

# MORNING WORSHIP

Together in the Kin-dom: A Covenant Community

## GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

(If you brought food for Thanksgiving Ingathering, we invite you to place it in the carts in the front of the sanctuary prior to the start of the service.)

### In Preparation for Worship

"I'm fairly convinced that the Kingdom of God is for the broken-hearted. You write of 'powerlessness.' Join the club, we are not in control. God is." — Fred Rogers

### Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Lynette Sparks

### Opening Voluntary

"Children of the Heavenly Father" arr. Robert Hobby

### Sharing the Life of Westminster

### ++Call to Worship

Elder Joel Schultze

One: Come! Behold the reign of Christ,  
**All: like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the dew on the grassy land.**  
One: Come! Behold the reign of Christ,  
**All: a power that shall not pass away and a love that will never be destroyed.**  
One: We belong to the reign of Christ,  
**All: the Alpha and Omega, who was, and is, and is to come.**

### ++Hymn 267

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing" Madrid

### Prayer of Confession

**O Holy One, you showed us what it means to live in your kin-dom: sharing food with those who are hungry, freedom with those who are imprisoned, justice with people who are oppressed, and joy with those who sorrow. Forgive us for all the ways we fail to live as people who belong to your reign. Show us once more what our belonging means, for you are the beginning, you are the end, and in every time between, you fill our lives with grace. Hear us as we pray...**

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

(stanza 1)

**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

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

++Stand in body or in spirit

### Ministry of Music

"Gabriel's Oboe"  
Natalie Feldpausch, Oboe

Ennio Morricone

### Sacrament of Baptism (11:00)

Rev. Jen Porter, Nancy Greidanus and Elder Marian Vanderwall

(Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today is Ian Patrik Vanderkaay, child of Lauren Johnson and Christian Vanderkaay)

### Waters of Baptism

### Response Hymn 486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Stuttgart

(Stanza 1)

### Reception into the People of God

One: This child 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. We promise to help you know Christ.**

One: Thanks be to God.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

### Blessings with Younger Disciples (11:00)

(Children three years through second 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

### Scripture

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Old Testament p. 299

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon:

Together in the Kin-dom:  
A Covenant Community

Rev. Lynette Sparks

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### ++Affirmation of Faith adapted from the Confession of 1967 (Presbyterian Church, USA)

**The kingdom of God represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.**

### Focus on Mission — Thanksgiving Ingathering 2021

Angie Kelley

Leader: Our God, creator and sustainer of all life, instructs us to give generously and cheerfully,

**People: trusting that in our upside-down life in God's kin-dom, our wealth is measured not by what we have but by what we give away.**

Leader: Today we remember those who struggle for adequate food security.

**People: We dedicate ourselves to caring for our neighbors in need.**

Leader: We give thanks for the good gifts that God has given us to share,

**People: and bring these gifts of food and funds to share life and hope with God's hungry children.**

Leader: Today we especially give thanks for the ministry of the Downtown Food Pantry,

**People: and for the faithful service of its staff, board members, and volunteers.**

Leader: We give thanks for the congregations who partner with us:

**People: First United Methodist Church, Fountain Street Church, LaGrave Christian Reformed Church, Cathedral of St. Andrew, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church.**

Leader: We give thanks for our community partners:

**People: Access of West Michigan, Feeding America, and so many generous donors.**

Leader: Nourished by God's Spirit, we dare to dream of a world where hunger is unknown.

**People: We dare to dream of a world where all have enough, so that it will be on earth as it is in heaven.**

### Prayers of the People and 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:

8:30

"Sonata in G Minor"  
Natalie Feldpausch, Oboe

J. S. Bach

11:00

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"  
Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;  
With joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise!  
By Him the rolling season in fruitful order move:  
Sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.  
By Him the clouds rain goodness, the deserts bloom and spring.  
The hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.  
He filleth with His fullness, all things with large increase;  
He crowns the year with goodness, with plenty, and with peace.  
Heap on His sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,  
The golden sheaves of harvest, the souls He died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before Him when at His feet ye fall,  
And with your lives adore Him who gave His life for all.  
Sanctuary Choir

Healy Willan

### ++Doxology

**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.**

**To you, generous God, we offer all that we have and all that we are — a sign of our great thanksgiving for the treasure of your grace. Use us as agents of healing in the world, and through our gifts, usher in your kin-dom of love here and now. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

## GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

### ++Closing Hymn 643

"Now Thank We All Our God" Nun Danket Alle Gott

### ++Charge and Benediction

#### Closing Voluntary

"Now Thank We All Our God"

arr. Craig Phillips

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.

*Together in the Kin-dom:*



*Ban, Shigeru. "Cardboard Cathedral," transitional Christchurch Cathedral, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
 Liturgists ..... Joel Schultze, Elder for Mission Partnerships  
 ..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
 ..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families  
 ..... Marian Vanderwall, Elder for Family Ministries  
 ..... Angie Kelley, Food Pantry Director

Musicians..... Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music  
 ..... Natalie Feldpausch, Oboe  
 11:00 ..... Sanctuary Choir  
 ..... Janlee Richter, Accompanist

Acolytes..... Gabrielle and Sophia Wurl

Ushers..... Team B  
 8:30 ..... Bernie and Kathy Smith  
 ..... Bill and Roleen Westfall  
 11:00 ..... Gordon Griffin, David Abbott,  
 ..... Larry Hollenbeck, Chris Mayhew,  
 ..... Randy Block, Steve Marshall

Greeters:  
 8:30 ..... Lou VanderHave (Narthex)  
 ..... John Mulder (Parking Lot)  
 11:00 ..... John Meyers (Narthex)  
 ..... Tom Oozinga (Narthex)  
 ..... Larry & Sharon Slager (Parking Lot)

**WORSHIP CENTERS** 11:00 a.m.  
 Worship Center 1 (Young 5's and Kindergarten)..... Lisa Smith  
 ..... Rowen Heethuis  
 Worship Center 2 (1st and 2nd Grade)..... Tim, Molly, and Nancy Born

**NURTURING CENTER** (Age 3 and 4) ..... Carla and Joel Fortuna

Natalie Feldpausch (oboe soloist today) is a sophomore music student at Grand Valley State University, where she is majoring in Oboe Performance.

**AN UPDATE ON ALL-IN: TOGETHER IN THE KIN-DOM**

With gratitude, we have received \$786,688 in pledges from 198 households/individuals. Thank you! We are eager to hear from all of you. Every pledge from every person is significant, an act of love that furthers God's work in the church and at Westminster. We look forward to receiving your 2022 pledge.

Thank you,  
 Cheryl Bremer  
 Elder for Stewardship

*"Stewardship is managing the resources that have been entrusted to us for the sake of a mission that is greater than us."*

**AHEAD IN WORSHIP**

In person 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
 Livestreamed at 11:00 a.m.

**November 28 – First Sunday in Advent  
 Coming to Us...Persistent Advent Hope**

Rev. Laurie Hartzell  
 Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9; Isaiah 43:1; 18-19  
 Music: 8:30 Cheri Reid, Soprano  
 11:00 Sanctuary Choir

**December 5 – Second Sunday in Advent  
 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Rev. Jen Porter  
 Scripture: Luke 3:1-6  
 Music: 8:30 Helen Hofmeister, Harpsichord  
 11:00 Cantus Choir, Cherub Choir, Carol Choir  
 Chapel Singers, Kirk Singers, Sanctuary Choir

**UPCOMING IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**Nov. 21: Ending the Church Year Together**  
 Rev. Jen Porter, 9:45-10:40, chapel

**Nov. 28: Intergenerational All-Church Advent Event**  
 9:45, upstairs in the gym

**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**

Parents of three-year-olds to fifth graders, come to the children's check-in tables in the Gathering Place before the service to sign in. 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) is available during the service. Children (ages 3 through 2nd grade) will begin worship in the sanctuary and be invited to continue worship in the interactive settings of our worship centers. Leaders will shepherd them to their centers, but parents are welcome to lead them as well. Children will wait for you at the end of the service in the Children's Ministry hallway off the Gathering Place.

**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.

**THE REIGN OF CHRIST**

**NOVEMBER 21, 2021  
 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.**

## Announcements

**WORSHIP GREETERS NEEDED:** Greeters needed for Sunday morning worship! Greeters extend a friendly hello and welcome to folks entering our church building on Sunday mornings. It's as simple as offering a warm verbal greeting that helps set the tone for our worshipper's experience. We want everyone to feel welcome! We will have a sign up sheet available in the gathering place this Sunday, November 21.

**WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP: November 21, 7:00 p.m., Parlor** The WPC Fiction Book Group's meeting on November 21 will feature historical fiction at its best. We will be discussing *The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff, "a remarkable story of friendship and courage centered around three women and a ring of female secret agents during World War II, 1946." All are welcome.

**22ND ANNUAL INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION November 22, 7:00 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church** Join us for a celebration where many traditions and cultures will come together to give thanks for one another, even in the midst of uncertainty and division. A virtual freewill offering will be taken for the Afghan refugee resettlement work of Samaritas and Bethany Christian Services. To attend in-person, please register at: <https://bit.ly/interfaiththanks21>

**ALL CHURCH ADVENT EVENT: November 28, 9:45 a.m., Gym** All generations are invited to get together to make an Advent craft to use throughout the season. This year, we will coordinate with our church school theme of "Messengers of the Covenant" by creating a device from which to hang Christmas cards in our homes and by making and sending Christmas cards to our older church friends. We'll have fun, fellowship, and treats to take home! We'll meet in the gym at 9:45 on November 28. Questions? Ask Nancy Greidanus ([nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org)).

**WPA DECEMBER EVENT: December 9, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary** Westminster Presbyterian Adults (WPA) will hold a December program on Thursday, December 9, at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. WPA is Westminster's fellowship ministry for older adults who may or may not be retired. Join us to learn more about the carols of Christmas through narration and organ demonstration by our guest presenter, Helen Hofmeister, Westminster's Minister of Music. Please call the church office at 616-456-1456 to sign up no later than December 6!

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Sunday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.** Yes, we are having a Christmas Concert this year in our sanctuary! The centerpiece of the concert is John Rutter's *Gloria*, which is very festive and will be sung by the Sanctuary Choir and accompanied by a large brass ensemble. Also on the program are the Kirk Singers, and there will be audience carol sing-alongs. A freewill offering will be taken, and child care will be provided.

### STEWARDSHIP:



Thank you to all who have responded with generosity during Stewardship Pledge Season. Please join us by returning your pledge by mail, online at [westminstergr.org/support-our-ministry/](https://westminstergr.org/support-our-ministry/), or using the QR code. If you have questions, please reach out to Kathy Cisler ([kathrync@wpcgr.org](mailto:kathrync@wpcgr.org)) or Cheryl Bremer ([stewardshipelder@wpcgr.org](mailto:stewardshipelder@wpcgr.org)).

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## This Week's Calendar

### SUN. NOVEMBER 21

8:30 a.m. Worship Service ..... Sanctuary  
 9:30 a.m. Church School and Children's Choirs.....Upstairs  
 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation .....Chapel  
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service ..... Sanctuary  
 4:00 p.m. HS Youth Group ..... Youth Room  
 4:00 p.m. Chapel Singers ..... Choir Room  
 5:00 p.m. MS Youth Group..... Youth Room  
 5:00 p.m. Kirk Singers ..... Choir Room  
 7:00 p.m. Fiction Book Group ..... Parlor

### MON. NOVEMBER 22

11:00 a.m. Quilting Group ..... Multipurpose Room  
 7:00 p.m. Social Justice Committee..... Parlor  
 7:00 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving ..... Trinity Lutheran

### TUES. NOVEMBER 23

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room

### WED. NOVEMBER 24

6:30 p.m. WM Gay Men's Chorus..... Choir Room

**THURS. AND FRI. NOVEMBER 25 AND 26** .....Office Closed

### SUN. NOVEMBER 28

8:30 a.m. Worship Service ..... Sanctuary  
 9:45 a.m. Advent All Church Event..... Gym  
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service ..... Sanctuary



#### Christmas Poinsettia Donation

We invite you to donate a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of someone special to you. These flowers will fill our Sanctuary during worship, and donors may take them home after the late service on Christmas Eve.

**Donation: \$10.00 each    Deadline for Order: December 5, 2021**

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return order form and donation to the church office at 47 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, drop in Christine Davis' mailbox in the office, call (616) 456-1456, or email christined@wpcgr.org. Thank you.*

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