

MORNING WORSHIP

With Justice

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"We give thanks for the waves of possibility breaking on the shore of dawn, the harvest of the past that awaits our hunger, and all the futherings this new day will bring."

—John O'Donohue

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

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

Opening Voluntary

"Prelude"

F.W. Zachow (1663-1712)

++Call to Worship

Rev. Jen Porter

One: Today as on every day we give glory to the Lord of heaven and earth.

All: We watch for the coming of God's realm of righteousness, justice, and peace.

One: Today as on every day we proclaim Jesus Christ as first and last, beginning and ending, Alpha and Omega.

All: We celebrate Christ's presence in and through this world.

One: Let the redeemer's name be sung through every land.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

++Hymn 327

"From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

Lasst uns erfreuen

Prayer of Confession

Elder Cheryl Bremer

God our Shepherd, in Christ you have drawn us in, we are strangers no more. Through Christ we are one in spirit and members of your household. Help us to live faithfully into your name: to be humble, to be patient, and to bear with one another in love. Forgive us when we turn from the peace to which we are called. Renew us each day in hope and in love. Lord hear our prayer...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Musical notation for the Kyrie Unison. 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 lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy up - on us,'. The second staff continues with the lyrics '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"

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.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Old Hundredth Psalm Tune"

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell, come ye before him, and rejoice. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed, without our aid he did us make; We are his folk, he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take. O enter then his gates with praise, approach with joy his courts unto; Praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do. For why? The Lord our God is good: his mercy is forever sure; His truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure. To Father, Son, and Holy ghost, the God whom heaven and earth adore, From men and from thee angelhost be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Tom Macholan, Trumpet
Sanctuary Choir

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

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Old Testament p. 803

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"With Justice"

Rev. Jen Porter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA

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!"

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

"Laudate Dominum, K. 339"

W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him, all ye peoples. For his loving kindness has been bestowed upon us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Sarah Faasse, Soprano
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.

Almighty God, we find our home and life in you. For all that you have done, and for all of creation, may our lives reveal your truth as we await the coming of your peace. Use us, and these gifts, to feed the hungry and to comfort those in need. Through Christ, with the Holy Spirit, we give all glory and honor to you, now and forever. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 761 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Beecher

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Concerto in F, Op. 4 No. 5"

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

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.

Worship liturgies adapted from The Book of Common Worship and Feasting on the Word. "Old Hundredth Psalm Tune" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved. Kyrie used by permission of the composer.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

December 3
First Sunday of Advent
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Isaiah 9:6-7
Carol, Chapel, and Sanctuary Choirs

December 10
Second Sunday of Advent
Rev. Lynette Sparks
John 14:23-29; Ephesians 2:11-22
Sanctuary Choir

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
Liturgists Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
..... Cheryl Bremer, Elder for Stewardship
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and their Families

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Organ
..... Tom Macholan, Trumpet
..... Sarah Faasse, Soprano
..... 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 Adult Faith Formation:

November 26, 11:15 a.m., Dining Room: 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.

December 3, 10, and 17, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

The Gospel Writer's Playlist: An Advent Study of the Canticles of Luke

When it comes to Christmas music, nothing beats the "classics." While it's difficult to say words like Benedictus, Magnificat, and Nunc Dimitus without imagining a wand in your hand, this Latin laden language lists three of the oldest songs in the Christian Tradition. For centuries, the Church has used these three canticles in worship, prayer, and daily liturgy. Arising from the lips of characters from the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel, these songs give voice to all that is the Advent season - hope, anticipation, wonder, and longing. Join us for an inductive study as we listen in and explore together!

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.



With Justice

REIGN OF CHRIST

NOVEMBER 26, 2023
10:00 A.M.

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.



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 serve those who are marginalized or in need, by building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Announcements

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.

YOUTH UPDATE: There will be no youth group or choir rehearsals after church due to the all-church Advent event! Next weekend is a full one with an overnighner, the first YAA meal, and confirmation.

EVENING IN DECEMBER: December 7, 6:30 p.m., Catholic Information Center Register now to join our ecumenical evening of dialogue and reflection. Rev. Kyle Kooyers will facilitate a panel of downtown clergy including Rev. Lynette Sparks. In-person attendance is limited. Virtual participation has been intentionally planned. Visit westminstergr.org to register.

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 on Wednesday, December 13, 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. Diane is a violinist with the Grand Rapids Symphony and a member of Westminster. Barbara is the organist and choir director at Second Congregational Church. We'll start with registration and a punchbowl at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Then we'll move to the Sanctuary for the musical program. NOTE: This program will not be live streamed.

WPA is Westminster's fellowship ministry for adults (55+), who may or may not be retired. There is no charge for this event. Please call the church office, 616-717-5529, to sign up or sign up via the event on the front page of the website. The registration deadline for this luncheon is December 7.

LONGEST SEASON SERVICE: December 13, 5:30 p.m., Chapel This time of reflection and music will make space for the hard things that this time of year may hold for those of us that are wondering about the state of our world, grieving a loss, or simply seeking fellowship. All are invited to stay afterwards for a light supper in the Dining Room. May we find light and hope for our Advent season.

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.



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.

This Week's Calendar

SUN. NOVEMBER 26

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service..... Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. All-Church Advent Event..... Dining Room

MON. NOVEMBER 27

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group..... Multipurpose Room
11:00 a.m. Ken Vanden Berg Memorial Service..... Dining Room
6:30 p.m. Justice Committee..... Conference Room

TUES. NOVEMBER 28

- 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting Online
5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee Meeting..... Online

WED. NOVEMBER 29

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgang's
6:30 p.m. WM Gay Men's Chorus..... Choir Room
7:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting Online

THURS. NOVEMBER 30

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby
6:00 p.m. Faith Formation Parlor
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Choir Room
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Library

SAT. DECEMBER 2

- 9:00 a.m. Christmas Concert Rehearsal..... Choir Room
11:00 a.m. Lew Schoon Memorial Service Porter Hills

SUN. DECEMBER 3

- 9:30 a.m. Member Photos..... Library
9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room
10:00 a.m. Worship Service..... Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Member Photos..... Library
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
11:00 a.m. YAA Luncheon Conference Room
11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
11:15 a.m. Youth Group & Choirs..... Various Locations
11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
1:30 p.m. Youth Confirmation Youth Room
4:00 p.m. Fiction Book Group..... Library
4:00 p.m. Game On Board Game Group Conference 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, email nicolek@wpcgr.org or find the online form at westminstergr.org. Thank you!