

MORNING WORSHIP

Nothing Seems the Same Anymore

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Transfiguration is living by vision: standing foursquare in the midst of a broken, tortured, oppressed, starving, dehumanizing reality, yet seeing the invisible, calling it to come, behaving as if it is on the way, sustained by elements of it that have come already, within and among us." —Walter Wink

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

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

Opening Voluntary

"Praeludium"

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

++Call to Worship

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

One: Blessed is the Lord our God, who revealed the law to Moses.

All: Blessed is the Lord our God, who spoke through the prophets.

One: Blessed is the Lord our God, who came to us in Jesus Christ.

All: The one who spoke and called light out of darkness now shines in our hearts.

One: The one who comes and does not keep silence now speaks in our midst.

All: Now we have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

++Hymn 662

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Ratisbon

Prayer of Confession

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory, but we turn away, distracted by our own plans. We confess that we speak when we should listen, and act when we should wait. Forgive our aimless enthusiasm. Grant us wisdom to live in your light and to follow in the way of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ...

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

"Swingin' Sweet Chariot"

Rollo Dilworth

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan and what did I see; a band of angels comin' after me.

If you get to heaven before I get through, tell all my loved ones "I am comin' too."

In the mornin' as I look into the skies, it's comin' for to carry me on home, my sweet glorious home. In the midnight hour as I close my weary eyes, it's comin' for to carry me home.

Swing low, sweet chariot.

Kirk Singers

Presentation of Bibles for Three-Year-Olds

Ben Boerkoel & Katie Prince

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

Psalms 50:1-6

Old Testament p. 519

Mark 9:2-9

New Testament p. 44

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Nothing Seems the Same Anymore"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 193

"Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

Unser Herrscher

++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.

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

"There is a Balm in Gilead" William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

Jeremiah 8:22

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,

There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,

But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,

You can tell the love of Jesus, and say "He died for all."

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Tom Macholan, Solo

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, on the mountain top you instructed your disciples to listen to your beloved Son. We are listening; we hear your Spirit's call to bless the world. We offer you our gifts and our hearts; transform them into signs of hope, peace, and life for all creation. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 189 "O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair"

Deo Gracias

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Toccata in C"

Johann G. Walther (1684-1748)

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 the Book of Common Worship and the Presbyterian Outlook. Bulletin Cover Art from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. "There is a Balm in Gilead" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved. Kyrie used by permission of the composer.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

February 14

Ash Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Sanctuary Choir

February 18

First Sunday in Lent

Called to Covenant Community

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Genesis 9:8-17
Westminster Winds & Sanctuary Choir

February 25

Second Sunday in Lent

A Community of "Losers"

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Mark 8:31-38
Chapel & Sanctuary Choirs

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

February 11: Confessions of the 20th Century

After our snowed-out January 14 service, Rev. Kyle Kooyers will finish the last of Reformed Confessions series. The Belhar Confession was written in 1982 in Afrikaans in response to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and continues to guide the witness and call of our faith today.

February 18: Howard Thurman's What Makes You Come Alive

Howard Thurman, known as the spiritual guide of the Civil Rights movement, becomes our guide through the weeks of reflection and preparation we are all called to during Lent. Using the vast collection of Thurman's teachings on spiritual maturity and spiritual discernment and drawing from Lerita Coleman Brown's book "What Makes You Come Alive," we reflect on our own spiritual lives and commitments. Join Rev. Jen for these weeks of learning, reflection, and conversation.



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

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Mission
..... Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
..... Ben Boerkoel, Elder for Children & Families
..... Katie Prince, Children & Families Committee Member

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano
..... Kirk Singers, Director Jackie Schoon
..... Sanctuary Choir, Director Ellen Pool
..... Tom Macholan, Solo

Ushers..... Bernie Smith, Kathy Smith, Stephen Marshall
..... 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.

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.

616-456-1456 / westminstergr.org / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Transfiguration, Mary Jane Miller

Nothing Seems the Same Anymore

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

FEBRUARY 11, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN: February 11, 18, and March 17, Parlor, 11:15 a.m.

What pressures are you feeling individually or as a family? What passions do you have to make our community a better place for all? What can we as West Michigan do better? Join us after the service for an informal conversation with Together West Michigan to share what is on your heart and mind.

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, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary** with imposition of ashes and music by the Sanctuary Choir.

BAPTISM SEMINAR: February 18, 9:15 a.m., Parlor Baptism is a joyous occasion for God's people! If you are interested in baptism at Westminster, we offer a seminar to talk about what this important sacrament means to all of us. Contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org for more information.

ELISABETH CIRCLE: February 20, 1:00 p.m., Parlor The Elisabeth Circle will meet on February 20 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss Chapter 3 of *Signs and Wonders*.

YOUNG ADULT PUB NIGHT: February 21, 7:00 p.m., House Rules Pub night is on February 21 this month, not February 14. Join us at House Rules Game Lounge from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Come hang out with us over drinks and games. Feel free to come even if you don't plan to participate in games.

UPCOMING JUSTICE EVENTS: February 29 & March 28 In our continued efforts to promote various events and speakers that raise awareness and further educate us about justice issues in our community and world, the Justice Committee encourages you to check out the following free events at the Gerald R. Ford Museum: **Thursday, February 29, 6:30 p.m.:** Black Liberation Through the Marketplace with Rachel Ferguson - Hope, Heartbreak, and the Promise of America. **Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.:** Dr. David Pilgram and the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University.

SUBMIT TO REFLECTIONS! March 1 Submissions for the Spring 2024 edition of Reflections are due March 1! Submit your entries to reflections@wpcgr.org. Visit the reflections page on our website to learn more.

SIMPLY GIVE: December 31 - March 30 Purchase a \$10 Meijer Simply Give donation card at the Meijer on Kalamazoo and 28th Street to benefit the pantry!

PLASTIC BAGS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY: The food pantry is in need of clean, plastic grocery bags. Donations can be brought to the Welcome Desk.

CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE: Our exploration workshops in grades 2-5 are exploring the story of "Jesus Calms the Storm" through drama, art, and music. Our memory verse is Mark 4:39, "He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm."



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. FEBRUARY 11

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.....Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Together West Michigan Conversation..... Parlor
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & ChoirsVarious Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group & Choirs..... Various Locations
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds Rehearsal..... Choir Room

MON. FEBRUARY 12

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group.....Multipurpose Room
- 4:30 p.m. UCCF Board Meeting..... Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. All Deacons Meeting Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee Online
- 7:00 p.m. Connecting Deacons Meeting Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Supporting Deacons Meeting..... Pastoral Suite

TUES. FEBRUARY 13

- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. FASD Support Group..... Various Locations

WED. FEBRUARY 14

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgang's
- 11:30 a.m. WPA Punchbowl..... Dining Room
- 12:00 p.m. WPA Luncheon..... Dining Room
- 12:00 p.m. Drop in Ashes..... Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service Sanctuary

THURS. FEBRUARY 15

- 9:30 a.m. Evergreen Circle.....Library
- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby
- 6:30 p.m. New Elder TrainingLibrary

SUN. FEBRUARY 18

- 9:00 a.m. TWM Core Team MeetingLibrary
- 9:00 a.m. Westminster Winds Breakfast..... Dining Room
- 9:10 a.m. Youth Musical Rehearsal3rd Floor Music Room
- 9:15 a.m. Baptism Seminar Parlor
- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room
- 9:30 a.m. Westminster Winds Rehearsal..... Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.....Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Together West Michigan Conversation..... Parlor
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & ChoirsVarious Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group & Choirs..... Various Locations
- 6:30 p.m. Climate Book Study Online

THE DARING WAY

What is our faith asking of us this Lent?



*How does being vulnerable together benefit
our community and ourselves?*

Lent Retreat at Camp Henry!

Friday, March 1, 6:00 p.m. -
Saturday, March 2, 4:30 p.m.

Drawing from Brené Brown's research on trust, vulnerability and courage, we are joined by trained facilitators, Pam Coffey and Westminster member Heather Lermont-Pape at Camp Henry for an overnight retreat.

Learn more & register at westminstergr.org
Questions? Email Jen at jenp@wpcgr.org