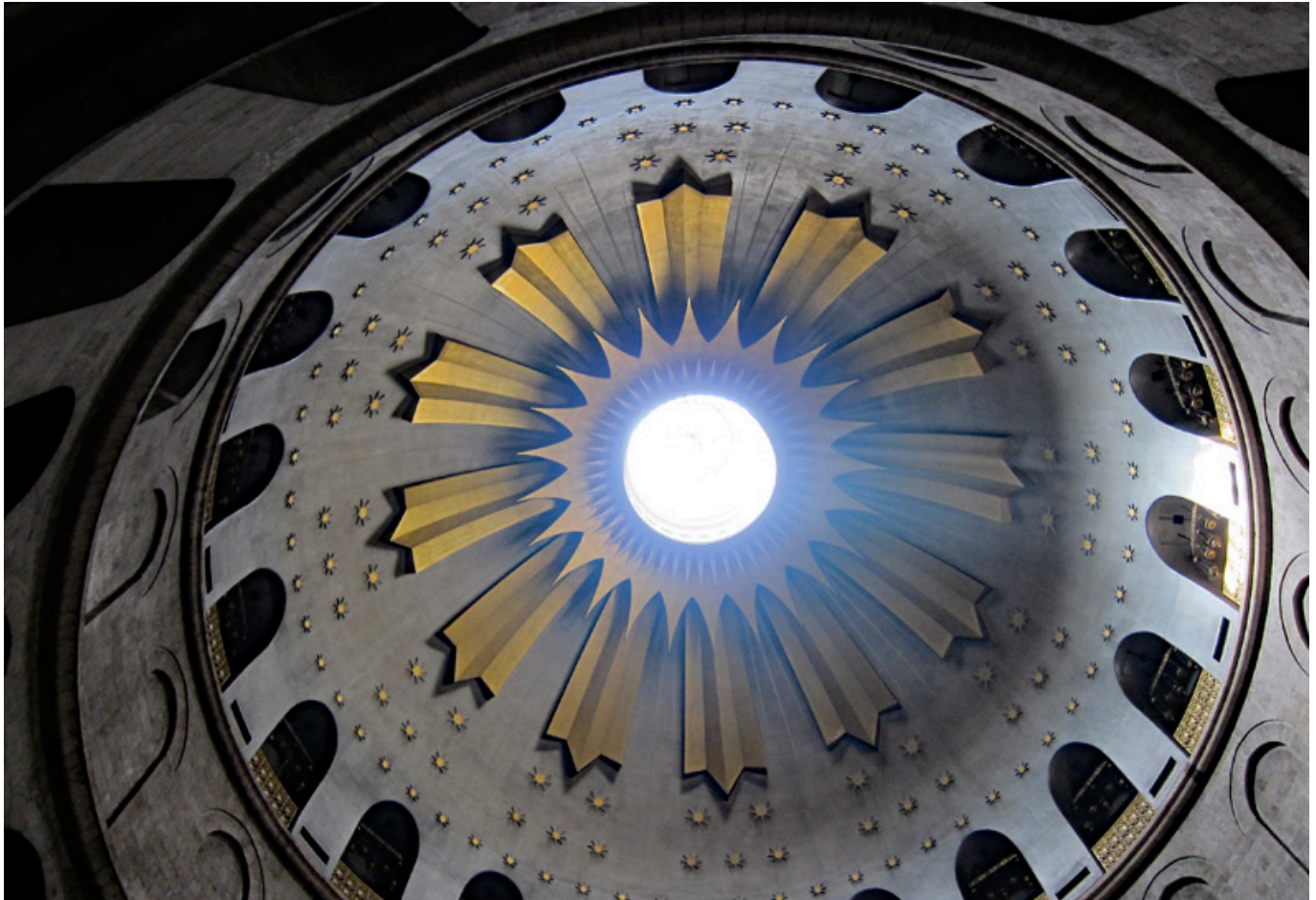




WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Jerusalem)

Pray It Forward

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 16, 2021
10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

Pray It Forward

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

The practice of prayer that binds us in love to God and in love to neighbor beyond our small claim is the resolve to live life on terms other than our own.

– Walter Brueggemann

Opening Voluntary

“Blessed Are Ye Faithful Souls”
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Johannes Brahms

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

Call to Worship

Lauren Johnson

++Opening Hymn 396

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

Holy Manna

**Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.**

**Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses’ sister aided him.
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.**

**Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace and filled with fears?
Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears?
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound!
Pray, O pray, that holy manna will be scattered all around.**

**Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we’ll sit down.
Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.**

Prayer of Adoration *(adapted from a prayer by Bruce Prewer)*

You, loving God, are the ground of our being and the river of life; you both steady our roots and draw them to seek the living waters. You are like the sunlight enticing us taller and like the breeze rustling our leaves. You are with us through hard seasons of summer heat, and in the nights when winter’s frost ices the landscape, your love warms and sustains us. You are everything to us. Let our gratitude be great, let our praise be plentiful, let our worship be full of wonder! We pray through Christ Jesus, your ever-living Son. Amen.

++Response Hymn 246

(stanza 5)

Truro

**Christ is alive and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

Sacrament of Baptism

Marian Vanderwall

Waters of Baptism

Response Hymn 486

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Stuttgart

(Stanza 1)

**Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

Reception into the People of God

One: Lucas is now received into the holy universal Church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God. And we are!

All: Child of the Covenant, we welcome you into Christ's church for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage and support you and to help you know Christ.

One: Thanks be to God.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

Ministry of Music

"Après un Rêve" (After a dream)

Gabriel Fauré

Peter Falb, Cello

Janlee Richter, Piano

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture

John 17:6-19

New Testament

Sermon

Pray It Forward

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith *(from Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church, USA)*

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

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

Offering Our Lives

Offertory

"Prelude from Suite V" in C minor
Peter Falb, Cello

J. S. Bach

++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 give you thanks, Holy One, for making yourself known to us through Jesus Christ, and for calling us your beloved children. And so we dedicate these gifts to your service, gracious God, and to the glory of your name. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 733

We All Are One in Mission

Es flog ein kleins waldvögelein

**We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.**

**We all are called for service to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.**

**Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Fugue in D Major"
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Johann Pachelbel

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Lauren Johnson, Worship Committee
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Membership and Pastoral Care
..... Marian Vanderwall, Elder for Family Ministries

Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister
Worship Musicians Peter Falb, Cello
..... Janlee Richter, Piano
..... Viviana Kloostra, Soprano

Technology Team Dan Cisler, Rachel Kamstra, and Peter Larson
Chat Host Erin Molhoek

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today is Lucas Beaton, son of Erica and Matt Beaton.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Broadcast from the Westminster Sanctuary

May 23 – Day of Pentecost
Amazed and Perplexed
 Rev. Lynette Sparks
 Scripture: Acts 2:1-21
 Music: Cheri Reid, Soprano

May 30 – Trinity Sunday
When God Isn't Silent
 Rev. Laurie Hartzell
 Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8
 Music: Mark Jackson, Tenor

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

COME WALK THE LABYRINTH AT CAMP HENRY WITH US! Saturday, May 22 from 11:30-2:00pm
Join us for our first summer labyrinth walk! We begin with reflective, prayerful time around the Camp Henry labyrinth, followed by lunch and an opportunity to travel through the wetlands applying the idea of the labyrinth journey (or simply for a peaceful walk). Sign up by May 14th so we know how many seats to set at the table. It is also optional to walk the labyrinth and not have lunch, if that is more comfortable for you, but please do sign up to receive an email with the Camp Henry release form. See you at the labyrinth! Sign up [here](#) or email Sara Zallar: Saraz@wpcgr.org.

ALL CHURCH PARTY AT PALMER PARK! Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost!) at Palmer Park from 12-3pm.
Join us on Sunday, May 23 at Palmer Park, Open Shelter C, 12:00-3:00p.m. Food will be provided by Uncle Cheetah's Taco Wagon from 12:00-2:00p.m. Cash donations are welcome or feel free to bring your own lunch. We'll have a friendly game of kickball along with some other games. We look forward to gathering together for fellowship and a chance to connect with our church community.

CAMP HENRY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER Olive's, May 26, 6-9p.m.
You can help raise funds for the Camp Henry Scholarship Fund by dining at Olive's from 6-9 pm on Wednesday, May 26. 20% of all proceeds will be donated to Camp Henry's Scholarship Fund! Take-out orders and reservations are encouraged. Register [here](#).

CAMP HENRY'S FAMILY CAMP: May 28-May 30, Camp Henry.
Enjoy camp with the whole family and get away with your loved ones to play, relax and connect with the outdoors. Camp Henry will provide programming for all ages, food service, and lodging for this fun-filled weekend! This event runs from Friday, May 28, at 7pm to Sunday, May 30, at 11am. Register [here](#) to reserve your spot!

PUT CAMP 2021 ON YOUR CALENDARS! September 2-5, Camp Henry.
Enjoy some late summer days at Camp Henry by joining your church family at Camp2021. Camp2021 begins in the late afternoon of Thursday, September 2 and culminates with worship and camp activities on Sunday, September 5. Camp Henry has procedures and plans in place to keep everyone safe and healthy, and Camp provides a great time for spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, and communal joy. Be on the lookout for more information and registration.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: YOUTH RETREAT AT CAMP HENRY WITH REV. ALONZO JOHNSON: Oct. 23, 2021 We'll lean into how to do justice, love kindness, and walk with God on this special day together. This will be a time you don't want to miss!

THE BARBARA MOLHOEK-CALLUM MCPHEETERS MENTAL HEALTH FUND:
Since 2015, Westminster has offered almost \$93,000 in financial assistance for people seeking mental health services. This has been possible through the Barbara Molhoek-Callum McPheeters fund, supporting folks who might not otherwise be able to afford mental health services—members and non-members alike.

As we highlight the need for quality mental health care in the month of May, please consider a donation to this fund. The joyful news is that the [Shine a Light on Mental Health Foundation](#) has generously agreed to match any donation made in the month of May, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. To make a donation, click [here](#). Thank you for considering and thank you to the Shine A Light on Mental Health Foundation. For more information on the Barbara Molhoek-Callum McPheeters fund and the WPC Mental Health Referral Panel, please visit our [website](#).

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP LEADERS NEEDED FOR THE FALL! WPC has fun, smart, and incredible young people. Would you like to be part of nurturing their faith, service and community? We need a few leaders who would join the vibrant and faithful adult youth group leader team and work with middle schoolers in the fall. Come learn and grow with us! Contact Laurie at laurieh@wpcgr.org!

GRADUATE VIDEO Graduates! We are creating a video of all our graduates, both high school and college. Please send a photo of your graduate as well as the school they are graduating from, their degree, and any future plans to Laurie Hartzell (laurieh@wpcgr.org) by May 22.

THE TECH ASSISTANCE TEAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS! The Tech Assistance Team (TA team) is a group of Westminster volunteers who assist the Westminster community in navigating the technology that has become vital to keeping in touch during the pandemic! The TA Team can help with questions on YouTube, emails, Zoom, and many other topics. So far, the team has resolved fourteen individual requests for assistance, taking about three days per request to fully resolve the issue.

We would love to have a few more volunteers to help assist the community, especially at times like Sunday services. If you would be comfortable taking questions and providing help, please reach out to Rachel Kamstra at rachel.m.kamstra@gmail.com.

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.

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.

SECURITY CARD ACCESS In recent months, a new security system has been installed at the church. In conjunction with that, the Facilities Committee has established new guidelines for issuing access cards to optimize both security and accessibility for members who need it:

- Access will be given to committee chairs/moderators.
- Regular volunteers will have access based on time and date of service.
- Access with a card will be through the front door only, with exceptions based on specific roles (e.g. WCDC, Food Pantry, communion preparers).
- We request that all others turn in their old cards to minimize the cost of purchasing new cards.
- We also request that all physical keys be turned in to eliminate new purchases.
- When roles change, access cards are to be turned in so they can be given to new members in that role.
- All communication regarding security cards should be directed to Brad Hamblen, Facilities Manager, at bradh@wpcgr.org.

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.

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.

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.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

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

SUN. MAY 16

10:00 am Online Worship
2:00 pm Middle School Summer Trip Gathering
5:00 pm High School Summer Trip Gathering

MON. MAY 17

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

TUES. MAY 18

6:30 pm Camp Henry Board Meeting

WED. MAY 19

4:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting
5:30 pm Stewardship Meeting

THURS. MAY 20

10:30 am Food Pantry
2:00 pm Inner Compass
7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting

SAT. MAY 22

11:30 am Camp Henry Labyrinth Walk

SUN. MAY 23

10:00 am Online Worship
12:00 pm All Church Pentacost Party