



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Pentecost Origami Art, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, CA

Amazed and Perplexed

DAY OF PENTECOST

MAY 23, 2021
10:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

Amazed and Perplexed

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“We remember that your church was born in wind and fire, not to sweep us heavenward like a presumptuous tower, but to guide us down the dusty roads of this world so that we may lift up the downcast, heal the broken, reconcile what is lost, and bring peace amidst unrest.”

– Garth House, *Litanies for All Occasions*

Opening Voluntary “Veni Creator Spiritus” (Come, Creator Spirit) arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar (b. 1944)
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Sharing the Life of Westminster Nancy Greidanus

Call to Worship Ed Vander Ploeg

++Opening Hymn 280 **“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”** *Ebenezer*

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; come with Pentecostal power;
give the church a stronger vision; help us face each crucial hour.
Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,
still the church is called to mission that God’s love shall be made known.**

**We would raise our alleluias for the grace of yesteryears;
for tomorrow’s unknown pathway, hear, O Lord, our humble prayers.
In the church’s pilgrim journey you have lead us all the way;
still in presence move before us, fire by night and cloud by day.**

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of fire and flame.
Help our feeble lips to praise you, glorify your holy name.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One: what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas now and through eternity.**

Prayer of Confession

Spirit of God, though the world calls us in a chaotic mess of voices, your voice stands apart. Yours is the soft, still voice that speaks to our very heart of hearts. If we would pay attention to your voice, we would hear your love and concern for us and for those whose voices are lost in the chaos. Help us to hear you, and through you, to hear the voices of those who are oppressed, forgotten, and frightened. May your voice bring justice and mercy to us and to all the world. In your great love, hear our prayer...

Silent Confession

Assurance of Grace

++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.**

++Stand as you are able

++Passing the Peace of Christ

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

Ministry of Music

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”
Cheri Reid, Soprano

arr. H. T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture

Acts 2:1-21

New Testament

Sermon

Amazed and Perplexed

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.)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

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

“Eli, Eli”

Joan Szymko (b. 1957)

Poem by Chana Szenes (1921-1944) “A Walk to Caesarea”

*Eli, Eli shelo yigamer l'olam hachol v'hayam rish rush shel hamayim,
b'rak hashamayim, t'filat ha'adam, hachol v'hayam rish rush shel hamayim,
b'rak hashamayim t'filat ha'adam.*

Oh God, my God, I pray that these things never end
The sand and the sea, the rush of the waters
The crash of the heavens, the prayer of the heart.

Cheri Reid, Soprano
Lee Copenhaver, Cello

++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

God of all might and power, we praise you that you forged your church in the fire of the Spirit. We thank you for breathing life into your people, that we might be the body of Christ. Use the gifts we offer you to renew and restore this broken and fear-filled world that you love so much. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 282

Come Down, O Love Divine

Down Ampney

**Come down, O Love Divine; seek out his soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling.
For none can guess God’s grace, till Love creates a place.
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

“Veni Creator Spiritus” (Come, Creator Spirit)
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

arr. Maurice Duruflé
(1902-1986)

The Opening and Closing Voluntaries are based on the Pentecost Hymn Veni Creator Spiritus, which has been in the Christian liturgy since the 9th century. The Ministry of Music, “Every Time I Feel the Spirit” is based on the Pentecost scripture for today. “Eli, Eli” begins in Hebrew, but then continues in English, reflecting that although we may speak in different languages, the meaning is the same.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsNancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families
.....Ed Vander Ploeg, Elder

Minister of MusicHelen Hofmeister
Worship MusiciansCheri Reid, Soprano
.....Lee Copenhaver, Cello

Technology TeamDan Cisler, Rachel Kamstra, and Peter Larson
Chat HostNeil Topliffe

“Eli, Eli” Used by permission from Joan Szymko

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Broadcast from the Westminster Sanctuary

May 30 – Trinity Sunday

When God Isn't Silent

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Music: Mark Jackson, Tenor

June 6 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

The Family Reunion

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

In-Person Worship at 8:30am and 11:00am

(Pre-registration required)

Livestreamed at 11:00am

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Scripture: Mark 3:20-35

Music: Josh Leckrone, Baritone

Norene Walters, Organ

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

IN PERSON WORSHIP We are excited to announce that COVID-19 metrics from the CDC indicate that we are able to resume in-person worship. As long as the metrics remain favorable, our first Sunday of in-person worship will be June 6. Click [here](#) for the full update.

ALL CHURCH PARTY AT PALMER PARK! Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost!) at Palmer Park from 12-3pm. Join us today, at [Palmer Park](#), Open Shelter C from 12:00-3:00 p.m. Uncle Cheetah's Taco Wagon will be available from 12:00-2:00 p.m. and include a kid-friendly option. Donations for the food are welcomed, 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 the chance to connect with our church community.

Directions to find Shelter C: enter Palmer Park from 52nd Street and drive straight until the first available place to turn left. Continue towards the back until you see the Westminster group and food truck, and park anywhere you can!

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 p.m. 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 7 p.m. 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](#).

WELCOME OUR NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH COORDINATOR, WILL CLARK! We are thrilled to announce that this fall, Will Clark will begin his work with us as Middle School Youth Coordinator (though you may see him hanging around a bit this summer!). Will grew up in the Presbyterian Church of Sturgis and believes deeply in the importance of safe and brave youth group spaces. A graduate of Grand Valley State University, Will has worked with young people in church and school settings. Welcome Will!

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!

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 23

10:00 amOnline Worship
12:00 pmAll Church Pentecost Party

MON. MAY 24

7:30 pm Social Justice Committee

TUES. MAY 25

6:00 pm Middle School Trip Parent Meeting

WED. MAY 26

All Day Camp Henry Fundraiser at Olives
7:00 pmNominating Committee Meeting

THURS. MAY 27

10:30 amFood Pantry
6:30 pm ..Youth- Center for Community Transformation

SUN. MAY 30

10:00 amOnline Worship