

MORNING WORSHIP
Seeing through Matthew 25

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name." —Ruth Duck

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

Opening Voluntary "Elevation" Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

++Call to Worship (from Isaiah 43) Rev. Kyle Kooyers

One: The Lord says: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
All: When we pass through the waters, God is with us; when we walk through the fire we will not be burned.
One: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
All: God is about to do a new thing; now it springs forth!

++Hymn 15 "All Creatures of Our God and King" Lasst uns erfreuen
stanzas 1-2: all sing
stanza 3: upper voices
stanza 4: lower voices

Prayer of Confession

If we had known it was you, Lord, we would have done something different. If we had known it was you, Lord, we would have given you food. If we had known it was you, Lord, we would have taken you in. If we had known it was you, Lord, we would not have passed you by. But we did. Too often we make excuses for not taking care of each other. We have ignored your commandments to love and care. We do not deserve forgiveness, but we ask for it anyway, and ask you to help us change our ways...

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: God seeks those who are lost, brings back those who have strayed, binds up those who bear wounds, and strengthens those who are weak.
All: In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new. Thanks be to God!

++Response Hymn 6 "I Bind unto Myself Today" St. Patrick

(stanza 1)
**I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the Trinity
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One and One in Three**

++Passing the Peace of Christ
One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music "Peace Like a River" Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got faith like a river in my soul.
I've got hope like a river in my soul.
I've got love like a river in my soul.
I've got faith, I've got hope, I've got love
Like a river in my soul.
Peace in my soul.
Sanctuary Choir

Commissioning of Faith Formation Leaders Nancy Greidanus and Kat Jonker

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 Matthew 25:31-46 New Testament p. 28

One: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Seeing through Matthew 25" Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith (from The Confession of 1967)
The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time. The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society.

Focus on Youth/Young Adult Ministries Kat Jonker

Prayers of the People
Today, on the 21st anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, we remember those who died, give thanks for those who rendered aid and assistance, pray for those who live with loss, and seek God's justice and peace.

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 "Guide My Feet" arr. John Carter (b. 1930)
Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race,
'Cause I don't want to run this race in vain.
Hold my hand, Lord, while I run this race,
'Cause I don't want to run this race in vain.
Stand by me, Lord, while I run this race,
'Cause I don't want to run this race in vain.
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.
Merciful and gracious God, you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you. Bless these gifts and bless our lives that together we may share your mercy and grace for the world you dearly love. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 320 "The Church of Christ in Every Age" Wareham

++Charge and Benediction
Closing Voluntary "Toccata" on Unser Herrscher Alan Smith (1962-2017)

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.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

September 18

Do You Love Me?

Rev. Lynette Sparks
John 21:15-19
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Cheri Reid, Soprano

September 25

Love One Another

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Acts 6:1-7; Galatians 6:1-10
Music: Sanctuary Choir

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
.....Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate
.....Kat Jonker, Minister with Youth and Young Adults
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children and Their Families

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

Acolytes..... Robin Gregg and Jacob Herrick

Ushers..... Team C
..... Doug and Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs,
..... Kari and Chris Fuller, Ann and Jim Jarvis,
..... Kevin Larr, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp



MATTHEW 25

SEEING THROUGH
MATTHEW 25

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022
10:00 A.M.

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.

UPCOMING IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

September 18, 25, October 2, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

It's time to build community. For three weeks following kick-off Sunday we are pausing our normal faith formation offerings to re-connect and deepen relationships through conversation. Those who sign up will gather with the same group of 9 or 10 people for those three weeks. If you are unable to commit to 2 or 3 of these weeks, simply come and we will form an additional group on any given Sunday.

SUMMER BOOKS FOR CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Nurturing Center: *The Worm Family has its Picture Taken* by Jennifer Frank and David Ezra Stein

Worship Center One: *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf

Worship Center Two: *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon

Leaders: Sarah Pipher, Deb Larson, and Tim Born

STAYING CONNECTED

As we head into the fall, there are many ways to make sure you're up to date on what's happening at church! You can visit our website at westminstergr.org, which has regular updates on worship, programs, and events. You can subscribe to our email newsletters at <https://bit.ly/3RdE7vx> or by using the link at the bottom of the home page of the website. Use the same link to sign up for weekly prayer emails from our pastoral care team, which share prayer requests from our community. If you don't use digital media and would like to receive updates in the mail from Westminster—or if you have any questions—please reach out to the church office at 616-456-1456.

Announcements

Dégagé Vouchers: September 11, 11:15 a.m. Dégagé vouchers will be available for purchase for \$2 each in the Gathering Place after worship this week. 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.

THIRD OF LIFE EVENT AT CENTRAL REFORMED CHURCH: September 12, 7:00 p.m., Central Reformed Church Author Jeff Haanen will share his insights on how the Christian faith gives us a fuller picture of work, rest, and fruitful service during retirement and throughout our lifetimes. The event is free and open to everyone!

THE YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY EVENINGS AT FOUNDERS: September 14, 7:00 p.m. A new group that is open to anyone and everyone old enough to buy a beer! We invite you to join us on the second Wednesdays of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for fellowship with new and old friends. Come alone or bring someone with you! We are excited to connect with you. No RSVP needed, but feel free to reach out to katj@wpcgr.org with any questions you have.

WESTMINSTER WINDS: We are excited to have the return of the Westminster Winds, under the direction of John Martin. Anyone who plays any instrument, wind or string, is invited to participate! Sign up at <https://bit.ly/3AugkEK>

ELISABETH CIRCLE: September 20, 1:00 p.m., Parlor The Elisabeth Circle will meet to discuss *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans. We will cover the Forward, Introduction, Prologue, and Chapter 1. Elisabeth Circle always welcomes visitors and new members. Contact Lois Waldecker at (616)784-0900 with any questions.

FEAR NOT BOOK GROUP: September 28 to November 2, Wednesday evenings Eric Law's book *Fear Not*, changed the way Rev. Lynette looked at fear. Join for conversation around building communities of courage, honesty and love. Visit the Adult Faith Formation tab on the website for more information.

RANDAL JELKS BOOK EVENT: October 8, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary We are honored to host Randal Jelks, Professor of African and African American Studies and American Studies at the University of Kansas, for this event celebrating his book, *Letters to Martin*, that was published this year. Visit the Adult Faith Formation tab on the website for more information.

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.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: October 16 and 23 Interested in Membership at Westminster? Our next new member orientation is Sunday, October 16 and 23, 11:10am-1:30pm (lunch included). New members will be formally received into membership on Sunday, October 30. If interested, please contact Nicole at nicolek@wpcgr.org or 616-717-5529.

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. SEPTEMBER 11

- 9:15 a.m. 6-12 Grade Parent Info Meeting..... Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Kick-Off Brunch Dining Room
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group and Youth Choir Various Rooms
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds..... Choir Room
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Classes Conference Room

MON. SEPTEMBER 12

- 10:30 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 1:30 p.m. Spiritual Formation Group Library
- 4:30 p.m. UCCF Board Meeting Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Supporting DeaconsHybrid, Various Rooms
- 6:30 p.m. Connecting Deacons.....Hybrid, Various Rooms
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee..... Conference Room

TUES. SEPTEMBER 13

- 7:00 p.m. FASD Support Group Various Locations

WED. SEPTEMBER 14

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgangs
- 5:45 p.m. Communications Committee.... Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. WM Gay Men's Chorus Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Night..... Founders

THURS. SEPTEMBER 15

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

SAT. SEPTEMBER 17

- 2:00 p.m. Fall Youth Retreat Begins Camp Henry

SUN. SEPTEMBER 18

- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group, Youth Choir..... Various Rooms
- 11:15 a.m. Church School, Children's Choirs... Various Rooms
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds..... Choir Room

Announcements

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS NEEDED: Our youngest children need you! If you would be willing to serve as a childcare provider in our Sunday Morning nursery or on a weekday morning once a month, please let Nancy Greidanus (nancyg@wpcgr.org). This can be a paid or volunteer position.

SUNDAY GREETERS AND COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED: Can you offer a warm welcome to worshippers or provide hospitality as a coffee hour host? Please consider helping this important Deacon ministry by signing up to serve on one or more Sundays. Families can greet together, and there are no set-up or clean-up duties required for hosting coffee hour! Stop by the table in the Gathering Place after the service today to select a date, or email Jen Kotchenruther: jkochenruther@grcs.org.

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!