DREAMING by Jacqueline Woodson. May 16 will "take" us to Syria with a discussion of THE BEEKEEPER OF ALEPPO by Christy Lefteri. All our meetings begin @ 7:00 p.m. New readers and voices are always welcome. Email beckmarcella7@gmail.com to join the fun.

SPRING BREAK DAYS OF ADVENTURE AT CAMP HENRY: **April 6-8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Camp Henry.**

Days of Adventure provide awesome opportunities for campers to get to the Shores of Old Lake Kimball. Each day will include a full schedule of camp programs and activities as well as lunch. Camp Henry is providing a safe and structured setting where kids can have a blast! 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. each day. Ages 7-13 | \$50 per day | Transportation from WPC is available for an additional \$15 per day. Click [here](#) for more information.

DAD AND ME WEEKEND AT CAMP HENRY: **April 30-May 2 | All Ages | \$99 per person (4 & under free)**

Calling all Dads, Grandpas, and Uncles! Get ready for a weekend packed full of activities at Camp Henry while enjoying quality time with the kids. Both sons and daughters are welcome. This event runs from Friday at 7pm to Sunday at 1pm. For more information go to camphenry.org/events

YOUTH MAILING LIST: Did you know that each week an email is sent to youth and their parents with information about the upcoming youth events? If you didn't know this, have a teen living in your home, and would like to be on this email list, send a note to Laurie at laurieh@wpcgr.org. She will be sure you get on the list!

YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS: The Middle Schoolers will be camping in Nordhouse Dunes from June 13 - June 16. The High Schoolers will leave on June 25 to spend a long weekend in the Bridgebuilders Program with Sunshine Gospel Ministries and then take a couple days to camp and reflect in Devil's Lake, Wisconsin, returning via the Lakeshore Express on July 1. We are excited to be partnering with Camp Henry on these trips! Click [here](#) for more information and registration details about the Middle School Trip and [here](#) for High School.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: These groups meet every Wednesday to read a chapter of scripture each week and hold a few questions to share in conversation. Groups gather via zoom at 7:00 p.m. Members, visitors, friends are welcome. [Sign up here.](#)

THE DEACON'S FUND: This fund was established many years ago to assist church members with short term financial needs, such as utility payments, transportation, and insurance payments. The fund is generously funded by the congregation, and we want to put it to use for those that have been hard hit by under-employment, illness, or other unforeseen circumstances. To initiate a request, please contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org or 456-1456. All information will be kept confidential.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: This is a reminder that each Sunday, our Children's Worship team creates videos for children that go with the themes of Sunday services and our church calendar. You can find these videos on the Westminster YouTube Channel. Contact Nancy at nancyg@wpcgr.org for more information.

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS: Please [click here](#) for a document that provides information on ways you can give digitally to the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office at 616-456-1456.



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

WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY FACEBOOK GROUP: If you're on Facebook and haven't already, please join our WPC Community Group! We share reflections after services, our pets, our joys, and church updates in the group as another way to stay connected during these times. [Click here](#) to join the group.

Westminster Child Development Center Returnables for Reading

WCDC is collecting bottles and cans to fund our ever-growing library. We strive to provide books that act as a mirror, where our children can see themselves, as well as those that are windows into the outside world, to reinforce the value of our differences and celebrate our diversity. Please join this effort to provide our young learners with the stories that will help them better understand the people and cultures of our world. If you have cans and/or bottles to donate, you can ring the bell under the blue WCDC awning (located on the La Grave side of Westminster Presbyterian Church) from 6:30 - 6:00 Monday-Friday, and a staff member will collect your donation. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of this crucial mission.



Upcoming Calendar of Events

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

SUN. MARCH 14

10:00 am Online Worship

MON. MARCH 15

11:30 am WCDC Board Meeting
12:00 pm Text Talk
6:00 pm Mission Partnerships Committee

TUES. MARCH 16

9:30 am Food Pantry
3:30 pm Stewardship Meeting
6:30 pm Camp Henry Board Meeting
6:30 pm Faith Formation Meeting
7:00 pm Nominating Committee Meeting

WED. MARCH 17

5:00 pm Communications Meeting
7:00 pm Bible Study Group
7:00 pm Stained Glass Task Force

THURS. MARCH 18

7:30 am Core Missions Council
10:30 am Food Pantry
2:00 pm Inner Compass
4:00 pm ... Broad Based Organizing Red Cluster Meeting
6:30 pm Thursday Night Connection

SUN. MARCH 14

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