

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Baptism is at once God's gift of grace, God's means of grace, and God's call to respond to that grace."

— PC(USA) Book of Order

Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Opening Voluntary "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

arr. John Ferguson

Sharing the Life of Westminster

++Call to Worship

Tom Macholan

(from Psalm 84)

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord!

All: Our very being cries out for your living presence.

One: Even the birds of the air have found their home in you, Holy One,

All: a source of comfort and safety for their young.

One: Blessed are those who live in your house; they praise you constantly.

All: Blessed are those whose strength is in you.

++Hymn 63

"The Lord Is God"

Azmon

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, you are near to those who are brokenhearted and save those whose spirits are crushed. Be near to us in our brokenness and love us into wholeness. You are near to people who are hurting, but we keep our distance to avoid hard conversations. You envision a world where all needs are met, but we hoard our possessions and cling to our power. Be near to us in our brokenness and love us into wholeness. By your mercy, forgive our sins. By your grace, free us to try again.

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl



"Kyrie" used with permission of 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: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Down in the Valley to Pray"

arr. Jay Althouse

Maria Schoon, Soprano

Sacrament of Baptism

Marian Vanderwall

Nancy Greidanus

Waters of Baptism

Response Hymn 486

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Stuttgart

(stanza 1)

Reception into the People of God

One: These children are 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: Children 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. We promise to help you know Christ.

One: Thanks be to God.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

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

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Old Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Choose This Day"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

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.)

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 "Day by Day" arr. Donald Busarow

Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul; Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me, draw me nearer to my heavenly goal. Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, brings to naught the burdens of my quest; Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, where, at last, I'll find eternal rest.

Day by day, I know you will provide me strength to serve and wisdom to obey; I will seek your loving will to guide me o'er the paths I struggle day by day. I will fear no evil of the morrow, I will trust in your enduring grace. Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow till in glory I behold your face.

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my burdens grow too great to bear; Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no matter what befalls me, I will know the comfort of your love. Savior, with your presence here to guide me, I will reach at last my home above. Maria Schoon, 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.

Almighty God, we dedicate ourselves to serve you, for you alone are our God. Receive the gifts we offer, and with these gifts accept the offering of our lives so that your whole creation might flourish; all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, your Word made flesh. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 65 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Cwm Rhondda

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Tocatta in F Major"

Dietrich Buxtehude

"Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"; "Down in the Valley to Pray"; "Day by Day" Used with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

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.

## Piano Quartet

Quartet for Piano, Violin, Viola, and Violoncello in C minor, op. 15  
Gabriel Fauré

- I Allegro molto moderato
- II Scherzo: Allegro vivo
- III Adagio
- IV Allegro molto

Janlee Richter, Piano  
Linda Nelson, Violin  
Andrew Pool, Viola  
Lee Copenhaver, Cello

### RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM TODAY ARE:

Maren Harper Brown, child of Annaliese and Jon Brown

Grace Elizabeth Jacoby, child of Carrie and Brian Jacoby

### PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
Liturgists ..... Tom Macholan, Elder for Camp Henry  
..... Marian Vanderwall, Elder for Family Ministries  
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Families  
Minister of Music ..... Helen Hofmeister  
Worship Musician ..... Maria Schoon, Soprano  
Tech Team ..... Brad Sparks  
..... Dan Cisler  
..... Ian Dengerink-Van Til

### AHEAD IN WORSHIP

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

#### **August 29 – Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost** **"Tradition!"**

Rev. Lynette Sparks  
Scripture: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23  
Music: Eric Richter, Tenor;  
Tom Macholan, Tenor

#### **September 5 – Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost** **Labor Day Weekend**

Rev. Kyle Nolan Preaching at Westminster  
Music: Janlee Richter, Organ

#### **Westminster-by-the-Lake at Camp Henry**

Rev. Lynette Sparks  
Music: Sanctuary Choir,  
Helen Hofmeister, Lee Copenhaver

## 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](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org). More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at [westminstergr.org](http://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.

### MASKING UPDATE

Per CDC guidelines, we ask that you wear a mask for all indoor gatherings at church. This includes worship and meetings. The Way Forward Committee and staff continue to monitor CDC recommendations and infection levels in our community. We will have masks available at church if you need one.

### SUMMER BOOKS FOR CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

This week: *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal  
Next week: *This is the Church* by Sarah Raymond Cunningham

Leaders: Erin Molhoek and Sandy Van Brouwer

If you ask her, Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela has way too many names: six! How did such a small person wind up with such a large name? Alma turns to Daddy for an answer and learns of Sofia, the grandmother who loved books and flowers; Esperanza, the great-grandmother who longed to travel; José, the grandfather who was an artist; and other namesakes, too. As she hears the story of her name, Alma starts to think it might be a perfect fit after all – and realizes that she will one day have her own story to tell.

**Main Focus:** We are all children of God who are created to be important to God in many ways.

**Activity:** Look up other people who have the same name(s) as you have – first, middle, last. We can use the church directory. Do you have anything in common other than your name? Write a note or send a picture to them.



"Underground Railroad" by Charles T. Webber

Choose This Day

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 22, 2021  
10:00 A.M.