

MORNING WORSHIP

Choose

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
and that has made all the difference."

—Robert Frost, The Road Not Taken

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

As we prepare for worship, we are invited to be attentive to God's presence in our midst.

Opening Voluntary "Larghetto cantabile in A minor"

Baldassare Galuppi
(1706-1785)

Introit "The Lord Is My Shepherd"

arr. Charlotte Larsen
Cherub Choir

++Call to Worship

Elder Tim Born

One: Together, we choose to serve God, which means:

All: We choose love.

One: We choose hope.

All: We choose peace.

One: We choose kindness.

All: We choose welcome.

One: We choose justice.

All: We choose to serve our Creator.

One: Let us worship God.

++Hymn 1 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

Nicaea

Prayer of Confession

Holy and gracious God, you are light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us everything we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters and we grasp for more. Rather than trust your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison "Lord, Have Mercy" Lee J. Afdahl

Musical notation for the Kyrie - Unison "Lord, Have Mercy" hymn. It consists of two staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff starts with a fermata over the first measure, followed by the melody for "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us,". The second staff continues the melody for "Christ, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us."

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Beloved, through the love shown to us by Jesus, we can be sure that we are God's children now. God's Spirit is making us new into the image of Christ. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

++Response Hymn 581 "Glory Be to the Father"
Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

Gloria Patri

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith from Book of Order, F-1.0204

In affirming with the earliest Christians that Jesus is Lord, the Church confesses that he is its hope, and that the Church, as Christ's body, is bound to his authority and thus free to live in the lively, joyous reality of the grace of God.

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.

Focus on Discipleship—Nominating Committee

Elder Cheri Reid

Offering Our Lives

Please take a moment to sign and pass the red friendship pad located in the pew, and take note of those worshipping next to you.

Offertory

"Keep Your Lamps!"

arr. Andre Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over the time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Kia Weeldreyer, Conga Drums

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.

Gracious God, receive our gifts, tokens of thanks for your extravagant blessings, signs of trust in your coming reign of justice, peace, and love; in Jesus' name. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 757 "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

Kingsfold

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Toccata in modo gravitazionale"

Carlotta Ferrari (b. 1975)

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.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music "How Can I Keep from Singing?"

arr. Ginger Littleton

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.

I hear the real though far off song that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging;

It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest round me roars, I know the truth it liveth.

What though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it giveth.

No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging

Since love is lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Kirk Singers

Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today are Oliver James Corner and Phoebe Arielle Corner, children of Shanna and Josh Corner.

Waters of Baptism

Response Hymn 487 "These Treasured Children"

Puer Nobis Nascitur

(stanzas 1, 2, 4, & 5)

Reception into the People of God

One: These children are 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: Children 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

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

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Old Testament p. 215

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Choose"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

AHEAD IN WORSHIP


November 19
Thanksgiving Ingathering
"Apocalypse Now!"
Rev. Dr. Randal Jelks
Romans 8:22-27
Westminster Winds, Sanctuary Choir

November 26
Reign of Christ
Rev. Jen Porter
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Sanctuary Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:

Civil Rights Road Trip: November 12, 11:15 a.m., Chapel Join us to hear from Westminster members that traveled on the Civil Rights Road Trip, sponsored by The Momentum Center in 2022 and 2023. Learn how this trip to Montgomery, Selma, Birmingham, and Memphis has since impacted their lives and influenced their response to the work of anti-racism. Another trip is planned for April 22-25, 2024.

Music Minister Search Focus Group: November 12, 11:15 a.m., Parlor Congregation members are invited to participate in a focus group after worship today to share thoughts and hopes about the next Minister of Music at Westminster. At any time, if you have questions or suggestions for the Music Minister Search Committee, please contact Linda Nelson lindabnelson210@gmail.com.



WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church

Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convinced by this passage, the Presbyterian Church (USA) decided to act boldly and compassionately to see our neighbors through Jesus' eyes and serve those who are marginalized or in need, by building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Worship liturgies adapted from *Feasting on the Word* Vol. A2 and *Call to Worship* 56.1.
Cover Artwork: Webber, Charles T. *Underground Railroad*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
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Kyrie used by permission of the composer.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission
..... Tim Born, Elder for Children's Ministries
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and their Families
..... Cheri Reid, Elder for Nominations

Musicians.....Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano
.....Cherub Choir
.....Lindsey Doody, Cherub Choir Director
..... Kirk Singers
..... Jackie Schoon, Kirk Singers Director
..... Sanctuary Choir
..... Ellen Pool, Sanctuary Choir Director
..... Kia Weeldreyer, Conga Drums

Ushers..... Team B
..... Bernie Smith, Kathy Smith, Gordon Griffin
..... Stephen Marshall, Chris Mayhew, Marian Vanderwall
..... Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel

Welcome to Westminster

MEMBERSHIP

If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Nicole Koetje at nicolek@wpcgr.org. More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at westminstergr.org. You are welcome and celebrated here!

ACCESSIBILITY

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.

We have accessible, all-gender, companion bathrooms available off of the Dining Room.

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.

EXTENDING THE WESTMINSTER WELCOME!

As we welcome guests and visitors each Sunday, we encourage everyone to personally extend the "Westminster Welcome" to those you have not met. Yours may be the welcome that truly helps all feel included.

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



Underground Railroad, Charles T. Webber

Choose

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 12, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

ELISABETH CIRCLE: November 14, 1:00 p.m. Elisabeth Circle will meet on November 14 to discuss chapter 2 in *Signs and Wonders*. If you would like information contact Sandy Topliffe at stopliffe@comcast.net or 616-447-3941.

EVERGREEN CIRCLE: November 16, 9:30 a.m., Library The Evergreen Circle has a new date and time: they are meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. to discuss *Wine at the End of the Feast* by Kristen Johnson Ingram. Contact Marilyn Lawrence at (616)862-4924 with any questions.

REFUGIA FAITH RESCHEDULED: November 19, 4:00 p.m., Parlor Our Refugia Faith conversation with Prof. Debra Rienstra which was going to launch our conversation around climate is re-scheduled for Sunday, November 19 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. This conversation will now help us consider action in our lives and congregation. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the conversation!

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION: November 20, 7:00 p.m., Fountain St. Church All are invited to the 24th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration, sponsored by Kaufman Interfaith Institute. A free-will offering will be collected for the Refugee Education Center.

ALL-CHURCH ADVENT EVENT: November 26, after worship Begin the Advent season together with festive food and a special Advent craft. All ages are invited to spend time eating, socializing, and creating a special project to focus our thoughts on Christ, our Messiah, as we journey to Christmas.

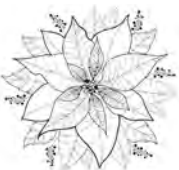
NOVEMBER CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE: Our church school classes in grades 2-5 are taking an in-depth look at Psalm 23, following our study of the stories of David. We will talk about why it is a favorite psalm for many people and illustrate and dramatize how it fits our lives. Our focus: we can respond to God's love and care with our trust and love. Psalm 23:1 and 4 are our memory verses.

ATTENTION ALMA COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS! As you contemplate the college you would like to attend, please consider the advantage Westminster members and relatives have at Alma College, a Presbyterian liberal arts school in Alma, MI. The Behl scholarship program offers approximately 10% of yearly tuition, fees, books, room and board to Westminster members and up to 5% of costs to non-members/relatives of Westminster. Applications are available by contacting Angie Kelley, angiek@wpcgr.org, or Maggie Atwater, magatw@gmail.com.



DONATIONS: Donations can be made by scanning the QR code, through our secure online giving site, or by check sent to the church office. Email angiek@wpcgr.org or call (616) 717-5533 with questions.

POINSETTIA DONATION



We invite you to donate a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of someone special to you. These flowers will fill our Sanctuary during worship, and donors may take them home after the late service on Christmas Eve.

Donation: \$10.00 each **Order Deadline:** December 4

Donated by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Please return form and payment to the office, order by phone (616-717-5529) or email (nicolek@wpcgr.org). Thank you!

This Week's Calendar

SUN. NOVEMBER 12

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.....Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group & Choir.....Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Children's Choir ..Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Music Minister Focus Group..... Parlor
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds Rehearsal..... Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Refugia Faith Book Study Online

MON. NOVEMBER 13

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group.....Multipurpose Room
- 4:30 p.m. UCCF Board Meeting..... Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Music CommitteeLibrary
- 6:30 p.m. Connecting Deacons Meeting..... Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Supporting Deacons Meeting..... Pastoral Suite
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee Online

TUES. NOVEMBER 14

- 1:00 p.m. Elisabeth Circle..... Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee..... Online
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. FASD Support Group.....Various Locations

WED. NOVEMBER 15

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

THURS. NOVEMBER 16

- 9:30 a.m. Evergreen Circle.....Library
- 10:00 a.m. Jim Crow Museum Discussion..... Parlor
- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Choir Room

FRI. NOVEMBER 17

- 11:30 a.m. Camp Henry Annual Luncheon..... Offsite

SUN. NOVEMBER 19

- 9:00 a.m. Westminster Winds Breakfast..... Dining Room
- 9:30 a.m. Westminster Winds Rehearsal.....Sanctuary
- 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. Youth Group & Choir.....Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Children's Choir ..Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 1:30 p.m. Youth & Parent Music Focus Group Dining Room
- 4:00 p.m. Refugia Faith..... Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Refugia Faith Book Study Online

Welcome to our new members that were officially received into membership on October 29! We look forward to getting to know them and the work we will do together as a community of faith.



Evan Force



Katherine Stanka



Amy, Ben, Beau, & Louisa
Klepser



Alex, Rachel, Easton, Rowan,
& Madelyn Fergus



Hugh Buitendorp



Ross & Rita Buitendorp



Stephen Worst



John & Sue Boerman



Jan & Paul Stoub

Not pictured:
Maddie Buitendorp



THANKS INGATHERING GIVING

We are collecting non-perishable food donations for the Westminster Food Pantry.

Items most needed:

Mac & Cheese	Dish, Laundry, & Bar Soap
Canned Veggies	Shampoo & Body Wash
Canned Fruit	Toilet Paper
Soup	Canned Chili
Beef Stew	Pork & Beans
Pasta Sauce	Canned Chicken, Beef, & Tuna
Breakfast Cereal	Boxed Rice Mix
Oatmeal	
Peanut Butter & Jelly	

Bring your food or cash donations to church on or before November 19.

Thank you for supporting our

 **DOWNTOWN**
FOOD PANTRY