

MORNING WORSHIP  
The Struggle for Power

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.” –Martin Luther King Jr.

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 "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" J. C. Bach (1642-1703)

++Call to Worship

Elder Cheri Reid

One: Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.

All: **Great are your works, O Lord, pondered by all who delight in them.**

One: Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

All: **You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.**

++Hymn 263

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

Coronation

Prayer of Confession

**You have shown us, O God, what it means to follow you. You modeled compassion in the person of Jesus Christ, but we fail to extend kindness to all. You challenge systems of injustice through the movement of your spirit, but we keep choosing the status quo over the kin-dom of God. You create all things good, but too often we wound your earth by our sin. Forgive us when we fail, O God. Pour your compassion on us this day, and by your forgiveness, show us how to live freely in your grace...**

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.**

++ 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

"Praise Ye the Lord"

Dan Davison (b. 1956)

From Psalm 148 and 150

Praise ye the Lord, Praise him in his sanctuary,

Praise ye the Lord, Praise him in his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him with sound. Praise him with the sound of trumpets.

Praise him with timbrel, voices and horn.

Praise him with the organ, and praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise him all his angels, and praise him all his hosts.

Praise him all ye stars of light.

Young men and old men and rulers of the world bless his name,

Praise him with the crashing cymbals.

Let all the cymbals loudly resound.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Westminster Men's Chorus

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 1:21-28

New Testament p. 35

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"The Struggle for Power"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 181

"Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit"

Ebenezer

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

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

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 Music

Elizabeth Topcliffe

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

"How Can I Keep From Singing?" Robert Lowry (1826-1899)  
arr. Sarah Quartel

My life goes on in endless song above earth's lamentation,  
I hear the real though far off tune that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear its music ringing,  
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?  
What though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it liveth.  
And though the darkness'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?  
I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it,  
And day by day this pathway smooths since first I learned to love it.  
The peace of love makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;  
All things are mine in love and joy! How can I keep from singing?

John Schlapfley & Eric Richter, Soloists

++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.**

**O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the head of the church and the Lord of our lives. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 182

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Kingsfold

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Voluntary in A minor"

Anonymous 18th century

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**

**February 4**  
**Ordination & Installation of Officers**  
**Communion**

Rev. Jen Porter  
Westminster Women's Chorus & Carol Choir

**February 11**  
Rev. Lynette Sparks  
Kirk Singers & Sanctuary Choir

**Annual Meeting**

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

Please remain after the service for our annual congregational meeting to elect new officers, approve pastoral terms of call, reflect on 2023, and hear about the 2024 budget.



**WE ARE A**  
**MATTHEW 25 Church**

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. Convinced 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.

**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.

*Liturgies adapted from Call to Worship Journal, John Wurster, the Presbyterian Outlook.  
Bulletin Cover Art from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. Kyrie used by permission of composer.*

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
Liturgists ..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
..... Cheri Reid, Elder for Nominations  
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families  
..... Elizabeth Topliffe, Minister of Music Search Committee Member

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano  
..... John Schlafley & Eric Richter, Soloists  
..... Westminster Men's Chorus, 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).



*The Possessed, Jesus MAFA*

**The Struggle for Power**

**FOURTH SUNDAY**  
**AFTER EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 28, 2024**  
**10:00 A.M.**

# Announcements

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**IN THE IMAGE DRIVE:** January is our month for collecting and giving for *In the Image*. We will be focusing on Baby Basics including diapers sizes 1-7, baby wipes, pull-ups and newborn essentials! Items can be brought to the Children's Check-in Tables.

**ALL-CHURCH VALENTINE'S EVENT:** **February 4, 11:15 a.m., Dining Room** We will have food, make valentines, and fill valentines bags with toiletries and valentines for our food pantry patrons. Bring individual-sized toiletries to fill the bags.

**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.

**PARENT'S SOCIAL HOUR:** **February 1, 9:30 a.m., Children's Ministries Hallway** Parents and Children are invited to eat, play, talk, and have fun together! Contact Nancy Greidanus (nancyg@wpcgr.org) to RSVP or with questions.

**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.

**BIBLES FOR THREE-YEAR-OLDS:** **February 11** 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. Children will be given their Jesus Storybook Bible Sunday, February 11, during the exchange of blessings time.

**WPA FEBRUARY LUNCH:** **February 14, 11:30 a.m.** Join the West Michigan Opera Project on Valentine's Day for "Songs of Love." Local professional singers perform favorite opera arias and Broadway hits all about L'amour from Bizet's Carmen, and Saint-Saens' Samson and Delilah to Showboat and Phantom of the Opera. This event will not be live streamed. Since Valentine's Day is also Ash Wednesday, imposition of ashes will be available in the Chapel following the program. Please call the church office, 616-717-5529, to sign up or sign up online on our website. The registration deadline for this luncheon is February 8.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** **February 14, 12:00-3:00 p.m., Chapel** Imposition of Ashes will be offered in the Chapel on an individual basis. **Evening Service, 7:00p.m., Sanctuary** with imposition of ashes and music by the Sanctuary Choir.

**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 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.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!** **February 11** The pantry is collecting soup for our annual Souper Bowl of Caring! Canned soup is a staple of the Downtown Food Pantry. It's delicious, nutritious, and easy. We can also purchase soup from Feeding America for a fraction of the cost so monetary donations are also appreciated. You can bring your cans, cases, cash, or checks to the church on February 11, or give to the pantry online using the QR code below. Go Lions!



**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 28

- 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

## MON. JANUARY 29

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group.....Multipurpose Room
- 6:30 p.m. Justice Committee Meeting.....Library

## TUES. JANUARY 30

- 6:00 p.m. Memorial Trust Committee..... Conference Room

## WED. JANUARY 31

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast ..... Wolfgang's
- 8:00 a.m. Blood Drive ..... Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus..... Choir Room

## THURS. FEBRUARY 1

- 9:30 a.m. Children & Parents Social Hour ....Children's Hallway
- 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Formation Group.....Library
- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry ..... Front Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room

## SUN. FEBRUARY 4

- 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. All Church Valentine's Event..... Dining Room
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group & Kirk Singers ..... Various Locations
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds Rehearsal..... Choir Room
- 4:00 p.m. Fiction Book Group.....Library
- 4:00 p.m. Game On Board Game Group ..... Conference Room