

MORNING WORSHIP

Do You Love Me?

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." - I John 4:18

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

Opening Voluntary

"Gigue" Elizabeth Turner (d. 1756)

++Call to Worship

Peter Larson

One: It is not we who chose Christ,

All: but Christ who chose us.

One: We are not here because of our goodness,

All: but because of Christ's grace.

One: We are not here to enlighten ourselves,

All: but to allow Christ to enlighten us.

One: We have come not to be entertained,

All: but to worship God with heart, soul, mind, and strength.

++Hymn 366

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Hyfrydol

Prayer of Confession

Generous God, in Jesus you have shown us love—love that seeks, love that suffers, love that survives all things. You call us, even command us, to show that love in our lives. Yet we turn away from what you would have us do. We confess that the ways of love are not our ways. We deny and ignore, hurt and hate, despise and reject. Have mercy on us. Help us to receive your love so that we can love others, and even love ourselves...

Silent Confession

Musical notation for Kyrie - Unison "Lord, Have Mercy" by Lee J. Afdahl. Includes lyrics: Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of God's Grace

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" (stanza 1) St. Patrick

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

"We've Come a Long Way" arr. John A. Behnke (b. 1953) (Traditional Liberian Song)

Walkin' with my brother, walkin' with my sister, Walkin' all together, step by step.

We've come a long way, Lord, a mighty long way, such a long way.

You took our burden in the heat of the day,

We know our God's gonna find a way.

Walkin' with my Jesus, step by step.

The journey is long, Lord.

It seems we've traveled all the day and the night,

And struggled on with all our might.

Oh, show us the way, Lord,

So we will land upon the other side

And find a paradise where all abide.

Oh, show us the way, Lord, a beautiful way.

John Schlafley, Tenor

Sanctuary Choir

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

John 21:15-19 New Testament p. 116

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Do You Love Me?" 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.

Commissioning of Westminster Child Development Staff

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 "How Can I Keep from Singing" arr. Richard Walters (b. 1963) Cheri Reid, Soprano Lee Copenhaver, Cello

++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.

Creator God, you call us to join in your work of love in the world, and you equip us with all we need to follow your lead. Now make us generous of hand, heart, and mind, as you are. Receive our gifts as a sign of our gratitude for your unending love, and guide us as we offer our whole selves in your service, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 14

"For the Beauty of the Earth" Dix

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Recessional" David Blackwell (b. 1961)

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.

"Gigue," "We've Come a Long Way," "How Can I Keep from Singing," "Recessional" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

"Kyrie" used with permission of Lee J. Afdahl

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

September 25

Love One Another

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

October 2

World Communion Sunday

Love Your Neighbor(hood)

Rev. Lynette Sparks
John 8:1-12; Romans 12:9-18
Music: Sanctuary Choir

UPCOMING IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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

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.

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.



Actively Engaged in the World

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Susan Jennings, Pastoral Care, Membership, and Mission
..... Peter Larson, Elder for Worship
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children and Their Families

Musicians..... Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music
..... John Schlafley, Tenor
..... Cheri Reid, Soprano
..... Lee Copenhaver, Cello
..... Sanctuary Choir
..... Janlee Richter, Accompanist

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

Worship Center 1Katie Prince
Worship Center 2..... Liz Maher
Nurturing Center Deb Larson

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.



Awake My Soul, Mike Moyers

Do You Love Me?

SEEING THROUGH
MATTHEW 25

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

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 through Chapter 1. Contact Lois Waldecker at (616)784-0900 with any questions.

FASD SUPPORT GROUP: September 25 Every month a group of young adults and parents who are navigating fetal alcohol spectrum disorder gather at Westminster for conversation, support, connection, and information sharing. They encourage you to look up FASD and send a letter of advocacy to your local politician in support of the FASD Respect Act. A group will be available after the service on September 25 to talk more about their experience and other ways to help.

FEAR NOT BOOK GROUP: September 28 to November 2, Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., Parlor 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.

SCHWALLIERS ORCHARD OUTING FOR THIRD THROUGH FIFTH GRADERS: October 9, 12:15 p.m. All third through fifth graders are invited to lunch and a trip to Schwalliers Orchard for shooting apple cannons, a corn maze, and picking apples! Contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org for more information and to sign up.

WPA FALL BUS TRIP: October 12 It's not too late to register! Fliers with registration information are available at the greeters desk or at <https://bit.ly/3OneLuT>.

THE YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY EVENINGS AT FOUNDERS: October 12, 7:00 p.m. Thank you to everyone who joined us Wednesday for our first Founders night! Reach out to Kat at katj@wpcgr.org with any questions you have.

RUN FOR CAMP 5K October 15, 10 a.m., Camp Henry The 2022 Run for Camp 5K is back again this fall! We are excited to welcome runners and walkers back to Camp Henry. Can't make it? No problem! Register for the Virtual option and you choose your place to rock the 3.1 miles!

ALL CHURCH EVENT BYOB (BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE) October 16 After the service on October 16 when our third graders receive their Bibles, join everyone for brunch, fellowship, and games. Show off your own third grade Bibles if you still have them!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: October 16 and 23 Interested in Membership at Westminster? Our next new member orientations are Sundays, October 16 and 23, 11:10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (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.

THANK YOU TO CHRISTY ROOSIEN! Since December of 2021 through August 2022, Christy Roosien served as the Interim Lead Youth Coordinator for WPC. She graciously served in this role until Kat began as our Minister with Youth and Young Adults; she has been an extraordinary help onboarding Kat and making the transition go as smoothly as possible. We want to express our deepest gratitude to Christy for her organization, faithful leadership, and her deep love for Westminster's youth. Even though this role is ending, she and her family still remain active members at Westminster. Please join us in thanking her for her transitional work with the youth. Christy, we are so grateful for you!

This Week's Calendar

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. Church School, Children's Choirs Various Rooms
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Various Rooms
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds..... Choir Room

MON. SEPTEMBER 19

- 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Brigade Dining Room
- 10:30 a.m. Quilting Group.....Multipurpose Room
- 11:30 a.m. WCDC Board Hybrid, Library
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnerships Library

TUES. SEPTEMBER 20

- 12:30 p.m. Elisabeth Circle Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Online
- 6:30 p.m. Trustees MeetingHybrid, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Camp Henry Board Meeting..... Chapel

WED. SEPTEMBER 21

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

THURS. SEPTEMBER 22

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby
- 6:15 p.m. TWM Childcare Committee..... Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting..... Library
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

SUN. SEPTEMBER 25

- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour..... Gathering Place
- 11:00a.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 Various Rooms
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds..... Choir Room
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... Youth Room

Announcements

CHILDCARE 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 at nancyg@wpcgr.org. This can be a paid or volunteer position.

SUNDAY GREETERS AND COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED: Please consider signing up to offer a warm welcome on one or more Sundays. Families can greet together, and there are no set-up or clean-up duties required for hosting coffee hour! Email Jen Kotchenruther at jkotchenruther@grcs.org. to sign up.

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED: The Food Pantry is asking for donations of canned meat, soup, and fruit, as well as plastic grocery bags. Items can be brought to the greeter's desk.

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.

