

MORNING WORSHIP

The Path of Peace

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"The part of me that thinks it's all too much—too loud, too celebratory—will be asked to take a seat. If I don't sing, the stones will shout out. So I may as well sing."

— Ron Adams

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

Opening Voluntary

"Prelude" from *Cello Suite #2*

J.S. Bach

Chris Houlihan, Trombone

++Call to Worship

Elder Karen Meyers

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

One: This is the day the Lord has made.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

One: Let us rejoice and be glad.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

++Hymn 196

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Valet will ich dir geben

Prayer of Confession

Create in us clean hearts, O God... Even as we join the crowds of the ages in shouting your praises, our lives seldom reflect your purposes. We sing easily of your greatness, but living faithfully is often beyond us. We hear of your salvation, yet sin is still close and real, daily leading us away from you. Have mercy on us. Ride into our hearts with healing grace. Forgive what we have done and direct who we shall be. Create in us clean hearts, O God, cleansed by your mercy, and made strong by your love...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl



Assurance of God's Grace

One: God freely offers mercy to us through the grace of our baptism—safe passage through the sea, justice rolling down like water, deliverance from sin and death forever. Rejoice and give thanks!

All: Through God's love in Christ, we are washed clean and created anew.

One: Friends, believe the Good News.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

++Response Hymn 434

"Restore in Us, O God"

Baylor

stanzas 1 & 3

**Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.
Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Grave" from *Concerto in F Minor*

G. F. Handel

Chris Houlihan, Trombone

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 19:28-40

New Testament p. 83

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Path of Peace"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith *(adapted from the Confession of 1967)*

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

Interfaith Greetings

Rabbi Michael Schadick

Dr. Ali Metwalli

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:

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

J.S. Bach

for text, see Hymn #221

Chris Houlihan, Trombone

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.

You have shown us, O God, the sacrifice that you desire. Now use these gifts—and use our lives—to liberate those who are oppressed, to break the bonds of injustice, to feed those who hunger, welcome those who are poor, and unite the human family. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 618

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

Deo Gracias

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Allegro" from *Sonata in A Minor*

G. F. Handel

Chris Houlihan, Trombone

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.

Westminster is participating today in the Grand Rapids Bach Festival, an area-wide celebration involving several churches plus Grand Rapids Symphony events. We welcome Chris Houlihan, Principal Trombone of the Symphony, to our service this morning. For more information about the Grand Rapids Bach Festival and to see a listing of other churches involved, you can visit www.grsymphony.org/bachfest.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

April 14, 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday

Rev. Jen Porter
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Lee Copenhaver, Cello

April 15 – Good Friday

12:00 p.m. – Joint Service at Central Reformed Church
All Day – pre-recorded Good Friday reading of the Passion story
and a musical offering, available online

April 17, 10:00 a.m. – The Resurrection of the Lord

Who Will You Believe?

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Luke 24:1-12
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Cantus, Cherub, and Carol Choirs

April 24, 10:00 a.m. – Second Sunday of Easter

So What? Now What?

Rev. Lynette Sparks
John 20:19-31
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Cheri Reid, Soprano

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

Visions of Lent with Emma Richter

Sunday, April 10, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

Each week in Lent, our bulletin has featured a different image related to where we are in our Lenten journey and the scriptures we are reading. Join us for this time when we'll reflect on this season, both through discussion of the images created by Emma and through our own individual experiences and wonderings.

SPECIAL WELCOME:

Today we extend a special welcome to representatives from our interfaith partners who will share greetings with us: Dr. Ali Metwalli from Masjid At-Tawheed Islamic Center and Rabbi Michael Schadick from Temple Emmanuel. 2022 is a unique year in that the holy days of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian traditions all converge: Ramadan, Passover, and Lent/Easter. We are grateful to build meaningful relationships across our faith traditions.

EASTER FLOWER DONATION

We invite you to donate an Easter flower in memory or in honor of someone special to you. These flowers will fill our Sanctuary during worship, and donors may take them home after the service on Easter. Donation: \$10.00 each.



Order Deadline: Monday, April 11, 2021.

Donated by _____
In honor of _____
In memory of _____

Please return form to the office, order by phone (616-717-5529), email (nicolek@wpcgr.org), or electronically (<https://westminstergr.org/news-and-updates/easter-flowers22/>) Thank you!

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists.....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
.....Karen Meyers, Elder for Older Adults
Musicians.....Sanctuary Choir
.....Chris Houlihan, Trombone
.....Ellen Pool, Sanctuary Choir Director
.....Janlee Richter, Organist and Accompanist
Ushers.....Team A
.....Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, Chuck Wylie, Bill Baguley
.....Tom Kormos, Jeanne Marshall, Michael Marshall, Pete Persons
.....Bill and Carole Warren, Todd Helle, and Heather Lermont-Pape
Worship Center.....Lori Wenzel
Nurturing Center.....Maggie Atwater and Amanda Schnepf

Welcome to Westminster

MASKING UPDATE

Based on the most current guidance from the CDC, local vaccination rates, and the continued, significant decline in local COVID-19 case numbers, the Way Forward Committee has decided that masking in our facilities is now optional, including in Sunday worship.

MEMBERSHIP

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

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 11:00 to 1:30 p.m. If you would like more information about youth ministry, please contact our Interim Lead Youth Coordinator Christy Roosien at christyr@wpcgr.org. To sign up for updates via email from our youth program, email emmar@wpcgr.org.

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



Create in Me a Clean Heart



The Path of Peace

PALM SUNDAY

**APRIL 10, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

Announcements

DÉGAGÉ VOUCHERS: Dégagé vouchers will be available for purchase for \$2 each in the Gathering Place after worship. Members and friends of Westminster have offered these vouchers to folks asking for money; these vouchers can be used for services at Dégagé Ministries, including meals, storage space, haircuts, clothing, and more. You can also purchase them online at degageministries.org/voucher/.

MINDFULNESS AND SELF-COMPASSION CLASS: Thursdays, April 7-May 12, 1-3 p.m., Gym Carol Hendershot, Certified Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Instructor, will be leading a free, six-week course on Mindfulness and Self-Compassion. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/qpVFWn7bgHbXHHtc9>. With any questions, contact Rev. Jen Porter at jenp@wpcgr.org.

SACRED TRAUMA BOOK GROUP: April 12, April 26, 7:30-8:30 p.m. We hope you'll consider joining a Faith Formation group which will be discussing the book *Sacred Wounds* by Teresa Pasquale. The book explores the nature of emotional wounds, trauma, brokenness, and spiritual hurt that come from experiences within the church. Sign up to join at <https://forms.gle/fyRhFMCEp2xBqY1W8>. Please reach out to Rev. Jen Porter at jenp@wpcgr.org with any questions.

WPA EVENT: April 21, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary Our speaker for April will be Dr. Doug Kindschi, Director of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at GVSU. As the Institute moves into its second decade, we will be learning about efforts to increase interfaith understanding in West Michigan and the revival of Westminster's Interfaith connections during this time of overlap of Christian, Jewish, and Islamic holy seasons. Following the presentation, we will have a time of coffee and fellowship. Please call the church office at 616-717-5529 to sign up no later than April 18, 2022!

CLIMATE WITNESS PROJECT: April 24 The Climate Witness Project is a campaign of the Office of Social Justice and World Renew designed to walk with congregations as they learn about the realities of climate change, seek to be better stewards of the resources they have been given, and find their voice to speak to their public officials about common sense climate policy. On Sunday April 24th, following coffee fellowship, Steve Mulder from the Christian Reformed Churches Climate Witness Project will help us learn what we can do about climate change.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: If you or someone you know is interested in membership or wants to learn more about Westminster Presbyterian Church, a new member orientation is scheduled for Sunday, April 24 and May 1, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., with new members being received during worship on May 8. To register for the orientation, contact Nicole at nicolek@wpcgr.org or 717-5529.

PUT WESTMINSTER CAMP 2022 ON YOUR CALENDARS! September 1-4, 2022 Absolutely everyone is welcome! Camp 2022 begins in the late afternoon of Thursday, September 1, and culminates with worship and camp activities on Sunday, September 4. Camp provides time for spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, and communal joy. Contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org if you have questions. Reserve your spot at <https://bit.ly/37oronK>.

SEARCH FOR MINISTER WITH YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS: If you know of someone who might be a strong candidate for our Minister with Youth and Young Adults position or know someone who might know of potential candidates, please share their names and contact information with Rev. Lynette Sparks at lynettes@wpcgr.org or Karyll Russell, search committee chair, at mattandkaryll@hotmail.com.

NOMINATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP: As the Nominating Committee considers members for roles in leadership, we ask that the congregation let us know about those members who may have gifts for leadership as an elder, deacon, trustee, or member of the memorial trust. If you know of a member that you would like to recommend for consideration, please contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org or Cheri Reid, Elder for Nominations, at cheriareid@yahoo.com by April 15. Thank you!

This Week's Calendar

SUN. APRIL 10

- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room
 - 10:00 a.m. Worship Service..... Sanctuary
 - 11:00 a.m. Coffee HourGathering Place
 - 11:00 a.m. Refugee Resettlement Meeting..... Parlor
 - 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation.....Chapel
- *No After-Church Children's Programs*

MON. APRIL 11

- 9:30 a.m. Sandwich Brigade.....Dining Room
- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group Multipurpose Room
- 4:30 p.m. UCCF Board Meeting Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Administrative & Caring Deacons Chapel, Online
- 6:30 p.m. Supporting Deacons Parlor, Online
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee..... Conference Room

TUES. APRIL 12

- 7:00 p.m. FASD Support GroupLibrary
- 7:30 p.m. Sacred Wounds Book Group..... Parlor

WED. APRIL 13

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgang's
- 5:45 p.m. Communications Committee.....Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. WM Gay Men's Chorus Choir Room

THURS. APRIL 14

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry..... Front Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. Self Compassion ClassGym
- 3:00 p.m. Porter Hills Communion.....Offsite
- 5:00 p.m. Technology Team..... Online
- 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service Sanctuary

FRI. APRIL 15

- 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service.....Central Reformed Church

SUN. APRIL 17

- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service..... Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee HourGathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation.....Chapel

Opportunities for Giving

FISH BANKS: Church School children are receiving fish banks and a page of ideas of how to observe Lent. Bring your filled fish to place in the baskets in the worship service on Easter Sunday, April 17. The money collected helps provide food and comfort for people all over the world as part of the One Great Hour of Sharing Program. For anyone else who would like a fish bank, there will be extras on the children's check-in tables. They are for everyone!

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) 717-5533.

