

MORNING WORSHIP
A Community of "Losers"

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a [person] must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a [person their] life, and it is grace because it gives a [person] the only true life."
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

"O God of Every Nation"

setting E. Childs

++Call to Worship

Elder Ben Boerkoel

One: We follow Christ,

All: who says take up your cross.

One: We follow Christ,

All: who bids us to come and offer our lives.

One: We follow Christ,

All: who summons us to new life.

One: Come, let us worship our Creator.

++Hymn 159

"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

Kingsfold

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that our sin turns us from you again and again. We claim to follow Jesus but have not taken his path of sacrificial love. We profess to be disciples, but are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship. We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain. Forgive us and free us for sincere repentance...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Assurance of God's Grace

One: The Lord says, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds. I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Friends, trust the good news of the gospel:

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

++Response Hymn 417

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

Southwell

(stanza 1)

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin.**

**From earth-born passions set me free,
and make me pure within.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"My Strength and Shield"

Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

The Lord is my strength and my shield; with my heart do I trust in the Lord,
my God and King. Therefore my heart shall greatly rejoice.
With my song will I praise the Lord, my God and King.

Chapel Singers

Sacrament of Baptism

Nancy Greidanus

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today are Eli Coke, child of Thomas Coke and Kelly Kay Hugh, and Phoebe Lowry, child of William Lowry and Shalom Sonneveldt.

Waters of Baptism

Response Hymn 487 "These Treasured Children"

Puer Nobis Nascitur

(stanzas 1, 2, 4, & 5)

Reception into the People of God

One: These children are now received into the holy universal Church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God. And we are!

All: Children of the Covenant, we welcome you into Christ's church for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you. We promise to help you know Christ.

One: Thanks be to God.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

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

Mark 8:31-38

New Testament p. 8

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"A Community of 'Losers'"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 726

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

Kelvingrove

++Affirmation of Faith Adapted from The Confession of Belhar

One: We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

All: We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the Church, as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

One: We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the Church of Jesus Christ.

All: We believe that, through the working of God's Spirit, it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought.

One: We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways:

All: in that we love one another and that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another.

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

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Dan Locklair (b. 1949)

Psalm 51: 10-13

Create in me a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

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, from you comes every good and perfect gift. With gratitude, we return to you what is yours, offering ourselves and all that we have to further Christ's ministry and mission. Amen.

++Closing Hymn 209 "My Song Is Love Unknown" *Love Unknown*

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Sounds" *Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)*

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 Feasting on the Word Year B and re:worship.
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Kyrie used by permission of the composer.*

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

March 3
Third Sunday in Lent
A Community of Music
Youth-Led Worship

March 10
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Daylight Savings Time Begins
Community "Suggestion" Box?
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Exodus 20:1-17

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

February 18-March 24: 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.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
.....Ben Boerkoel, Elder for Children and Families
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Families

Musicians.....Janlee Richter, Piano & Organ
.....Chapel Singers, Director Jackie Schoon
.....Sanctuary Choir, Director Ellen Pool

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.



Living Cross, Sarah Hall

A Community of "Losers"

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 25, 2024
10:00 A.M.



Announcements

SIMPLY GIVE DOUBLE MATCH DAY: March 2 & 23 Purchase a \$10 Meijer Simply Give donation card at the Meijer on Kalamazoo and 28th Street to benefit the pantry! Want to give more? For every \$10 donated at this store on March 2 and March 23, Meijer will donate an additional \$20, resulting in \$30 to our pantry to use to purchase food for our shelves!

YOUTH UPDATE: Youth Sunday rehearsals will be held today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and on Saturday, March 2, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Middle and high schoolers, please join us in the Sanctuary!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Children ages 3-1st grade will not have choir this week.

SUBMIT TO REFLECTIONS! March 1 Submissions for the Spring 2024 edition of Reflections are due March 1! Submit your entries to reflections@wpcgr.org.

CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE RECEIVING FISH BANKS! The money collected goes to provide food and comfort for people all over the world. Bring your filled fish banks to place in the baskets in the worship service on Easter Sunday.

JOIN OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND SHAPE THE FUTURE OF WPC Join us in shaping the future of Westminster by becoming a member of our Nominating Committee. As a vital part of our church leadership, the committee is responsible for presenting a carefully chosen slate of officers annually at our congregational meeting. We seek dedicated individuals who will through prayer and the process of discernment, identify qualified candidates with leadership skills and commitment, maintain a balanced and diverse slate of nominees, and support our church's vision through fostering community, practicing openness, and embracing diversity. If you're passionate about serving our church community and helping to discern its leaders, contact us for more information at nominations@wpcgr.org.

UPCOMING JUSTICE EVENTS: 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 at 6:30 p.m.** Black Liberation Through the Marketplace with Rachel Ferguson - Hope, Heartbreak, and the Promise of America. **Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m.** Dr. David Pilgram and the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University.

TAKE A NEW DIRECTORY PHOTO! March 10 & 24 On March 10 following worship and on March 24 before and after worship (beginning at 9:30 a.m.), members can take a directory photo in the Library and help us keep our directory up to date!

CONCERT SAVE THE DATE: March 18, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Westminster will host the Grinnell (Iowa) College Choir.

SANDWICH BRIGADE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: A group of folks have been gathering once a month at Mel Trotter Ministries, located downtown at 225 Commerce Ave SW, to prepare sandwiches and assemble sack lunches for our neighbors. Typically the group meets the first Thursday of the month from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Contact Anita Sukenik at sandwichbrigade02@wpcgr.org for more information.

WPA LUNCHEON: March 13 Westminster Presbyterian Adults is pleased to announce that for our March meeting the program will be presented by students from our neighbor, Catholic Central High School. On Wednesday, March 13, CCHS students will be joining us for lunch (at noon) and then presenting a program (at 1:00 p.m.) that will include a men's choir, a women's choir, and a combined choir. Join us in person at church for this offering of music as this event will not be livestreamed. Please call the church office at 616-717-5529 to sign up or sign up online no later than March 7!



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 25

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. YAA Luncheon..... Conference Room
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group Dining Room
- 11:15 a.m. New Member Orientation..... Dining Room
- 11:45 a.m. Youth Sunday Rehearsals.....Sanctuary

MON. FEBRUARY 26

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 6:30 p.m. Justice Committee Library

TUES. FEBRUARY 27

- 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee..... Online

WED. FEBRUARY 28

- 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. FEBRUARY 29

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir..... Choir Room

FRI. MARCH 1

- 6:00 p.m. Lent Retreat Camp Henry

SAT. MARCH 2

- 10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday Rehearsal.....Sanctuary

SUN. MARCH 3

- 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 ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. New Member Orientation..... Dining Room
- 4:00 p.m. Fiction Book Group Library
- 4:00 p.m. Game On Board Game Group..... Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Climate Book Study..... Online

EASTER FLOWER DONATION



We invite you to donate an Easter flower in memory or in honor of someone special to you. These flowers will fill our Sanctuary during worship, and donors may take them home after the service on Easter. Donation: \$10.00

Order Deadline: February 28

Donated by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Please return form to the office, email nicolek@wpcgr.org, or through the link found on our website. Thank you!