

MORNING WORSHIP

Finding the Level Place

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

To be someone's companion suggests unusual openness, vulnerability, and the innate understanding that your own journey is intrinsically bound together with that of your companion.

— Hunter Farrell and Balajiedlang Khylllep, Freeing Congregational Mission

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Opening Voluntary

"Mode de ré" (excerpt) Jean Langlais (1907-1991)
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

++Call to Worship

Elder Cheryl Bremer

One: Rejoice, for the power of God has come—

All: The same transforming power encountered in the risen Christ:

One: Promising the realm of heaven to those who are poor;

All: Promising satisfaction to those who are hungry;

One: Promising joy to those who weep;

All: Promising acceptance to those who are reviled.

One: Rejoice, O people of God!

All: The transforming power of Christ is here!

++Hymn 65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Cwm Rhondda

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, your call to discipleship is demanding. You call us to reorder our lives by the kingdom you are bringing in Jesus Christ. Yet we still pass by the ones you especially notice. We have not stood with those who are hated, bullied, and excluded. Comfortable with the way things are, we are too complacent, even complicit with injustice. Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to your gospel. Make us people who are blessings to others, as we have received new life from you. We pray for our sake and for the sake of your world...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, believe the Good News.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

++Response Hymn 673

"Jesus, Light of Joy"

Lauda Anima

stanza 1

Jesus, light of joy, surround us;
let your splendid glory shine:
source of every earthly blessing,
heaven's everlasting sign.

Alleluia, alleluia, we adore you, light divine.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"O Sing unto the Lord" Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

O sing unto the Lord, sing Him a new song;

O sing all the earth, O sing unto the Lord,

Blessing His holy name.

Declare His glory in every nation.

Show forth His salvation from day to day.

Declare to all people now His marvelous glory.

Sanctuary Choir

Blessings with Younger Disciples

(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

Luke 6:17-26

New Testament p. 64

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Finding the Level Place"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from the Confession of 1967)

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Focus on Discipleship

Jeanne DeWaard and the Broad-Based Organizing Team

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

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. James Mulholland

(b. 1960)

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace!

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help, I've come;

And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God:

He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;

Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Sanctuary Choir

++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.

God, you have sustained us in lean times and led us to sources of living water. Take these gifts and multiply their blessings for those who are hungry, hurting and in need of your strength. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 767

"Together We Serve"

San Anselmo

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Declamation on Dix"

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

CONGREGATIONAL 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.

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AHEAD IN WORSHIP
One Service at 10:00 a.m.

February 20 – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Measures of Mercy

Rev. Jen Porter

Luke 6:27-38

Music: Sanctuary Choir

February 27 – The Transfiguration of the Lord

With Unveiled Faces

Rev. Lynette Sparks

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Music: Soprano/Alto Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:
11:15 a.m., Chapel

February 13

Join us for the second part of Lee Copenhaver's presentation on our "Glory to God" Hymnal.

February 20, 27 and March 6

"Coming out of the Exile," Inductive Bible Study on the Book of Ezra with Rev. Kyle Kooyers

Children and Youth

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. 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.

Youth

Our youth ministry serves middle and high schoolers through weekly meetings, youth choirs, retreats, and summer trips. Join us for youth group and choir after the 10:00 a.m. service from 11:15 to 1:30 p.m. If you would like more information about youth ministry, please contact our Interim Youth Director Christy Roosien at christyr@wpcgr.org. To sign up for updates via email from our youth program, email emmar@wpcgr.org.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Cheryl Bremer, Elder for Stewardship
..... Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate

Musicians Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music
..... Sanctuary Choir
.....Janlee Richter, Accompanist

Ushers..... Team B
..... Bernie and Kathy Smith, Gordon Griffin
..... David Abbott, Larry Hollenbeck, Chris Mayhew
..... Steve Marshall, Randy Block

Worship Center 1 John Meyers
Worship Center 2..... Tim Born
Nurturing CenterMaggie Atwater and Amanda Shnepp

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.

MASKING GUIDELINES

Per CDC guidelines, we ask that you wear a mask for all indoor gatherings at church. 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.

Sunday Schedule Change

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID on in-person attendance, Session approved the movement to one service at 10:00 a.m. starting Sunday, February 6. We will try this format until the end of the program year in June and take feedback to evaluate how this might affect staffing, volunteers, and churchgoers.

Here's the Sunday schedule:

9:30 - 10 a.m..... Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
10:00 - 11 a.m.Worship service
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.....Adult Faith Formation
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m..... Sunday School and Children's Choirs
11:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m..... Youth Group and Youth Choirs



Bread Line, George Segal (FDR Memorial)

Finding the Level Place

**SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**FEBRUARY 13, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

Announcements

ELISABETH CIRCLE: February 15, 1:00 p.m., Parlor The Elisabeth Circle will be discussing chapter eleven of *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor. The Elisabeth Circle always welcomes new members and visitors. Contact Lois Waldecker at 616-784-0900 for more information.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: February 16 and 23 Interested in Membership at Westminster? Our next new member orientation is Wednesday, February 16 and 23, 6:30-8:30pm. This will be a hybrid gathering! New members will be formally received into membership on Sunday, February 27. If interested, please contact Nicole at nicolek@wpcgr.org or 717-5529.

FICTION BOOK GROUP: February 27, 7:00 p.m., Zoom We will be discussing *This Tender Land* by W.M. Kent Kreuger, "A magnificent novel about four orphans on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression, from the bestselling author of *Ordinary Grace*." All are welcome to zoom in for lively discussion and fellowship. Contact Marcie Beck at beckmarcella7@gmail.com if you have any questions.

ORGAN MAINTENANCE: In the next few weeks, some of the organ pipes will be taken out to undergo maintenance. There won't be a noticeable difference in the sound of the organ while these pipes are gone. We are grateful to have such fine musical instruments at Westminster!

BIBLES FOR 3-YEAR-OLDS: When Westminster children progress from the nursery to joining us in worship, we like to celebrate by giving them a Jesus Storybook Bible. If your child turns or turned three anytime between February 2021 and the end of February 2022, please let Nancy Greidanus know at nancyg@wpcgr.org. Children will be given their Bibles on Sunday, February 20, during the exchange of blessings time in our congregational worship.

HEATING UPDATE: Bear with us as certain parts of the church might feel chilly! We're working on fixing the airflow in these locations so they're warm in these winter months.

NEW CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE: Now that we've shifted to one service at 10:00 a.m. through June, our children's worship and learning schedules have shifted a bit too!

Here's the full schedule and details of what's happening:

- 11:00 a.m. Kids three years old to 5th grade are led to the art room by parents after the 10:00 service for a snack.
- 11:15 a.m. Three to four year olds do activities in the gym or Nurturing Center. Young fives can decide what best suits them. Kindergarten through second-grade kids stay for church school and 3rd through 5th grades go to choir in room 309 upstairs.
- 11: 50 a.m. The grades switch for choir and church school
- 12:30 a.m. The children are led downstairs to their parents at the check-in tables to go home.

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 angiek@wpcgr.org or call (616) 717-5581.

This Week's Calendar

SUN. FEBRUARY 13

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Children's Choirs..... Upstairs
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group & Choirs Various Locations

MON. FEBRUARY 14

- 9:30 a.m. Sandwich Brigade MeetingDining Rm.
- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group Multi Purpose Rm.
- 4:30 p.m. United Campus Christian Fellowship Conf. Rm.
- 6:30 p.m. All Deacons Meeting..... Online

TUES. FEBRUARY 15

- 1:00 p.m. Elisabeth CircleParlor
- 7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Online

WED. FEBRUARY 16

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgangs
- 5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee..... Online
- 6:00 p.m. WM Gay Men's ChorusChoir Rm.
- 6:30 p.m. New Member Orientation Online

THURS. FEBRUARY 17

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry.....Front Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. WPA Event Gathering Place
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal.....Choir Rm.
- 7:15 p.m. Sectional RehearsalsChoir Rm.

SUN. FEBRUARY 20

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Children's Choirs..... Upstairs
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group & Choirs Various Locations