Morning Worship
Children of God

Gathering: Preparing to Hear the Word

In Preparation for Worship

"We are called, every day, to live in our own [Scripture] story, to learn it, recite it, and hand it down. To sit around the fire and tell the stories we most treasure. To bask in the warmth of sacred truth-telling. When we do, memory is somehow bonded with the present." *—Anna Carter Florence*

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 "Festival fanfare" *David Blackwell (b. 1961)*

++Call to Worship Karen Meyers

One: Come and see the love God has given to us.
All: Come and see what it means to be children of God.
One: Come with this hope, that Christ's presence is real.
All: With joy, we come to worship God!

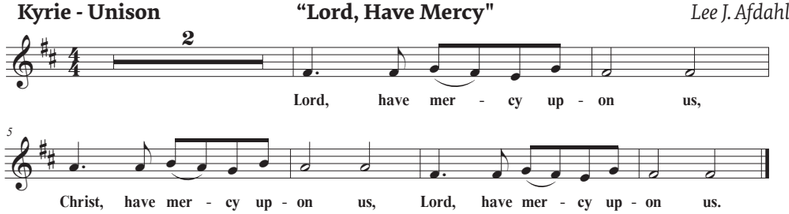
++Hymn 619 **"Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven"** *Lauda Anima*

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you call us your children and cover us with your love. We seek to be merciful as you are and show compassion as you do, but we fail to live as you call us to live. Where we ought to forgive, we condemn; the evil we should shun, we embrace. Forgive our erring ways and make us more like Christ. Give us courage to follow in your way and join with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love.

Silent Confession

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



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 **"Holy Bible, Book Divine"** *W.B. Bradbury (1816-1868)*
Carol Choir

Third Grade Bibles Nancy Greidanus

Amelia Coakley, Patrick DeVries, Ray Fortuna, Sadie Ghena, Geonna Heinonen, William Huntington, Oliver Jordan, Arie Knol, Phoebe Lowry, Ellery McPheeters, Lillian Muir, Connor Ninemeier, Xavier Post, Abigale Schnepp, Norah VanBrouwer, Viola Wenzel, and Jack Zallar.

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 Deuteronomy 6:4-9 — Old Testament p. 163
1 John 3:1-3 — New Testament p. 240

One: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Children of God" Rev. Lynette Sparks

Responding to the Word

Recognition of Heritage Members Karen Meyers

Focus on Music Peter Larson

Offering Our Lives

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

Offertory **"Saints Bound for Heaven"** *arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw*

Our bondage it shall end by and by, by and by, From Egypt's yoke set free,
Hail the glorious jubilee, And to Canaan we'll return by and by.
Our Deliv'rer He shall come, by and by, by and by,
And our sorrows have an end with our three-score years and ten,
And vast glory crown the day by and by.
And when to Jordan's floods, we are come, we are come,
Jehovah rules the tide and the waters He'll divide,
And the ransom'd host shall shout, we are come.
Then with all the happy throng, we'll rejoice, we'll rejoice,
Shouting Glory to our King, till the vaults of heaven ring,
And through all eternity, we'll rejoice!

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!

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements and partake of them immediately as you receive them. Please take your used cups with you as you return to your seats and place them in the cupholders in the back of your pew. If you would like the elements brought to you, please raise your hand and a server will bring them to you. All bread is gluten-free. Children are welcome to participate in this sacrament.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

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.

The Words of Institution

Communion Music "Pastorella, BWV 590" *J.S. Bach*

Communion of the People

Prayer of Response

Gracious God, how can we thank you for such a gift? For you have met us, fed us, drawn us to you, and bound us to one another. Now send us out to share your love and proclaim our hope until Christ comes again. Amen.

Going Out to Be the Church

++Closing Hymn 326 **"For All the Saints"** *Sine Nomine*

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Concerto in G major, BWV 592" *J.S. Bach*

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

November 12
"Choose"
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Cherub Choir, Kirk Singers, Sanctuary Choir

November 19
Thanksgiving Ingathering
Rev. Dr. Randal Jelks
Westminster Winds, Sanctuary Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:

All Generations Sunday Brunch: November 5, Dining Room Join us after the service today for brunch and celebration.

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 repsonse to the work of anti-racism. Another trip is planned for April 22-25, 2024.

Music Search Focus Group: November 12, 11:15 a.m., Parlor Congregation members are invited to participate in a focus group on Sunday, November 12 after worship 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.

Historic Items:

This Heritage Sunday, we have items from our archives that were used in worship by our forebears displayed in the chancel.
Communion Table: The table was given in 1887 by William O. Hughart in celebration of the birth of his grandson Oden Hughart Howard.
Silver Flower Urns: The silver urns were used in our worship services during the 1920s.

WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 Church

Actively Engaged in the World

Liturgies adapted from the Book of Common Worship and re:worship. "Festival fanfare" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved. Kyrie used by permission of the composer.

Participants in Today's Service

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists ..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Karen Meyers, Elder for Older Adults
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and their Families
..... Peter Larson, Music Minister Search Committee

Musicians ..... Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano
..... Sanctuary Choir
..... Ellen Pool, Sanctuary Choir Director
..... Carol Choir
..... Lindsey Doody, Carol Choir Director

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.

Submit to Reflections by November 9

Do you have a story you want to share with the Westminster community? Submit your stories, photos, articles, or anything else you'd like to share by emailing it to reflections@wpcgr.org or leaving a physical copy in the office mailbox of Deanna Clark. The deadline to submit is November 9.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Children of God

All Generations Sunday

November 5, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Announcements

Stewardship Update: With deep gratitude, we report that as of October 31 we have received $677,600 in 2024 Giving Commitments from 155 members/households. We are thankful for all who came forward last week, for those who responded online, and for those who sent in commitments. If you did not receive our thank-you gift, please pick up one at the Greeter's Desk. We look forward to receiving many more commitments as we reach toward our 2024 Giving Goal of $1,522,000.

Dégagé Vouchers: Dégagé vouchers are on sale for $2 each in the Gathering Place after worship. Members and friends of Westminster have offered these vouchers to folks asking for money; these vouchers can be used for services at Dégagé Ministries, including meals, storage space, haircuts, clothing, and more. You can also purchase them online at degageministries.org/purchase-vouchers.

All-Generations Sunday Brunch: Join us for fellowship and brunch after the service today! We hope to see you there.

Youth Update: Middle schoolers, we could use your help with the brunch! Find Kat on Sunday morning to get a small job to help make the brunch a success. High schoolers, enter the brunch with the high school partner you'd like to sit with; we'll have two or three high schoolers per table.

Visit the Grand Rapids Indian Mounds: **November 9, 10:30 a.m.** Join us as we learn more about the sacred Indian Mounds located in southwest Grand Rapids. Ron Yob, Chairman of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, will offer a tour on Thursday, November 9. We will meet at church at 10:15 a.m. and carpool to the area. If you'd like to attend this free event contact Nicole at nicolek@wpcgr.org by November 8. Note: the area is muddy so sturdy shoes or boots are recommended.

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.

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!

Food Pantry: Thank you to everyone who has brought in donations for the food pantry! The pantry is requesting donations of stuffing mix, canned fruit and beans, and plastic grocery bags. Donations can be brought to the Welcome Desk.

Sharing the Bounty Proceeds: Our first annual Sharing the Bounty Food Pantry walk raised a total of $7,014.00 which we will split with St. Mark's Breakfast Cafe program. Thank you to all who walked and to all who supported the walk! We look forward to next year.

SpartanNash Food Pantry Fundraiser: Today is the final day to opt to donate to the Food Pantry at the checkout lane at the SpartanNash D&W at Breton Village Mall.

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 5

10:00 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:15 a.m.	All Generations Brunch	Dining Room
11:20 a.m.	Westminster Winds Rehearsal	Choir Room
12:30 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
6:30 p.m.	Refugia Faith Book Study	Online

Mon. November 6

11:00 a.m.	Quilting Group	Multipurpose Room

Tues. November 7

5:30 p.m.	Deacon Moderators Meeting	Online
7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting	Dining Room

Wed. November 8

6:30 a.m.	Youth Prayer Breakfast	Wolfgang's
11:30 a.m.	WPA Registration & Punchbowl	Dining Room
12:00 p.m.	WPA Luncheon	Dining Room
6:00 p.m.	Communications Committee	Conference Room
6:30 p.m.	WM Gay Men's Chorus	Choir Room
7:00 p.m.	Young Adult Pub Night	Offsite

Thurs. November 9

10:15 a.m.	Grand Rapids Indian Mounds Trip	Offsite
10:30 a.m.	Food Pantry	Front Lobby
5:00 p.m.	Technology Team Meeting	Online
5:30 p.m.	MGD Committee Meeting	Conference Room
7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir	Choir Room

Sun. November 12

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.	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

Recognition of Heritage Members

Today we acknowledge these individuals who have been members at Westminster for 50+ years. Thank you for your ongoing support and participation in the life and ministry of Westminster!

Name	Date Joined	Name	Date Joined
Jan Gorman	4/8/1945	Thomas Lawrence	3/26/1964
Marilyn Whitford	10/6/1946	Nita Luidens	10/11/1964
Burnadette Haney	2/1/1948	Mary VandeVoren	1/10/1965
Calvin Owen	12/18/1949	Janet Moyer	4/15/1965
Marshall Haney	4/6/1950	Marilyn Lawrence	4/7/1966
Janice Bowie	12/17/1950	Alan Burlingham	10/1/1967
Robert Dildine	6/10/1951	Marilyn Dooge	10/1/1967
Philip Hertel	10/12/1952	Deborah Kammer	10/1/1967
Eleanor Gorman	4/25/1954	Don Taylor	10/1/1967
John Porter	3/29/1956	George Hendricks	4/11/1968
Nancy Taylor	4/3/1958	Larry Merryweather	6/16/1968
Janet Dildine	3/26/1959	Genny Bratschie	12/12/1968
Peggy Hendricks	6/14/1959	Ed Paul	12/15/1968
Cherry Jacobus	10/11/1959	Linda Paul	12/15/1968
Joseph Martin	4/14/1960	Ann Bobroff	3/27/1970
Sandra Martin	4/14/1960	Barbara Self	4/18/1971
Abby DeVries	1/15/1961	Robert Self	4/18/1971
Milo DeVries	1/15/1961	Duane Early	11/28/1971
Grace Orders	1/15/1961	Jeanne Early	11/28/1971
Steve Marshall	3/30/1961	Marilynne McCready	11/28/1971
Barbara Roelofs-Dahlke	6/18/1961	Susan Porter	11/28/1971
Mary Beth Bartel-Beals	4/19/1962	Sonja Schultz-Fryer	3/30/1972
David Bowen	4/19/1962	Barbara Savage	3/30/1972
Al TenHoor	4/19/1962		