

MORNING WORSHIP

Apocalypse Now!

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"In each experience of my life, I have had to step out of one little space of the known light, into a large area of darkness. I had to stand awhile in the darkness, and then gradually God has given me light. But not to linger in. For as soon as that light has felt familiar, then the call has always come to step out ahead again into new darkness."

—Mary McLeod Bethune

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

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

Opening Voluntary

"Lauda Anima" Westminster Winds

Stephen Bulla (b. 1953)

++Call to Worship

One: Let the heavens be glad! Let the earth rejoice!

All: Let the nations say, "The Lord rules!"

One: Let the sea roar and all that fills it;

All: Let the fields and their crops burst forth in joy!

One: Let the trees of the forest sing for joy!

All: The Lord is coming to establish justice on earth.

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

++Hymn 367

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

St. George's Windsor

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have wandered from your ways, wasted your gifts, and forgotten your love. By your loving mercy, help us live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Musical notation for the Kyrie - Unison "Lord, Have Mercy" hymn, including lyrics: Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon 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"

Gloria Patri

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.

++ 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

"Benediction" Westminster Winds

John Stevens (b. 1940)

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

Romans 8:22-27

New Testament p. 158

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Apocalypse Now!"

Rev. Dr. Randal Jelks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA Rev. Lynette Sparks

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Focus on Mission—Thanksgiving Ingathering 2023

Angie Kelley

One: Our God, creator and sustainer of life, teaches us to give generously and cheerfully,

All: trusting that in God's realm, our wealth is measured not by what we have but by what we give away.

One: Today we remember those who struggle for adequate food security.

All: We dedicate ourselves to caring for our neighbors in need.

One: We give thanks for the gifts that God has given us to share,

All: and bring these gifts of food and funds to share hope with God's hungry children.

One: Today we especially give thanks for the ministry of the Downtown Food Pantry,

All and for the faithful service of its staff, board members, and volunteers.

One: We give thanks for the congregations who partner with us:

All: First United Methodist Church, Fountain Street Church, LaGrave Christian Reformed Church, St. Andrew's Cathedral, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

One: We give thanks for our community partners:

All: SpartanNash, Meijer, Feeding America, and so many generous donors.

One: Nourished by God's Spirit, we dare to dream of a world where hunger is unknown.

All: We dare to dream of a world where all have enough, so that it will be on earth as it is in heaven.

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

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

"Hearken! Stay Close to Jesus Christ"

David M. Michael arr. C. Dickinson

Hearken! Stay close to Jesus Christ; let His spirit lead you; Know that He is ever with you, that His loving care never faileth. For this He came from heaven and took upon Him our flesh and blood, For our salvation became man and suffered death. His saving power blesses all the world; no one is outside His mercy, He redeems us from all our sins, He makes us one with God; He redeems us from all our sins, to share with Him eternal life.

Anna Fulton, Soprano Solo 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.

Generous God, source of every good thing, we praise you for the light you give. You have created us and even now breathe life into us through your Holy Spirit. With thanksgiving for all you have given to us, we now give to the work of your kin-dom. With heart, hands, and voices, we dedicate our gifts and our lives to your purposes in the world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 643

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Nun danket alle Gott

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Trumpet Tune"

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

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.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Randal Jelks, Guest Preacher
 LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
 Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and their Families
 Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
 Angie Kelley, Business Administrator

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Organ
 Westminster Winds
 John Martin, Westminster Winds Director
 Sanctuary Choir
 Ellen Pool, Sanctuary Choir Director

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

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

November 26
Reign of Christ

Rev. Jen Porter
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Sanctuary Choir

December 3
First Sunday of Advent

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Isaiah 9:6-7
Carol, Chapel, and Sanctuary Choirs

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:

Join us for reflection and conversation in the Chapel fifteen minutes after the end of the worship service.

November 19: Offering Comfort in Grief We welcome back artist Joel Schoon-Tanis, our 2023 Lenten artist, who joins us with religious educator Karen Mulder. Together they visit churches through Mulder's ministry "Wisdom of the Wounded." Mulder helps people offer comfort to those in grief as we find our way to compassionate communication. Karen and Joel present interactively together and, yes, there will be live painting involved.

November 26: All-Church Advent Event 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.



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. Convicted by this passage, the Presbyterian Church (USA) decided to act boldly and compassionately to see our neighbors through Jesus' eyes and and serve those who are marginalized or in need, by building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Worship liturgies adapted from The Book of Common Worship and re:worship. "Benediction" and "Trumpet Tune" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved. Kyrie used by permission of the composer.

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.



Pillars of Creation, NASA

Apocalypse Now!

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 19, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

LETTER SIGNING AFTER WORSHIP: Find us in the Gathering Place after worship to sign letters of support for the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act legislation. This bipartisan legislation would allow tribal members to access federal resources—including tuition, health care, and housing assistance. Additional information will be available at the tables.

FOCUS GROUP FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES: November 19, 1:30 p.m., Dining Room

Parents and youth, please join the search committee in the Dining Room this Sunday for an important meeting about our next Minister of Music.

REFUGIA FAITH: November 19, 4:00 p.m., Chapel Our fall keynote speaker, Prof. Debra Rienstra, joins us for a presentation and conversation on “Refugia Faith.” Rienstra’s talk is for anyone interested in continuing our “On Sacred Ground” conversation. She encourages us to put our learning into action in our congregation and in our lives. No sign up needed.

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.

UPCOMING FAMILY PROMISE WEEK AT TRINITY LUTHERAN: December 10-17 Trinity Lutheran Church will be housing IHN families and they need our help! Visit westminstergr.org/events to sign up to help. If you have any questions, contact IHN Coordinators Jane French or Ellen Shupe at familypromise@wpcgr.org.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: December 10, 7:00 p.m. Our annual Christmas Concert featuring the Kirk Singers, Sanctuary Choir, string ensemble, and brass ensemble will take place on Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

WPA DECEMBER LUNCH: December 13, 11:30 a.m. Join us for a program of beautiful music celebrating both our winter season and the warmth of Christmas with violinist Diane McElfish Helle and pianist Barbara Dulmage. Call 616-717-5529 to sign up before December 7 or visit westminstergr.org/events to learn more.

MONTREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS: If you are a college student or young adult age 26 or younger, Westminster has five \$300 scholarships available for you to attend one of Montreat’s January 2024 conferences. Email katj@wpcgr.org for information and to apply for a scholarship.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: Our Live Generously 2024 Stewardship Campaign commitments are coming in daily. As of November 14, we have received \$811,423 from 190 households toward our goal of \$1,552,600. Additionally, we have received \$6,030 toward our per capita contribution. Thank you! We look forward to hearing from many more of you in the next few weeks as we begin to finalize the 2024 budget. As sunflowers symbolize generosity, so too may our living and our giving reflect generosity. Please remember to include your name and contact information on your commitment card.

AN UPDATE ON 2023 GIVING FOR THE GENERAL FUND: As of October 31, we have received \$1,041,482 toward our giving goal of \$1,472,307. As we close out the last two months of this year, we ask that you complete your 2023 commitments and intentions so that we can meet our budgeted expenses. We are deeply grateful for each and every gift in support of God’s life-changing work among us. 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.



This Week's Calendar

SUN. NOVEMBER 19

- 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

MON. NOVEMBER 20

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group..... Multipurpose Room
- 7:00 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving..... Fountain St. Church

TUES. NOVEMBER 21

- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room

WED. NOVEMBER 22

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

THURS. NOVEMBER 23 & FRI. NOVEMBER 24

All Day Office closed due to holiday

SUN. NOVEMBER 26

- 9:15 a.m. Youth Bible Study Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service..... Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. All Church Advent Event..... Dining Room

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!