

## MORNING WORSHIP

### Bear Witness

#### GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

##### In Preparation for Worship

Imagine, as Jesus imagines, a company of disciples who have not snuggled into the present, but now are Easter hoppers. Because Easter hoppers are able to be odd, able to have courage, able to receive newness from God that the world does not expect. To them Jesus says, "Leap for joy!" Newness comes! — Walter Brueggemann

##### Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

##### Opening Voluntary

"Fanfare"

Francis Jackson (1917-2022)

##### ++Call to Worship

Elder Peter Larson

One: Today is the day mystery unfolds.

**All: We glimpse it at the dawning of light.**

One: We yearn to hear our Lord calling us:

**All: Sister, brother, sibling.**

One: Today we remember God's trustworthy promise:

**All: The tomb is empty! The Lord is risen! The enemy of death is destroyed!**

One: We delight, saying: alleluia!

**All: We wonder, singing: alleluia! We are witnesses shouting: alleluia!**

##### ++Hymn 232

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Easter Hymn

##### Prayer of Adoration

**Glory to you, O God: you have won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life. Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life. Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into the truth. Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.**

##### ++Response Hymn 246

"Christ Is Alive!"

Truro

stanza 1

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.**

**The cross stands empty to the sky.**

**Let streets and homes with praises ring.**

**Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

##### ++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

**All: And also with you.**

##### Ministry of Music

"My God Is with Me"

Mark Patterson (b. 1969)

*My God is with me wherever I go. My God is with me, I am never alone.*

*Early in the day and late at night, my Lord walks right by my side.*

*When I am weak, God makes me strong; my Lord's with me all day long.*

*My God is with me wherever I go. My God is with me, I am never alone.*

*My God is with me!*

Cantus, Cherub, and Carol Choirs

##### Blessings with Younger Disciples

Nancy Greidanus

*(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 24:1-12

New Testament p. 90

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

##### Sermon

"Bear Witness"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

#### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

##### ++Affirmation of Faith *(from 1 Corinthians 15)*

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

##### Prayers of the People

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

##### 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

*In addition to our regular offering, we invite you to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing, which provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Presbyterian Self Development of People. Envelopes are in the pews.*

##### Offertory:

"Easter Anthem"

William Billings (1746-1800)

*The Lord is risen indeed! Hallelujah!*

*Now is Christ risen from the dead,*

*And become the first fruit of them that slept.*

*Hallelujah. And did he rise?*

*Hear it, ye nations! Hear it O ye dead!*

*He rose, he rose, he burst the bars of death,*

*And triumphed o'er the grave. Then I rose,*

*Then first humanity triumphant past the crystal ports of light,*

*And seized eternal youth. Man all immortal, hail, heaven*

*All lavish of strange gifts to man,*

*Thine's all the glory, man's the boundless bliss.*

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.**

**Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world—giving food to those who hunger, hope to those who despair, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

##### ++Closing Hymn 248 "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

Hymn to Joy

##### ++Response

"Hallelujah!" from Messiah

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

*Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth,*

*The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord,*

*And of His Christ. And he shall reign forever and ever.*

*King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!*

Sanctuary Choir

##### ++Charge and Benediction

##### Closing Voluntary

"Toccatà" from Symphony V

Charles-Marie Widor

(1844-1937)

##### 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.*

*"Kyrie" used with permission of Lee J. Afdahl.*

*"Fanfare," "My God Is with Me," "Toccatà" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.*

**AHEAD IN WORSHIP**

**April 24 – Second Sunday of Easter**

**So What? Now What?**

Rev. Lynette Sparks  
John 20:19-31

Music: Sanctuary Choir  
Cheri Reid, Soprano

**May 1 – Third Sunday of Easter**

Rev. Jen Porter  
Sanctuary Choir

Music: Cantus, Cherub, and Carol Choirs  
Chapel and Kirk Singers

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING:**

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** This special offering supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People Program. Give at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/> or by scanning the QR code below and selecting One Great Hour of Sharing.

**FISH BANKS:** Church School children, bring your filled fish banks to place in the baskets during the worship service. 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](mailto:angiek@wpcgr.org) or call (616) 717-5533.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
Liturgists ..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
..... Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate  
..... Peter Larson, Elder for Worship  
Musicians ..... Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music  
..... Sanctuary Choir  
..... Cantus Choir, Cherub Choir, Carol Choir  
..... Emma Taranko, Children's Choir Director  
..... Janlee Richter, Accompanist  
  
Acolytes ..... Duncan Roosien, Jacob Herrick  
  
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 1 ..... Lori Wenzel and Kate Bylsma  
Worship Center 2 ..... Nancy Greidanus  
Nurturing Center ..... Mckensay Heinonen and Sam Baker  
  
Cover Artwork ..... Emma Richter

**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](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.

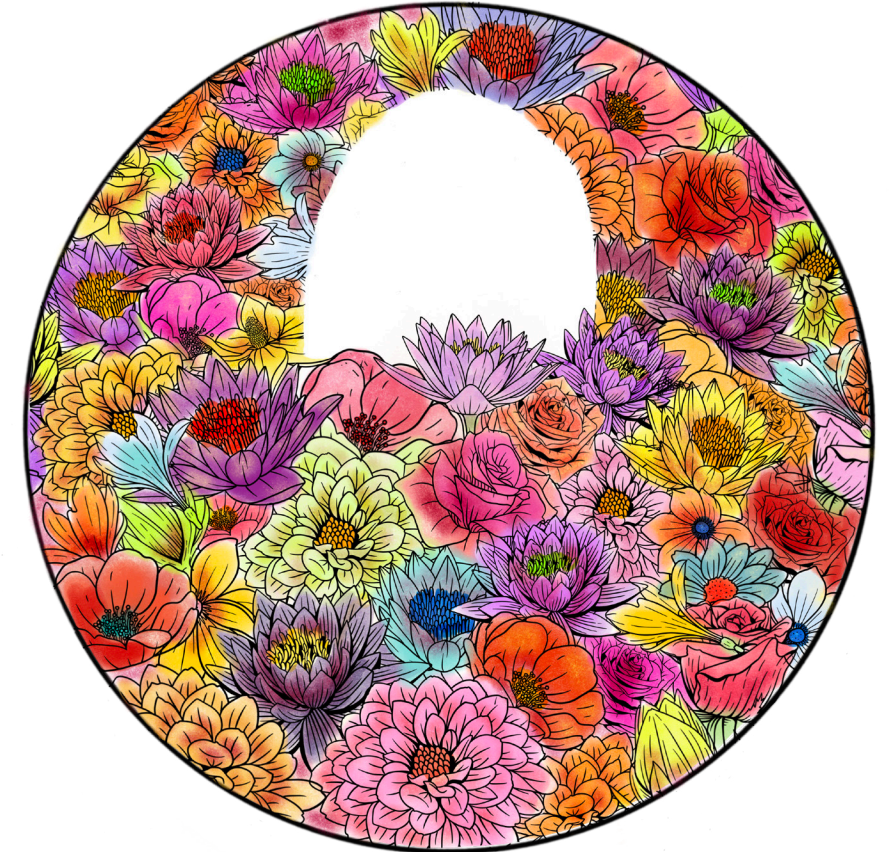
**CHILDREN**

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. 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**

If you would like more information about youth ministry, please contact our Interim Lead Youth Coordinator Christy Roosien at [christyr@wpcgr.org](mailto:christyr@wpcgr.org). To sign up for updates via email from our youth program, email [emmar@wpcgr.org](mailto:emmar@wpcgr.org).

616-456-1456 / [westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org) / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



*Bear Witness*

**THE RESURRECTION  
OF THE LORD**

**APRIL 17, 2022  
10:00 A.M.**

# Announcements

---

---

**WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP: April 24, 7:00 p.m., Zoom** The WPC Fiction Book Group will meet on Sunday evening, April 24 to discuss *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo. Shortlisted for the 2019 Booker Prize, this novel “brims with vitality. The flow of this prose-poetry hybrid feels absolutely right.” All are welcome to join the discussion. Contact Marcie Beck with any questions at [beckmarcella7@gmail.com](mailto:beckmarcella7@gmail.com).

**MINDFULNESS AND SELF-COMPASSION CLASS: Thursdays, April 7-May 12, 1-3 p.m., Multipurpose Room** 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](mailto:jenp@wpcgr.org).

**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 24 following coffee fellowship, Steve Mulder from the Christian Reformed Climate Witness Project will help us learn what we can do about climate change.

**SACRED TRAUMA BOOK GROUP: 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](mailto:jenp@wpcgr.org) with any questions.

**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](mailto:nicolek@wpcgr.org) or 717-5529.

**WALK FOR GOOD FOOD: May 1, 11:15 a.m.** Get signed up now to raise awareness and money for accessible food for West Michigan and our food pantry. It’s a great way to put our faith into practice! Join the team, the Westminster Walkers, as we walk to Cherry Park for a picnic on Sunday, May 1 after worship. All ages are encouraged to participate! Join our walk team by contacting Nancy Greidanus at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org).

**HORSE RIDE FOR 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS: May 15, Camp Henry** All 5th and 6th graders are invited to spend the afternoon of May 15 up at camp riding horses together at no cost to you. Because of the generosity of the Kremer family, we have funds for special activities and learning experiences with our Westminster children and youth. The kids will board the bus after worship to head to camp for lunch and then a trail ride. We need ten kids to make this worthwhile so we need your responses before April 22. Let Nancy Greidanus know at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org) if this will work for you!

# This Week's Calendar

---

---

## SUN. APRIL 17

- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service..... Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour .....Gathering Place  
*\*No After-Church Children's Programs, Youth Group,  
or Faith Formation*

## MON. APRIL 18

- 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Brigade.....Dining Room  
11:00 a.m. Quilting Group ..... Multipurpose Room  
6:00 p.m. Mission Partnership Committee.....Library, Online  
6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting..... Parlor, Online

## TUES. APRIL 19

- 1:00 p.m. Elisabeth Circle..... Parlor  
6:30 p.m. Camp Henry Board Meeting .....Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee ..... Online

## WED. APRIL 20

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast ..... Wolfgang's  
4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting ..... Online  
5:00 p.m. Together West Michigan ..... Chapel, Online  
6:00 p.m. WM Gay Men's Chorus ..... Choir Room

## THURS. APRIL 21

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry..... Front Lobby  
11:00 a.m. House Meeting..... Parlor  
1:00 p.m. WPA Event ..... Sanctuary, Online  
1:00 p.m. Self Compassion Class ..... Mulitpurpose Room  
6:30 p.m. Faith Formation Committee Meeting .....Online  
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room

## SAT. APRIL 23

- 2:00 p.m. Youth Spring Retreat ..... Camp Henry

## SUN. APRIL 24

- 9:15 a.m. Baptism Seminar ..... Formation Suite  
9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service..... Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour .....Gathering Place  
11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation.....Chapel  
11:15 a.m. House Meeting..... Library  
11:30 a.m. New Member Orientation..... Various Locations  
2:00 p.m. Youth Spring Retreat ..... Camp Henry

---

---

## Announcements

**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](mailto: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](mailto:lynettes@wpcgr.org) or Karyll Russell, search committee chair, at [mattandkaryll@hotmail.com](mailto:mattandkaryll@hotmail.com).