

MORNING WORSHIP
So What? Now What?

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

We choose not to be over-awed by death: Even when grief shuts out all other voices, we choose to believe in the power of life. — John van de Laar

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Opening Voluntary

“Christ the Lord Is Risen”
Helen Hofmeister, Organ arr. Frank S. Lynn

++Call to Worship

John Nienhuis

One: Though we have known hardship and pain, though life has not always turned out as we had hoped, we will stand here and say:

All: God’s steadfast love endures forever!

One: Though life becomes more complex, the deepest questions remain unanswered, and the mystery of faith deepens, we will say:

All: God’s steadfast love endures forever!

One: And though the pain of the world often seems more than we can bear or address, we will stand firm in our faith and say:

All: God’s steadfast love endures forever!

++Hymn 254

"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" *Puer Nobis Nascitur*

++Prayer of Adoration

God of all beginnings, you breathed, and this world lived. You spoke, and this world moved. You loved and brought us to a garden, a gift of grace to provide for our needs. God of our Salvation, you chose a people for your own. You spoke the Word of Life. You poured out love, and in a garden showed the world what love could be. The world may silence your name, but we will not be quiet. The world may deny your name, but we will speak it out. This is your day, and we will praise you! This is your day, and we will worship you, our Risen Lord. 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

"I Owe My Lord a Morning Song"

John Bell

I owe my Lord a morning song for God has meant this day.

Through fears of night and hidden light God moves and wills my way.

I owe my Lord a morning song for Jesus rose at dawn;

He made death die and would not lie that others might live on.

I owe my Lord a morning song; the Spirit gave me voice,

Nor did she force my soul to praise but honored me with choice.

I owe my Lord a morning song. How can I help but sing

When God is all in all, and I am one with everything.

Sanctuary Choir

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

John 20:19-31

New Testament p. 115

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"So What? Now What?"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will accomplish the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death. God will bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

Focus on Mission: Refugee Resettlement

Ruth Posthumus

Prayers of the People

Rev. Jen Porter

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:

“Rejoice Now, My Spirit”

Johann Ludwig Bach

Rejoice now, my spirit, put sorrow away.

Your savior, Christ Jesus, is risen today.

Now death is defeated and Satan o'erthrown.

The string of destruction forever is gone.

Rejoice now in triumph, the battle is won!

Cheri Reid, Soprano

++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.

We could keep our treasures locked up where they never see the light of your love, or we can offer them back to you—so that those who live in poverty might be fed, those who walk in loneliness may find a community, and those who long for peace will experience reconciliation. And so we open our hearts and our gifts in joyous praise to you, Living Christ. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 231 "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers"

Suo Gan

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

arr. Calvin Hampton

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.

"I Owe My Lord a Morning Song" and "Rejoice Now, My Spirit" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

May 1 – Third Sunday of Easter

Rev. Jen Porter
John 21:1-19
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Music: Cantus, Cherub, and Carol Choirs
Chapel and Kirk Singers

May 8 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sift through the Noise

Rev. Lynette Sparks
John 10:22-30
Music: Sanctuary Choir

Upcoming in Adult Faith Formation

Offerings begin 15 minutes after the service concludes.

April 24: Climate Witness Project.

Steve Mulder joins us to share what we can do about climate change.

May 1: Mental Health Awareness.

Mental Health professionals from our congregation join us for conversation and to answer questions as we step into Mental Health Awareness month.

Opportunities for Giving:

One Great Hour of Sharing: It's not too late to give to this special offering which supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People Program. Give at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/>, by scanning the QR code below and selecting One Great Hour of Sharing, or using the envelopes in the pews.

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.



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... John Nienhuis
Musicians Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music
..... Sanctuary Choir
..... Cheri Reid, Soprano
..... Janlee Richter, 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 1 Coreen and Will Hausig
Worship Center 2 Erin Molhoek
Nurturing Center Sarah Schantz, DeLano-Taylor Family
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. 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

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.



So What? Now What?

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

**APRIL 24, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

Announcements

WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP: Sunday, 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.

MINDFULNESS AND SELF-COMPASSION CLASS: Thursdays, April 7-May 12, 1-3 p.m., Multipurpose Room Carol Hendershot, Certified Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Instructor, is leading a free, six-week Mindfulness course. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/qpVFWn7bgHbXHhTc9>. With any questions, contact Rev. Jen Porter at jenp@wpcgr.org.

SACRED WOUNDS BOOK GROUP: Tuesday, 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. The group will be meeting at Martha Velting's house. Contact Martha at 616-460-9544 for more information.

WALK FOR GOOD FOOD: Sunday, 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. 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! Contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org to sign up.

WPA BUS TRIP: Thursday, May 12 We'll be traveling to South Bend, IN to tour the South Bend Chocolate Factory, have lunch at PEGGS restaurant, and explore the National Studebaker Museum. All for the incredible registration fee of \$10! Fliers with details of the trip and registration form are available at the information desk or on the website at westminstergr.org/adult-faith-formation/wpa-bus-trip/. Registration deadline is May 8, 2022.

HORSE RIDE FOR 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS: Sunday, 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. Let Nancy Greidanus know before April 22 at nancyg@wpcgr.org if you are interested!

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.

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM CAROLYN MORSE: Thanks to all for your prayers and notes. I have finished my radiation and will have a follow-up MRI in 6 months to determine if the non-malignant brain tumor has stopped growing. Also my friend Barb is home recovering after her brain surgery and doing well. She was so touched to know she was included in our prayer list!

This Week's Calendar

SUN. APRIL 24

9:15 a.m.	Baptism Seminar.....	Parlor
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

MON. APRIL 25

10:00 a.m.	UCCF Board	Conference Room
11:00 a.m.	Quilting Group	Multipurpose Room
6:00 p.m.	Social Justice Committee	Library, Online

TUES. APRIL 26

2:00 p.m.	Stewardship Committee.....	Library, Online
7:00 p.m.	Evergreen Circle	Library
7:30 p.m.	Sacred Wounds Book Group.....	Offsite

WED. APRIL 27

6:30 a.m.	Youth Prayer Breakfast	Wolfgang's
6:00 p.m.	WM Gay Men's Chorus	Choir Room

THURS. APRIL 28

8:00 a.m.	Core Missions Council.....	Online
10:30 a.m.	Food Pantry.....	Front Lobby
1:00 p.m.	Self Compassion Class	Multipurpose Room
6:30 p.m.	Worship Committee	Library
7:15 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal.....	Choir Room

FRI. APRIL 29

2:00 p.m.	Mary Ann VandenBerg Memorial	Sanctuary
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SUN. MAY 1

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
11:30 a.m.	New Member Orientation.....	Various Locations
11:30 a.m.	Walk for Good Food and Picnic	Cherry Park
1:00 p.m.	Game On Board Game Group.....	Online

Refugee Resettlement

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
– John 15:12



We are excited to join with an Afghan family as they live into their new home of Grand Rapids. We want to offer our presence and knowledge to this family as they learn to adapt to an unfamiliar lifestyle in an unfamiliar city. It can be a difficult time of transition, and hopefully our presence will help them feel welcome and offer a sense of connection.

Listed below are areas of volunteer opportunity. If you would like to get involved in a specific area, you may contact the person listed. For general information or questions, contact Kathy Speeter at kspeeter@gmail.com or Nancy Sullivan at baja207@comcast.net.

Areas of volunteer need:

Transportation

Helps to coordinate transportation needs and driving lessons.
Contact: Linda Bieze at linda.bieze@gmail.com

Cultural Adjustment

Assists the family in understanding the community (grocery store, libraries, parks). Teaches the family elements of American culture and life that they may need help with.
Contact: Sharon VanHaven at svanhaven@gmail.com

Healthcare

Assist family in coordinating follow-up medical and dental appointments.
Contact: Lauren Vanderkaay at lnjdds@gmail.com

Education and ELL (English Language Learning)

Assists parents/guardians in understanding the school system. Practicing English with the family and reinforcing lessons taught at ELL class.
Contact: Ron Toering at ronald.toering@yahoo.com

Housing

Assists in gathering household and furniture items.

Jobs and Finance

Collaborate with individuals and the family's caseworker to understand budgets and network for employment opportunities.

If you are interested in taking lead on helping with housing or jobs and finance, contact Kathy Speeter at kspeeter@gmail.com or Nancy Sullivan at baja207@comcast.net.



WALK FOR GOOD FOOD

All Church Picnic and Walk

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 1!

Join the Westminster Church Family as we walk to Cherry Park for a picnic on Sunday, May 1 at 11:30 a.m. We will meet in the parking lot after church. You can simply join for the walk and picnic, or you can join the Westminster Walkers team either before or after the walk by signing up at accessofwestmichigan.org/walk/.

Contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org to let her know if you are planning on joining by April 29 so that we order lunches!