

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

I would almost say that they save me, and
daily.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"And you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

—"When I Am Among the Trees"
by Mary Oliver

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

Opening Voluntary

"Your Word"

Frank Hernandez

Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

Carol Choir

++Call to Worship

One: Love the Lord your God,

All: with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind.

One: Love your neighbor as yourself,

All: with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind.

One: Do this and you will live.

All: Let us worship God.

++Hymn 797

"We Cannot Measure How You Heal"

Ye Banks and Braes

Prayer of Confession

Kees Duncan

Elusive God, you are our companion behind, beside, before, beyond. In our disillusionment, may you break through our clouded vision so that our hearts may see and know that you are here and you are good. Help us to let go of the story we think is true. In all the ways we are closed and protected, help us open to you...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl



Assurance of God's Grace

One: We call to mind your promises and therefore we find hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies are new every morning. Believe the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God!

++Response Hymn 188

"Jesus Loves Me!"

Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Song of Hope"

Robert A. Hobby

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the god of justice speed us on our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Oremos por la paz, cante mos de tu amor,
Luchemos por la paz, fieles a Ti, Señor

Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all.

Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Karys Russell, Agogo Bells

Kees Duncan, Shaker

Kirk Singers

Third Grade Bibles

Nancy Greidanus, Tim Born, and Mary Carrington

Patrick Born, Benjamin Coke, Eva DeVries, Esben Steiner, and Marian Wenzel

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

Luke 24:13-35

New Testament p. 90

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Christ Before Us, Christ Beside Us"

Rev. Jen Porter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith (adapted from the Belhar Confession)

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family. And we believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active, in that we love one another; that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another, that we share one baptism together, that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together, that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the breadth and the depth and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

Focus on Stewardship

Kees Duncan and Matt Russell

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.

Offering Our Lives

Offertory

"Behold, God the Lord" (from Elijah)

Felix Mendelssohn

Behold, God the Lord passed by.

And a mighty wind rent the mountains around, brake in pieces the rocks,

Brake them before the Lord.

But yet the Lord was not in the tempest.

And the sea was upheaved, and the earth was shaken.

But yet the Lord was not in the earthquake.

And after the earthquake there came a fire, the sea was upheaved,

The earth was shaken.

But yet the Lord was not in the fire.

And after the fire there came a still small voice.

And in that still voice, onward came the Lord.

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.

God of Love, you ask us to follow you. We don't know where you will take us or what you will require, but that is the Way we want to go. You sustain us in the moments when our hearts touch your grace. We say yes to you, again. Named as your children we go to love and serve the world. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 543

"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"

Green Tyler

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Toccata in D Minor"

Johann Jacob Froberger

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

October 23

Open to Gratitude

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Luke 17:11-19

Music: Sanctuary Choir

October 30

Hearts Wide Open

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Receiving New Members

Stewardship Sunday

Music: Chapel Singers/Sanctuary Choir

UPCOMING IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

October 16, All Church Brunch, 11:15 a.m., Dining Room

Join us after the service for intergenerational time with brunch, fellowship, and games.

October 23, Congregational Vitality, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

Join some of our church leadership in the Chapel to explore the ways that we see the marks of church vitality among us and where we are led to experiment, grow, and deepen. This fall we focus on three of the Matthew 25 marks of vitality. These are not new. We won't be "done" after a few weeks in worship. Instead, we continually look through this lense and notice together what we see.



Actively Engaged in the World

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor

LiturgistsSusan Jennings, Pastoral Care, Mission, and Membership

..... Kees Duncan

.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children and Their Families

..... Matt Russell

Musicians.....Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music

..... Carol Choir

..... Lindsey Doody, Carol Choir Director

..... Kirk Singers

..... Karys Russell, Agogo Bells

..... Kees Duncan, Shaker

..... Sanctuary Choir

.....Janlee Richter, Accompanist

Ushers..... Team A

..... Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, and Chuck Wylie,

..... Bill Baguley, Tom Kormos, Jeanne Marshall,

..... Michael Marshall, Bill and Carole Warren,

..... Todd Helle, and Heather Lermont-Pape

Worship Center 1 Katie Prince

Worship Center 2Lori Wenzel

Nurturing CenterLucy Campbell and Maren Gregg

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, 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.

616-456-1456 / westminstergr.org / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Artwork by Delia Venema

Christ Before Us,
Christ Beside Us

HEARTS WIDE OPEN

OCTOBER 16, 2022
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

ORGAN RECITAL: October 16, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Westminster will be hosting a Young Organists (under 30) Recital on Monday. The recital is hosted by the Grand Rapids AGO (American Guild of Organists) Chapter. Admission is free. You are invited to attend and hear these young people play the Westminster organ!

THE ELISABETH CIRCLE: October 18, 1:00 p.m., Parlor The Elisabeth Circle will meet to discuss Chapter 2 and 3 of *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans. The Elisabeth Circle always welcomes visitors and new members. Contact person is Lois Waldecker at (616) 784- 0900.

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN Q AND A: October 23, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary Grab your coffee, cookies, and questions and come to a brief Q and A style meeting in the sanctuary after worship. Westminster's Together West Michigan team will give an informal update for any members of the congregation wanting to know what's going on with TWM. The broad-based organization is moving ahead with six research teams: affordable housing, transportation, mental health, childcare, support for immigrants, and public safety. We're working toward proposed actions to vote on in February at a big assembly.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDED: A Congolese refugee family we met through Together West Michigan is in need of weekly transportation from Grand Rapids to Greenville so the husband can visit his wife who has been in a medical rehab facility since August. The family has a vehicle, but due to accident damage, it is only used for in-town travel. The husband, Deo, works third shift. As there are two minor children who are in daycare and school, transportation any day between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. works best. Please contact Dan VanMeurs (616-243-0787) with questions or for more information.

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED: The Food Pantry is looking for new and gently used hats, mittens, gloves, and scarfs. They are also in need of canned meat, soup, and fruit, as well as plastic grocery bags. Items can be brought to the greeter's desk.

CHILDCARE PROVIDERS NEEDED: 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 contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org.

COME VOLUNTEER WITH THE DEACON MINISTRIES! The Deacons could use some helping hands with the following ministries: Greeting and/or Coffee Hour Host, Driving, and Meal Delivery. Anyone can serve in these important roles - you don't need to be a deacon to do so! For more information email Jen Kotchenruther (Greeting/Coffee Hour) - jkotchenruther@grcs.org, Bob VanSprange (Driving) - bobvs@bosgraafgr.com, Heidi Driscoll (Meals) - hdriscoll330@ameritech.net.

THE FLORENCE AND MINNIE BEHL SCHOLARSHIP TO ALMA: The Behl Scholarship program offers approximately 10% of the yearly cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board to Westminster members and up to 5% of the costs to non-members/relatives of Westminster members attending Alma college. Applications for the scholarship are available in the WPC office or by contacting Mary Carrington at mwc545@sbcglobal.net.

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. OCTOBER 16

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. New Member Orientation Dining Room
- 11:15 a.m. All Church Brunch Dining Room
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Group Kickball Offsite
- 3:00 p.m. Sallie Lillie Memorial Service..... Porter Hills

MON. OCTOBER 17

- 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Brigade Dining Room
- 9:00 a.m. TWM Childcare Research Team Library
- 10:30 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnerships Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. AGO Young Organists' RecitalSanctuary
- 8:00 p.m. Recital Reception Gathering Place

TUES. OCTOBER 18

- 12:30 p.m. Elisabeth Circle Parlor
- 1:30 p.m. WPA Conference Meeting Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Camp Henry Board Meeting..... Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Conference Room

WED. OCTOBER 19

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgangs
- 12:00 p.m. TWM Housing Meeting..... Library
- 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee..... Online
- 6:30 p.m. WM Gay Men's Chorus Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Fear Not Book StudyParlor

THURS. OCTOBER 20

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

SUN. OCTOBER 22

- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Outing Post Family Farms

SUN. OCTOBER 23

- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Together West Michigan Q and A.....Sanctuary
- 11:10 a.m. New Member Orientation Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel