



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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When Jesus Shows Up, Grace Abounds

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 21, 2021

10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

When Jesus Shows Up, Grace Abounds

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*I do not understand the mystery of God's grace, only that it meets us where we are
but does not leave us where it found us...*

– Anne LaMotte

Opening Voluntary

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

“The God of Abraham Praise”

Wayne L. Wold

Janlee Richter, Organ

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

++Call to Worship

The Fortuna Family

++Opening Hymn 445

“God, How Can We Forgive”

Leoni

**God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?
How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?
When human loving fails and every hope is gone,
your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.**

**When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,
how can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?
The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.
A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.**

**Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,
when you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.
As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.**

Prayer of Confession

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

**God of Grace, we look in our hands this morning and see we are holding stones formed
from many of the hard places in our lives. We see stones of bitterness. Stones of fear. Stones
of indifference. Stones that reveal our longing for position and power. Stones that we often
throw at others, sometimes knowingly and sometimes unknowingly. As we look honestly
at the stones we hold, we ask for the grace to receive your healing and forgiveness and the
courage to release these stones. Hear our prayers. . .**

Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

++Response Hymn 698

“Take, O Take Me as I Am”

John L. Bell

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

++Stand as you are able

++Passing the Peace of Christ

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

Ministry of Music

“Ich will leiden, ich wird scheiden”

J. S. Bach

from Cantata 87

Jeff Wilkinson, Tenor

Ich will leiden, ich will schweigen,

Jesus wird mir Hilf erzeigen,

Denn er tröst' mich nach dem Schmerz.

Weicht, ihr Sorgen, Trauer, Klagen,

Denn warum sollt ich verzagen?

Fasse dich, betrübtes Herz!

I will suffer, I will be silent,

Jesus will show me help,

for He comforts me after pain.

Away, you troubles, sorrows, laments,

why should I despair?

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture

John 8:1-10

Jocelyn and Karys Russell

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

When Jesus Shows Up, Grace Abounds

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith

Elder John Nienhuis

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.

The Prayers of the People

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.

Lenten Testimony

Anne Bobroff

Offering Our Lives

Offertory

“Weepin’ Mary”
Jeff Wilkinson, Tenor

H. T. Burleigh

++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:

Holy One, we have reflected on our own weaknesses and on the frailty of others. We have heard Jesus say, ‘Go and sin no more.’ Give us faith to no longer accuse ourselves of sins that have been forgiven. Fill us with mercy so we no longer condemn others for sins that you have forgiven in them. Knowing the joy of such grace, may we live in ways that cause your mercy and goodness to explode and overflow into every corner of our homes, community, and world. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 450

“Be Thou My Vision”

Slane

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

“Gigue in F minor”
from Suite VIII
Janlee Richter, Organ

G. F. Handel

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Associate Pastor for Youth and Mission
Liturgists Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Pastoral Care
.....Fortuna Family
..... Karys and Jocelyn Russell
..... John Nienhuis, Elder for Membership Growth and Development
.....Anne Bobroff
Worship Musicians Janlee Richter, Jeff Wilkinson
Technology Team Dan Cisler, Rachel Kamstra, and Peter Larson
Chat Host Erin Molhoek

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Livestreamed from the Westminster Sanctuary

March 28 – Palm/Passion Sunday

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

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching

Scripture: John 12:12-16; Philippians 2:5-11

Music: Helen Hofmeister

Janlee Richter, Piano

Harper Davis, Tristan Gerville-Réache, Maren Gregg,
Henny Maher, Nadia Schoon

April 1, – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae

Live streamed, 7:30pm

April 2 – Good Friday Service

Prerecorded

April 4 – Easter Sunday

When Jesus Shows Up, Resurrection!

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

YOUTH GROUP IN PERSON: Sunday, March 21 and 28, Middle School at 2:30 p.m. and High School at 4:00 p.m. Be sure to bring your mask!

THURSDAY NIGHT CONNECTION: Thursday 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](#).

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 campheny.org/events

WALK FOR GOOD FOOD: May 2 - May 12.

Save the Date for the 2021 #Walk4GoodFood - May 2 - 12. This year is a virtual walk and that means you can choose when, where and with whom to walk. Regardless of how you choose to participate go to westminstergr.org to join our team! More info to follow in the coming weeks.

CAMP HENRY'S FAMILY CAMP: May 28 - 30, Camp Henry.

“Camp Henry’s Family Camp is happening Memorial Day Weekend, May 28-30. A summer camp experience for the whole family! Register [here](#) to reserve your family’s spot! campheny.org/events”

YOUTH SUMMER TRIP REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31: 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](#).

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!

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. Click [here](#). Enter our church’s passcode: NEXT327. Follow directions to add product into your cart and checkout (it will be free!).

NEW! WESTMINSTER TECH ASSISTANCE TEAM! The Tech Assistance Team is a group of Westminster volunteers who can assist the WPC Community with navigating the technology that has become so important for keeping in touch during the pandemic. The Tech Assistance Team can help you with questions such as:

-How do I watch the YouTube livestream on my Smart TV?

-What are all the buttons in a Zoom call for?

-How do I use Facebook?

-How can I prevent emails from being marked as spam?

...and many, many more!!

You can use the form any time to submit general tech assistance requests or you can call the office and they'll pass your request on to the team! Got a request? Let us know [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.

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 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!

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 21

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

MON. MARCH 22

12:00 pm Text Talk
7:00 pm Social Justice Committee Meeting

TUES. MARCH 23

9:30 am Food Pantry

WED. MARCH 24

4:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting
7:00 pm Bible Study Group
7:00 pm Children and Families Ministries Committee

THURS. MARCH 25

10:30 am Food Pantry
6:30 pm Thursday Night Connection

SUN. MARCH 28

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