

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"What a stunning vocation for the church, to stand free and hope-filled in a world gone fearful, and to think, imagine, dream, vision a future that God will yet enact."

— Walter Brueggemann

Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Opening Voluntary

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" arr. Gerhard Krapf

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Sharing the Life of Westminster

++Call to Worship (from Psalm 92, The Message)

Tom Macholan

One: It is beautiful to give thanks to God,

All: to sing praises to God most high,

One: to announce God's love each daybreak,

All: and sing God's faithful presence each night.

One: Those who are planted in God's courtyard will flourish.

All: They will grow tall in the presence of God.

++Hymn 366

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Hyfrydol

Prayer of Confession

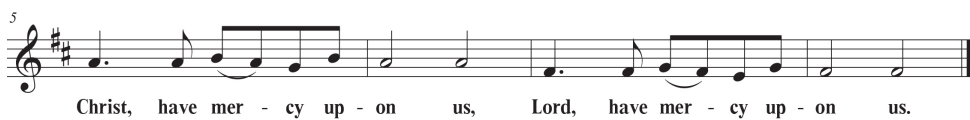
Holy God, your word teaches us that a little faith can produce great work in your kingdom. Yet we are too timid to bear the fruit of your righteousness. We do not uphold people who are poor or oppressed. We do not advocate for people who are powerless. We neglect the needs of our neighbors. Forgive us, merciful God. Renew us with the love of Christ so that we no longer live for ourselves, but for Christ, who became the seed of your righteousness in us...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl



The Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, believe the Good News

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

++Response Hymn 581 "Glory Be to the Father"

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Non nobis, Domine"

William Byrd

Psalm 115:1

Non nobis, Domine, non nobis; sed nomine tuo da gloriam.

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us; but to your name be the glory.

Kate Reed, Soprano

Sarah Johnson, Mezzo-Soprano

Blessings with Younger Disciples (11 a.m. only)

(Children three years through fourth grade may finish their time of worship in the Worship Centers. Children's worship leaders or parents will shepherd them from the Sanctuary to their rooms. Parents may pick them up in their worship rooms following the service.)

Congregation: As you worship together, may God be with you.

Children: And also with you.

Congregation: Go in peace!

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

New Testament

Sermon

"Living in the Tension"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith (from The Confession of Belhar)

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church by Word and Spirit, as God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe that God has entrusted the church the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world; that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker; that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Commissioning for Ministry and Service at Camp Henry

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 "My Gracious Lord and Master" Franz Schubert

My gracious Lord and Master! Thy word, with blessings new, Spoke tidings of salvation, "My peace now be with you."

O Lamb of God, the offering for mankind's sin so base, Send us thy peace with healing through thine own favoring grace.

Lord, all friends and loved ones, who from our midst have gone, Unto thy peaceful haven, O take them for thine own,

And let us find there with them reunion best with joy, When we the peace of heaven together shall enjoy.

My gracious Lord and Master! O speak with pity now The word that brings salvation, "With peace I thee endow."

O send the peace of heaven which earth cannot bestow, And may our hearts at all times a true love for thee show.

Kate Reed, Soprano

Sarah Johnson, Mezzo-Soprano

++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 Thanksgiving and Dedication

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.

Bless, O God, the gifts that we bring this day, that they may be a sign of our commitment to your kingdom and a pledge of our love for you and your world. May these offerings be used as seeds, planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly so that God's way may be realized anew in this world. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 774 "There Is Now a New Creation"

Stuttgart

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Hallelujah" from Messiah

G. F. Handel

The congregation is invited to sing this chorus.

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Please remain in place until the closing voluntary concludes, when the ushers will dismiss you by row.

The Charge - Go into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold on to all that is good. Return no one evil for evil. Do justice. Walk with those who are fainthearted. Help those who suffer. Honor all people. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Used with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

"Kyrie" used with permission by Lee J. Afdahl

Welcome to Westminster

WELCOME

We are currently offering two in-person worship services for a maximum of three hundred people, one at 8:30 a.m. and one at 11:00 a.m. We will livestream worship at 11:00 a.m. If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org. More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at westminstergr.org. You are welcome and celebrated here!

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

To keep each other safe during this time, we require all to abide by the following protocols:

- All worshipers must wear a mask for the duration of their time in the church building.
- Each service will be limited to 150 people to maintain at least six feet of distance between individuals and groups in the church pews.
- The sanctuary will be disinfected before every service.
- We expect all worshipers to pass a health screening, and maintain adequate physical distance while in the church building.
- We will not gather inside after the church service; you are invited to gather outside to join us in conversation.

ASSISTANCE

If you'd like a large-print bulletin or a hearing device, please ask one of the ushers at a sanctuary entrance. For T-loop hearing assistance, set your hearing aid to T.

CHILDREN

Children are welcome throughout the service! Ask an usher if you'd like special worship bags, folders, or children's bulletins to help your kids engage in worship. The nursery (babies through two-year-olds) and children's worship centers (for ages three through fourth grade) will be available at the 11:00 a.m. in-person service; children attending worship centers will be called to the front about fifteen minutes into the service, and children will wait for you at the end of the service in the Children's ministry hallway off of the Gathering Place. All attendants and teachers in the nursery and worship center will be masked and vaccinated. Virtual resources for children's worship can be found on our website and our YouTube channel.

DONATIONS

Donations can be made by scanning the QR code on this page, through our secure online giving site, by check sent to the church office, and through other forms. If you have questions about how to give to the church, please email kathyc@wpcgr.org or call 616-717-5533.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Pastor for Youth and Mission
..... Tom Macholan, Elder for Camp Henry
Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister
Worship Musicians Kate Reed, Soprano
..... Sarah Johnson, Mezzo-Soprano
Technology Team..... Dan Cisler
..... Peter Larson
..... Stella Sheckler
Chat host..... Kyle Kooyers

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

In-Person Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
(Pre-registration encouraged, but not required)
Livestreamed at 11:00 a.m.

June 20 – Fourth Sunday After Pentecost "A God Infused Imagination"

Rev. Laurie Hartzell
Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:1a; 4-11; 19-23
Music: Lee Copenhaver, Cello
12:10 p.m. Piano Quartet

June 27 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost "A Generous Undertaking"

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Music: Hannah Deboer, Soprano

SUMMER BOOKS FOR CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

This week: *Little Mole Finds Hope* by Glenys Nellist
Next week: *Nasreddine* by Odeile Weulersse

When Little Mole is feeling sad in his dark, underground home, his mother shows him how to look for hope. He finds that signs of spring are everywhere, from the daffodil bulbs under the soil to the tiny buds on the branches above. Hope can be found--even in the darkest places.

In *Little Mole Finds Hope*, best-selling children's author Glenys Nellist and illustrator Sally Garland tell an endearing story sure to lift the spirits of people emerging from the cold of winter or a challenging season of life and inspire them to look for signs that spring will come again.

Main Focus: We may be sad sometimes, especially when COVID has changed our lives, but we know that God always gives us hope. Jesus came alive again after being dead and buried in a deep dark tomb!

Activities: Make a list of all the things that bring you hope. Go outside and see the things that have changed since the long winter. Draw pictures of them. Make a tissue paper butterfly. Plant a flower at your house.



"Celebration," John August Swanson, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Living in the Tension

THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 13, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.