

MORNING WORSHIP
The Way of Peace

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Peace is more than the absence of war, more than a precarious balance of powers.
Peace is the intended order of the world with life abundant for all God's children."
—Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling, 192nd General Assembly

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 "Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

Jan Bender (1909-1994)

Introit "Christmas Means Jesus"

Carol Choir

Advent Candle Liturgy

The Grayson Family

One: Zechariah sang, "The dawn from on high will break upon us to guide our feet into the way of peace."

As we dream of a world free of violence and strife, we remember Christ Jesus breaks down walls that divide.

With hope, we light the second Advent candle and pray:

All: Come, Prince of Peace. Lead us into your way of reconciliation.

++Hymn 83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Stuttgard

Prayer of Confession

Elder Mike Lunt

God of mercy, God of peace, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom. Too often we accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way of hope, grace, and service...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison "Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Hear the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God!

++Response Hymn 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (stanza 7)

Veni Emmanuel

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. Gustav Holst

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand, Ponder nothing earthly minded for with blessing in his hand, Christ our Lord to earth descendeth our full homage to demand. King of Kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of Lords, in human vesture in the Body and the Blood, He will give to all the faithful His own Self for heavenly food. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way As the light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away. At His feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Lord most High. Amen.

Kathleen VanderVelde, Soprano

Joshua Leckrone, Baritone

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

Ephesians 2:14-22

New Testament p. 192

Luke 1:68-79

New Testament p. 58

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Way of Peace"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 373

"O Day of Peace"

Jerusalem

++Affirmation of Faith Adapted from the Confession of 1967

Rev. Jen Porter

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

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 Mission: Civil Rights Immersion Trip

Elder Marcia Kaye

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

"Gloria in excelsis Deo"

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Glory to God in the highest!

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, accept these gifts in grateful response for your generosity. May these gifts bring joy to those most in need of Christ's mission and ministry. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Genevan 42

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Wachet auf"

A. D. Miller (b. 1972)

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.

Liturgies adapted from Teri Ott and Presbyterian Outlook. "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" and "Wachet auf" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved. Kyrie used by permission of the composer.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Sunday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Concert

Wednesday, December 13, 5:30pm
Longest Season Service

Sunday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.
A Bold Peace

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Luke 1:26-38, 46-55
Cherub & Carol Choirs
Chapel & Kirk Singers
Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, December 24, 10:00 a.m.
Peace on Earth

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Luke 2:1-14
Sanctuary Choir

Christmas Eve Services

4:30 p.m. Intergenerational Service

String & Vocal Ensemble

8:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

Sanctuary Choir, Guest Singers

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

Lee Copenhaver, Cello and Piano
Janet Carter, Flute

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:

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

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

with Rev. Kyle Kooyers 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!

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
.....Amelia, Pete, Jane, & Thomas Grayson
.....Mike Lunt, Elder for Personnel
.....Marcia Kaye, Elder for Justice
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and their Families

Musicians.....Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano
..... Carol Choir, Lindsey Doody, Director
..... Sanctuary Choir, Ellen Pool, Director
..... Kathleen VanderVelde, Soprano
..... Joshua Leckrone, Baritone

Ushers.....Team C
..... Doug Dowling, Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs
..... Kari Fuller, Chris Fuller, Ann Jarvis
..... Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp

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

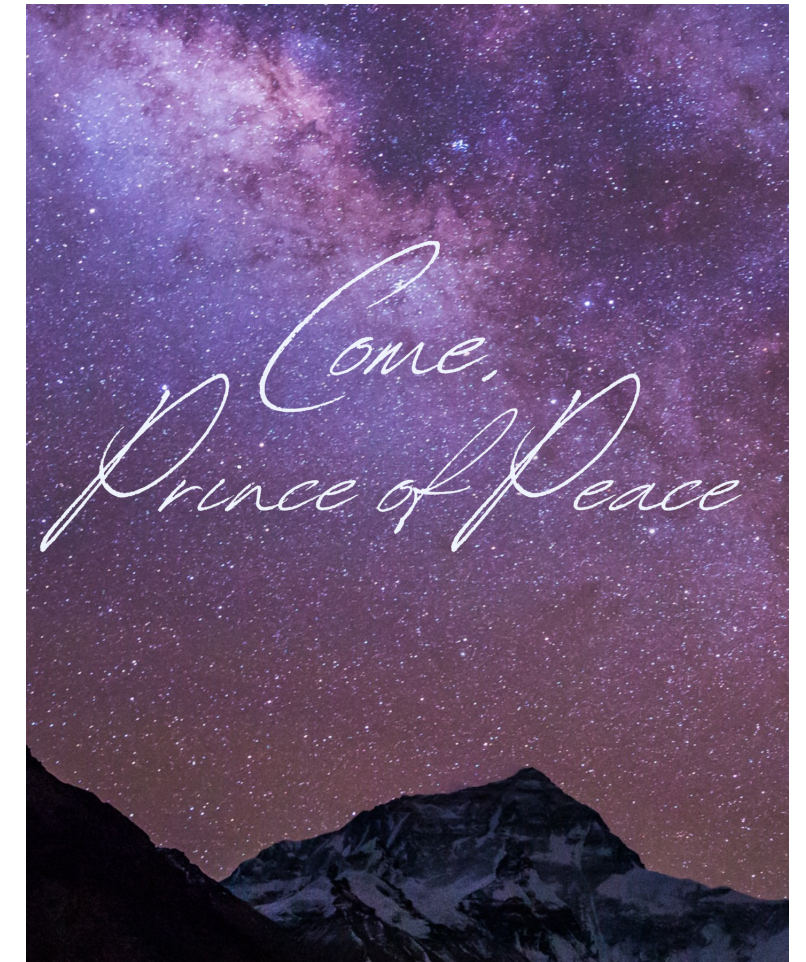
Parents of three-year-olds to fifth graders, come to the children's check-in tables in the Gathering Place before the service to sign in. Ask an usher if you'd like special worship bags, folders, or children's bulletins to help your kids engage in worship. The nursery (babies through two-year-olds) is 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 week, 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.



The Way of Peace

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

CHRISTMAS CONCERT TONIGHT! 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Join us this evening for our annual Christmas Concert featuring the Sanctuary Choir, Kirk Singers, string ensemble, and brass ensemble.

MEDICINE COLLECTION: A group of Westminster folks are traveling to Cuba in January to deliver much needed medicine and other supplies to First Presbyterian Church in Guines, along with other congregations in the area. We will have a collection table available in the Gathering Place on Sunday, December 10 and December 17. Thank you for helping our friends in Cuba!

DÉGAGÉ DINNER VOLUNTEERS IS BACK: WPC will be serving dinner at Dégagé Ministries the second Saturday every other month. We need 5-7 people for each scheduled Saturday. Sign up or learn more with Heather Lunt or Margaret Tuori at degagedinners@wpcgr.org or stop by the table after worship.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE: Take an ornament from our Giving Tree to purchase the item pictured on the ornament. The tree and additional information can be found next to the children's check-in tables.

WPA LIVESTREAM: December 13, 1:00 p.m. The WPA luncheon event will be livestreamed and on the website until the end of December for those not attending in person.

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. All are invited to stay after for a light supper in the Dining Room.

YOUNG ADULT PUB NIGHT: December 13, 7:00 p.m. at Vander Mill on Ball Ave. We hope to see you there!

ELISABETH CIRCLE: December 19, 12:30 p.m., Parlor Elisabeth Circle will meet for lunch and Christmas traditions and carols. Contact stophilffe@comcast.net.

CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE: December 17: All children's choirs will practice early and sing in the service; worship centers during the service but no church school or choirs after the service; **December 24:** no worship centers or church school and choirs, but nursery is available for the morning service; 3:00 practice for those involved in our 4:30 Christmas Eve service, and nursery is available at the 4:30 evening service only. **December 31:** Nursery available for the morning service, but no worship centers or church school and choirs. All children's programs resume as usual on January 7.

MONTREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS: Email katj@wpcgr.org for information and to apply for a scholarship.

FLORENCE AND MINNIE BEHL SCHOLARSHIP: The Behl scholarship program offers approximately 10% of yearly tuition, fees, books, and 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, Church Administrator, angiek@wpcgr.org, or Maggie Atwater, magatw@gmail.com.

JUSTICE COMMITTEE UPDATE: The Justice Committee thanks all the people who supported the bill to grant federal recognition to the Grand River Bands of the Ottawa Indians. Fifty-nine people signed the three letters to Governor Whitmer, US Representative Scholten, and US Representative Moolenaar in support of this bipartisan legislation.



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. DECEMBER 10

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.....Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs.....Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Concert Sanctuary
- 8:15 p.m. Christmas Concert Reception Dining Room

MON. DECEMBER 11

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group.....Multipurpose Room
- 6:30 p.m. Connection Deacons Offsite
- 6:30 p.m. Supporting Deacons..... Offsite
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee Online

TUES. DECEMBER 12

- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting.....Library
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. FASD Support Group.....Various Locations
- 7:00 p.m. NomCom Meeting..... Online

WED. DECEMBER 13

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast..... Wolfgang's
- 11:30 p.m. WPA Punchbowl & Registration Dining Room
- 12:00 p.m. WPA Luncheon & Presentation..... Dining Room
- 5:30 p.m. Longest Season Service Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Communications Committee..... Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Pub Night Offsite

THURS. DECEMBER 14

- 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. DECEMBER 17

- 9:15 a.m. Children & Youth Choir.....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. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel