

MORNING WORSHIP
It's Not About the Fish—Part 3

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"The geography of divine grace that embraces Nineveh...confounds our puny and parsimonious human metrics that complain about instead of celebrate divine generosity."
—Daniel Clendenin

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

Opening Voluntary

"Land of Rest"

arr. Wilbur Held

++Call to Worship

One: Whether we embrace God's call in our lives or try to avoid it,

All: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

One: Whether we are longtimers or latecomers in the life of faith,

All: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

One: Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,

All: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Praise to God forever and ever!

++Hymn 619

"Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven"

Lauda Anima

Prayer of Confession

God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves but often wish punishment or exclusion on others. We judge the efforts and motives of others while ignoring the faults of our own. Forgive us when we let jealousy overtake us. Forgive us when we are petty, even in the presence of your generosity. Forgive us when we feel slighted by you. We ask once again for your mercy to transform us and make us new...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Assurance of God's Grace (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

One: Hear the Good News: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All: All this is from God, with whom we are reconciled through Christ. Thanks be to God!

++Response Hymn 817 "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

Dunlap's Creek

**We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."**

++ Stand in body or in spirit

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Beautiful City" from Godspell

Stephen Schwartz

Harper Davis, Soprano

Sacrament of Baptism

Elder Linda Bieze, Nancy Greidanus, and Jen Porter

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today is Vincent James Pipher, child of Ben and Sarah Pipher

Waters of Baptism

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

Stuttgart

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

(Children three years through fourth 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

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Old Testament p. 861

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"It's Not About the Fish—Part 3"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (USA)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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

"Simple Gifts"

arr. Wilbur Held

++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.

Lord, you are the giver of all good gifts. We thank you for entrusting them to us. Help us to put our faith into practice by offering our lives and resources, that the whole world may know of your great love for each and for all. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 649

"Amazing Grace"

Amazing Grace

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation"
Hans Friedrich Micheelsen

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.

"Land of Rest," "Simple Gifts," and "Praise to the Lord" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.
"Kyrie" used with permission of Lee J. Afdahl

Immediately following the service, please stay seated for a brief Special Meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of electing nominees brought by the Nominating Committee to fill vacancies in the office of Elder and office of Deacon.

If you are newly worshipping with us and are just beginning to get to know this congregation, we invite you to join us in the Parlor after the meeting. Our pastoral team will be present for informal conversation in the Parlor, the first room after you leave the Sanctuary—not far from the coffee and cookies, for an opportunity to get to know one another.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

August 28

Look Deeper

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Music: Mark Jackson, Tenor

September 4

Worship in the Sanctuary

Rev. Linda Knieriemann, Guest Preacher

Music: Janlee Richter, Organ

Worship at Camp Henry

Rev. Jen Porter

Music: Helen Hofmeister,
Sanctuary Choir

SUMMER BOOKS FOR CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

During the summer, children's ministry focuses on reading children's books that teach children how to apply biblical concepts to real world situations. Your children can join the children's centers during worship, or you can follow along with your children at home!

This week: *Change Sings - A Children's Anthem* by Amanda Forman and Loren Long

Next week: *What If, Pig?* by Linzie Hunter

Leaders: Carla and Joel Fortuna

*"I can hear change humming
In its loudest, proudest song.
I don't fear change coming,
And so I sing along."*

In this stirring, much-anticipated picture book by presidential inaugural poet and activist Amanda Gorman, anything is possible when our voices join together. As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities, and most importantly, in themselves.

Activity: Sing a song to record and send to people to cheer them up.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care, Membership, and Mission
.....Linda Bieze, Clerk of Session and Presbytery Relations
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families

Musicians..... Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music
..... Harper Davis, Soprano

Ushers..... Team B
..... Bernie and Kathy Smith, Gordon Griffin
..... Stephen Marshall, Randy Block, and Chris Mayhew

Welcome to Westminster

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 Minister with Youth and Young Adults Kat Jonker at katj@wpcgr.org. To sign up for updates via email from our youth program, email emmar@wpcgr.org.



Jonah under a Bush outside Nineveh at Cathédrale d'Amiens, France

It's Not About the Fish—Part 3

SEASON OF
THE SPIRIT

AUGUST 21, 2022
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

WESTMINSTER CAMP 2022: September 1-4, 2022, Camp Henry Join us as we explore our theme: "Re-Shaped." We will deepen relationships with our church family in the beautiful setting of Camp Henry with all it has to offer. Contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org if you have questions. Visit westminstergr.org to register.

WPA FALL LUNCHEON: September 8, Dining Room WPA (Westminster's fellowship ministry for older adults, who may or may not be retired) is pleased to announce the return of our fellowship luncheons this fall. We'll start with registration and a punchbowl at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. After lunch, we'll have a rousing game of bingo (with prizes). There is no charge for this event. Please call the church office, 616-717-5529, to sign up no later than September 1, 2022 or sign up online at <https://bit.ly/3JOb1jm>.

YOUTH POOL PARTY: August 28, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Lunt home: 2083 Steketee Woods Ln SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546 All middle and high schoolers are invited to an end-of-summer pool party at the Lunt home. Dinner and ice cream will be served. If it rains, we will still gather indoors for food and games! No RSVP is required, and youth leaders are also welcome. We hope to see you there!

WPA FALL BUS TRIP: October 12 We'll be traveling to Ludington to visit the new Mason County Research Center and the Port of Ludington Maritime Center, both of which have exhibits designed by our guest speaker, Valerie Van Heest, who is a shipwreck expert. Also included is a stop at the Ludington House of Flavors before heading back to Grand Rapids. All for the registration fee of \$10! Fliers with information on the trip and registration form are available at <https://bit.ly/3OneLuT>. Registration deadline for this trip is September 12, 2022.

RUN FOR CAMP 5K: October 15 The 2022 Run for Camp 5K is back this fall at Camp Henry! We're excited to welcome runners and walkers back to Camp. Can't make it? No problem! Register for the virtual option and you choose your place to rock the 3.1 miles! More details and sign up here: <http://camphenry.org/runforcamp>.

CAMP HENRY HIRING: Camp Henry is seeking three to four fun-loving, hard-working, service-oriented folks, preferably with previous camp staff experience, to join our camping ministry and serve as Program Specialists. These positions will begin in August and run through November 12. They are also looking to hire a horse manager. If you love horses and have a heart for helping horse programs thrive and grow, then this role is perfect for you! Visit camphenry.org/about-us/join-our-staff for more information.

NEW MUSIC STAFF: We say goodbye to Emma Taranko, who was our children's choir director this past season. Emma has taken a job out of Grand Rapids so is not able to do our children's choirs this next year. We welcome Lindsey Doody, who is our new children's choir director! Lindsey is a Grand Valley graduate and currently teaches elementary music in the Northview school system. Lindsey brings new energy to the program! We also say goodbye to Henry Duitman, who has faithfully led the Westminster Winds for the past several years. We welcome John Martin, who is excited and enthused about leading the Winds! John Martin is director of the marching band at GVSU and also other bands. We hope to have many church members in the Winds this year. We are so glad to have the organization back on the schedule after a 2-year covid hiatus! Here is the site where you can sign up: <https://bit.ly/3Au9kEK>.

Donations: Donations can be made by scanning the QR code on this page, through our secure online giving site, or by check sent to the church office. If you have questions about how to give to the church, please email angiek@wpcgr.org or call (616) 717-5533.



This Week's Calendar

SUN. AUGUST 21

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational MeetingSanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Visitor Conversation SpaceParlor

MON. AUGUST 22

- 6:30 p.m. Social Justice Committee Library

TUES. AUGUST 23

- 2:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee..... Hybrid, Library

WED. AUGUST 24

- 7:00 p.m. Youth Committee..... Conference Room

THURS. AUGUST 25

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee Conference Room

SUN. AUGUST 28

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place

Announcements

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED: CANNED FRUIT, MEAT, AND SOUP: The Food Pantry is asking for donations of canned meat, soup, and fruit. The Pantry is also low on plastic grocery bags. Items can be brought to the greeter's desk. Thank you!

ASSISTANT FACILITIES MANAGER POSITION OPENING: We need your help finding an Assistant Facilities Manager! For more information, please visit the "Employment Opportunities" page on our website (under the "Get Involved" tab) or contact our Facilities Manager, Brad Hambelton, at bradh@wpcgr.org or 616-717-5536. Thank you for your help in finding someone to work in this vital role!

ELISABETH CIRCLE: The Elisabeth Circle has selected Wholehearted Faith by Rachel Held Evans as its book for the 2022-2023 year. September 2022 will be our first fall meeting. For information about purchasing the book or any other questions, please call Lois Waldecker at (616)784-0900.

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: If you're curious about broad-based organizing or want to learn how to be a leader in different issue areas, we invite you to the Broad-Based Organizing Training Friday, September 9, 6:00-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, September 10, from 9:00-4:00 p.m. at Park Congregational Church. For more information, contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org.

MEET KAT: We are excited that Kat Jonker, our new Minister with Youth and Young Adults, is here in the office with us now! Kat went to Calvin University and worked as an elementary-school teacher before joining us. Kat expresses a curiosity for meeting all kinds of people and cultivating hearts of service and discipleship in youth. She is passionate about diversity, church community, and seeking God's incarnate love in understanding each other. We are blessed to have her on staff with us!