

MORNING WORSHIP  
Baptism Matters

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

The one who created us is waiting for our response to the love that gave us our being. God not only says: "You are my Beloved." God also asks: "Do you love me?" and offers us countless chances to say "Yes."  
—Henri Nouwen

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

"Verse"

J. Cabanilles (1644-1712)

++Call to Worship

Sherrill Vore

One: In baptism God claims us

All: and names us Beloved.

One: In baptism Christ joins us to himself and to one another.

All: In baptism the Spirit is poured out upon us.

One: Remember your baptism and be thankful!

All: Thanks be to God!

++Hymn 156

"Sing of God Made Manifest"

Salzburg

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you claim us and call us, you support us and uphold us, you save us and free us from our sin. Yet we slip into old habits, worshipping idols that have claimed our hearts, disregarding our impact on the earth and our neighbors. Forgive us. Meet us at the water again, that we might know we belong to you...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Hear the promise of God: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God, sought out, not forsaken.

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

++Response Hymn 671 "O Radiant Light, O Sun Divine" *Conditor Alme Siderum* (stanza 2)

O Son of God, the source of life,  
praise is your due by night and day.  
Our happy lips must raise the strain  
of your esteemed and splendid name. 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

"Salvation is Created" Pavel Tschesnokoff (1877-1944)

Salvation is created in midst of the earth, O our God.

Alleluia.

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

Mark 1:4-11

New Testament p. 34

Acts 19:1-7

New Testament p. 139

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Baptism Matters"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 479

"Ho, All Who Thirst"

Jacob's Well

++Affirmation of Faith *A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)*

Rev. Tim Tuthill

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls all people to all ministries of the church.

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.

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

"O How Amiable"

Ralph Vaughan Williams

From Psalms 84 and 90

(1872-1958)

O how amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of hosts,  
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord,

My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,  
And the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:

Even thy altars, O Lord of hosts,

My King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:

They will be always praising thee.

The glorious Majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:

Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.

O prosper thou, our handywork,

O God, our help in ages past,

Our hope for years to come,

Our shelter from the stormy blast,

And our eternal home.

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.

We praise and thank you, Lord God, for the majesty of your work, the wisdom of your word, and the generosity of your grace. Let the gifts of our lives bear witness to your goodness and mercy, your faithfulness and justice, and your steadfast love for all. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Nettleton

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Processional"

William Mathias (1934-1992)

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**

**January 28**  
**The Struggle for Power**  
Rev. Lynette Sparks  
Mark 1:21-28  
Westminster Men's Chorus

**February 4**  
**Ordination & Installation of Officers**  
**Communion**  
Rev. Jen Porter  
Westminster Women's Chorus

**Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, January 28, 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary & Virtual**

Mark your calendars! We will hold our annual congregational meeting to elect new officers, approve pastoral terms of call, reflect on 2023, and hear about the 2024 budget. Links to meeting materials and Zoom link will be sent out during the week prior to the annual meeting.

**Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:**

**Adult Faith Formation meets in the Chapel after the worship service.**

**January 21: Rev. Lynette Sparks** Discover how the Theological Declaration of Barmen (1934) speaks into today's concerns with Christian Nationalism, and how the Confession of 1967's theme of reconciliation guides us as a Matthew 25 church to connect our faith and ethical responses, especially concerning peacemaking, racism, and poverty.



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.

*Liturgies adapted from Call to Worship Journal. Bulletin Cover Art from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

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**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Preacher..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
Liturgists ..... Sherrill Vore  
..... Rev. Tim Tuthill  
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Organ  
..... Sanctuary Choir, Director Ellen Pool

Ushers..... Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, Bill Baguley  
..... Bill Warren, Carole Warren, Todd Helle  
..... Heather Lermont-Pape, Bob & Betty Jo Norby

**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](mailto:nicolek@wpcgr.org). More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at [westminstergr.org](http://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](mailto:katj@wpcgr.org).

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

Our next opportunity for New Member Orientation will be on February 25 and March 3. Anyone considering becoming a member may stay after worship for a light lunch and time with various staff members. We will explore what it means to be a member and learn more about our congregation and denomination. Please let Nicole know if you are interested in participating by emailing her at [nicolek@wpcgr.org](mailto:nicolek@wpcgr.org) or calling 616-717-5529.



*Baptism of Christ, Dave Zelenka*

**Baptism Matters**

**THIRD SUNDAY**  
**AFTER EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 21, 2024**  
**10:00 A.M.**

# Announcements

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**NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC:** "Salvation is Created," written in 1912, is one of Tschesnokoff's last sacred works composed before the Soviet government began to suppress Christianity. This beloved staple of the Russian choral repertoire is scored for six acappella parts featuring vibrant male voices singing rich harmonies throughout. "O How Amiable," composed by British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, is based on passages from Psalms 84 and 90. His songs and choral works were inspired by his lifelong belief that the voice "can be made the medium of the best and deepest human emotion."

**CUBA TRAVELERS:** Prayers for our staff and church members who are traveling to Cuba this week to deliver medicine and other supplies: Ralph Hammond, Kathy Speeter, Pat Hornick, Diane and Todd Helle, Jan and Paul Stoub, Rev. Jen Porter, and Susan Jennings. Thank you to our congregation and friends for your generous donations. Jen is preaching at Guines Presbyterian Church this morning!

**MLK LUNCH AT DÉGAGÉ MINISTRIES:** Thank you to Dégagé Ministries for hosting our MLK lunch on Monday, January 15! We needed to change the location as the church was closed that day due to illness and staffing shortages. We served a traditional southern style meal to 100-125 guests in one hour! We're grateful that we could make a shift and still offer lunch to our neighbors.

**WESTMINSTER WOMEN'S CHORUS:** Sopranos and altos will have the opportunity to sing in worship on February 4. Please consider joining the Sanctuary Choir Women on Thursday January 25 and 31, 7:15-8:00 p.m. to prepare the anthems for our worship service.

**MIRIAM PEDERSON BOOK AVAILABLE:** *All Fine in the Floating World: The Collected Poetry of Miriam Pederson* is now available to order through Schuler Books.

**SIMPLY GIVE: December 31 - March 30** You can buy a \$10 Meijer Simply Give food donation card at the Meijer store on Kalamazoo and 28th Street to benefit Westminster's Downtown Food Pantry.

**FOOD PANTRY:** The food pantry is in need of clean plastic grocery bags!

**CLIMATE BOOK STUDY:** We are going to read and discuss Greta Thunberg's offering, *The Climate Book: The Facts and the Solutions*, and we are inviting you to join us! Starting on Sunday, February 4, we will be meeting on the first and third Sunday evenings of February, March, April, and May by Zoom at 6:30 p.m. The book study will be led by Karen Meyers. Visit the website to register. If you have any questions, please contact Karen at [sciencezealot@gmail.com](mailto:sciencezealot@gmail.com).

**BIBLES FOR THREE-YEAR-OLDS: February 11** When Westminster children progress from the nursery to joining us in worship, we like to celebrate by giving them a Jesus Storybook Bible. If your child turned or turns three anytime between January 2023 and the end of February 2024, please let Nancy Greidanus know at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org). Children will be given their Bibles Sunday, February 11, during the exchange of blessings time.

**SUBMIT TO REFLECTIONS! March 1** Submissions for the Spring 2024 edition of Reflections are due March 1st! All are welcome to share their stories by emailing [reflections@wpcgr.org](mailto:reflections@wpcgr.org) or visiting the reflections page on our website.

**LENT RETREAT AT CAMP HENRY: THE DARING WAY March 1-2** Online registration is open for our Lent retreat with Brené Brown trained facilitators, Pam Coffey and Westminster member, Heather Lermont-Pape, as we consider together trust, vulnerability, faith, and courage. See website for more information.



**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](mailto:angiek@wpcgr.org) or call (616) 717-5533 with questions.

# This Week's Calendar

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## SUN. JANUARY 21

- 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. Youth Group & Choirs..... Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Worship Center Seminars ..... Worship Center 2

## MON. JANUARY 22

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group..... Multipurpose Room

## TUES. JANUARY 23

- 2:00 p.m. TWM Clergy Caucus..... Dining Room

## WED. JANUARY 24

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast ..... Wolfgang's
- 6:30 p.m. West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus..... Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study ..... Parlor

## THURS. JANUARY 25

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry ..... Front Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Men's Inner Compass Group..... Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee ..... Library
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room

## SUN. JANUARY 28

- 9:10 a.m. Youth Musical Rehearsal ..... 3rd Floor Music Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service..... Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting ... Sanctuary, Hybrid
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs ..... Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group & Choirs..... Various Locations