

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“But true love, sacrificing love, which loves every human being according to its own individuality, is willing to make every sacrifice – it seeks not its own.”

– Soren Kierkegaard, “Works of Love”

Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

Opening Voluntary Partita on “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

arr. Don Freudenburg

Sharing the Life of Westminster

++Call to Worship (from Psalm 100)

Susan Jennings

One: Make a joyful noise to God all the earth!

All: Worship God with gladness; come into God’s presence with singing.

One: Know that the Lord is God. God made us. We belong to God.

All: We are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.

One: Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving and God’s courts with praise.

All: For God is good! God’s steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations.

++Hymn 35

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Lobe Den Herren

Prayer of Confession (from the Book of Common Prayer)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy upon us and forgive us. May we delight in your will and walk in your ways. Hear our prayers...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Lee J. Afdahl



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us,



Christ, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

"Kyrie" used with permission by Lee J. Afdahl

The Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, believe the Good News.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

++Response Hymn 693

Though I May Speak

Gift of Love

(stanza 3)

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; Our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; By this we worship, and are freed.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

“Plenty Good Room”

arr. Donald Moore

John Schlafley, Tenor

Blessings with Younger Disciples

(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

Matthew 19:16-26

New Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Status Update"

Kyle Kooyers

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 God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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

"Jesus, My All, to Heaven Is Gone"

arr. K. Lee Scott

John Schlafley, Tenor

++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.

Generous God, in abundance you give us things both spiritual and physical. Help us to hold lightly the fading things of this earth and grasp tightly the lasting things of your kingdom, so that what we are and do and say may be our gifts to you. May we become “active power in your hands.” In Christ’s

name we pray, Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 697

"Take My Life"

Hendon

(stanzas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6)

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Finale on “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

arr. Don Freudenburg

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.

"Jesus, My All, to Heaven Is Gone" Used with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

- Preacher Kyle Kooyers, Elder for Adult Faith Formation
..... Associate Director Kaufman Interfaith Institute
Liturgists Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Pastor for Youth and Mission
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Membership and Pastoral Care
Music Minister Helen Hofmeister
Worship Musician John Schlafley, Tenor
Tech Team Dan Cisler
..... Rachel Kamstra
..... Stella Sheckler

Bulletin Announcements

WESTMINSTER CAMP 2021: Camp is for everyone, and there's so much to do—ride horses, go on the zip line, swim in the lake, fish, play games, relax, sit around the campfire, do arts and crafts, worship, grow spiritually and intellectually, and eat some good food! Most importantly, though, camp is a time when the church can be together to laugh, learn, and love each other. You can read more about camp and sign up by going to the "All Ages" page underneath the "Congregational Life" tab of our website or by emailing Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org. Registration deadline is August 1st, so sign up now to join the fun!

NURSERY ATTENDANTS NEEDED: Parents of our little ones are longing to get to church. We need people (18 years and older) who would be willing to care for these little ones during our church services on Sundays. We have paid and volunteer opportunities, and you can volunteer for just one Sunday! Please contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org for more information. Thank you!

SUMMER CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: During the summer months, we read illustrated children's books in the worship center and respond with an activity to provide a time for children to apply Biblical concepts to daily life and reinforce the ideas of the book. An abbreviated lesson plan will be included on our website each week so that everyone (young and older) can enjoy a good book!

SANCTUARY CHOIR UPDATE: Yes! We will begin again in the fall after a long hiatus! The Sanctuary Choir is a volunteer group. Anyone is welcome to join, and no audition is required. We will begin Thursday evening rehearsals on Thursday, September 2, at 7:15 p.m. The Choir will sing at Camp Henry on Sunday, September 5, and then every Sunday at Westminster after that. We SO look forward to hearing this group again in worship!

PIANO QUARTET: Following the 10:00 a.m. service on August 22nd, you are invited to stay in the sanctuary to hear the beautiful *Quartet for Piano, Violin, Viola, & Cello in C minor*, Op. 15 by Gabriel Fauré played by Linda Nelson, violin; Andrew Pool, viola; Lee Copenhaver, cello; and Janlee Richter, piano. If you were able to hear the last performance of this group in June, then you already know how wonderful this group's music is! Thanks to Linda, Andrew, Lee, and Janlee for sharing their musical gifts with us!

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 kathrync@wpcgr.org or call 616-717-5533.

This Week's Calendar

Sun. July 25	10:00 amIn person and livestreamed Worship
	4:00 pmGene Ryan Ordination at Hope Church
WED. JULY 28	12:00 pmMemorial Trust
THURS. JULY 29	10:30 amFood Pantry
	6:00 pmSanctuary Choir Party
Sun. August 1	10:00 amIn person and livestreamed Worship
	1:00 pmGame On Board Game Group

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

In-Person and Livestreamed at 10:00 a.m.

August 1 – Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

"Verbs for Tough Times"

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

Scripture: I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Music: Cheri Reid, Soprano

Kathleen VanderVelde, Soprano.

August 8 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

"No Cheap Imitations"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Scripture: Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2

Music: Austin McWilliams, Countertenor

Welcome to Westminster

WELCOME

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!

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 during the 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. Virtual resources for children's worship can be found on our website and our YouTube channel.

SUMMER BOOKS FOR CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

This week: *The Camping Trip* by Jennifer K. Mann

Next week: *A Haenyeo Mermaid Story* by Tina Cho

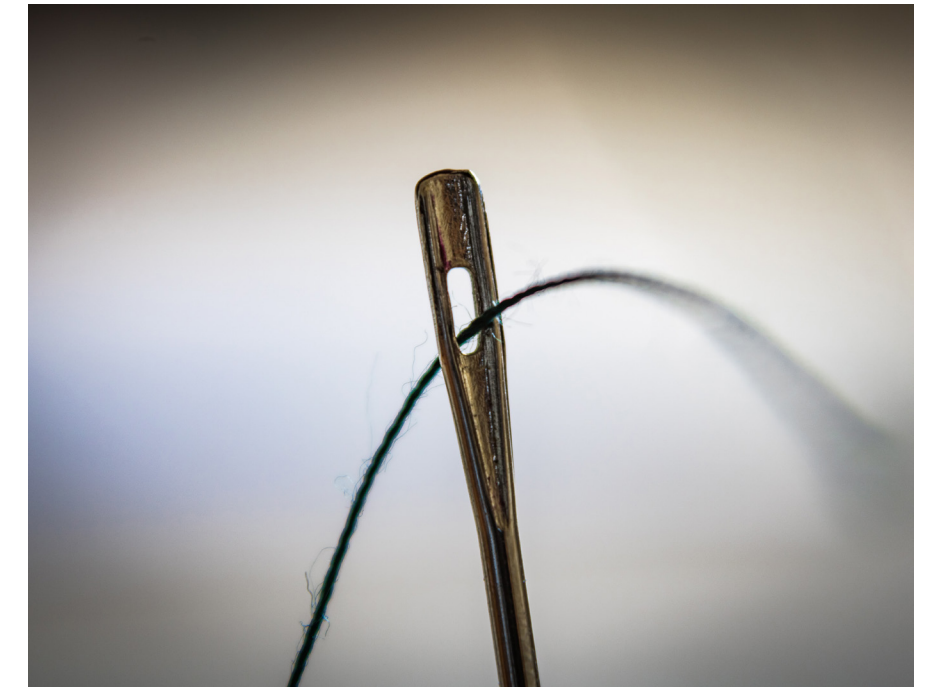
Leaders: Chris Dugan and Sandy Van Brouwer

Ernestine is beyond excited to go camping. But she quickly realizes that nothing could have prepared her for how hard it is to set up a tent, never mind fall asleep in it, or that swimming in a lake means that there will be fish — eep! Will Ernestine be able to enjoy the wilderness, or will it prove to be a bit too far out of her comfort zone? In an energetic illustrated story about a first sleeper under the stars, acclaimed author-illustrator Jennifer K. Mann reminds us that opening your mind to new experiences, no matter how challenging, can lead to great memories.

Main Focus: New things can be scary, but they can be really wonderful when you try them.

Activity: Try something adventurous and new. (Maybe a "sleep over" at a grandparent's? or go camping?) Draw pictures of the things you have done that are similar to what Ernestine did. Have S'more mix.

616-456-1456 / westminstergr.org / Office Hours: Mon - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Status Update

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 25, 2021
10:00 A.M.