

MORNING WORSHIP

Eating Is Believing

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"I carry you within me, just as you carry me.
You who console and comfort, inspire and instruct,
shelter and shape my soul.
More than a refuge, you are a complex community
living in me as I live in you.
If I look I will see you. If I listen I will hear.
You call me to live. You call me home.
I want to answer."

-Robert M. Hamma

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Kat Hand

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

Opening Voluntary

"Interlude"

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

++Call to Worship

Rev. Jen Porter

One: The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."
All: Let everyone who is thirsty come.
One: Let everyone who hears say, "Come."
All: Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.
One: Come to the tree of life, the Alpha and Omega.
All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

++Hymn 459

"O Word of God Incarnate"

Munich

++Prayer of Adoration

Creator of the Cosmos, Breath of Heaven, Lover of Us All, you are our
praise, our life, and our joy. You feed us our daily bread as you welcome
us further into the mystery of life in you. This day, every day, we
receive your grace. Fount of Mercy, Fire of Justice, Dearest Friend,
bind us to you as we seek to serve and sing your praise. Amen.

++Response Hymn 246

"Christ Is Alive!"

Truro

(stanza 2)
Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Ministry of Music

"The Heavens are Telling" Franz Joseph Haydn(1732-1809)

from The Creation

The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of His work displays the firmament.
The day that is coming speaks to the day,
The night that is gone to following night.
In all the land resounds the word,
Never unperceived, ever understood.

Anna Fulton, Eric Richter, & Joshua Leckrone, Solo Trio
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

Luke 24:36-48

New Testament p. 91

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Eating Is Believing"

Derrick Weston

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 817

"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

Dunlap's Creek

++Affirmation of Faith (The Study Catechism, Questions 43 & 46) Rev. Lynette Sparks

One: What do you affirm when you say that Jesus was 'crucified, dead,
and buried'?

All: That when our Lord passed through the door of real human death,
he showed us that there is no sorrow that he has not known, no
grief he has not borne, and no price he was unwilling to pay in
order to reconcile us to God.

One: What do you affirm when you say that 'on the third day he rose again
from the dead'?

All: That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having
died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from
the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands
and his feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as
the Lord and Savior 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.

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

"Set Me as a Seal"

René Clausen (b. 1953)

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it.
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.

Generous God, who brings joy out of sorrow, plenty out of
want, life out of death: we thank you for the treasures of the
earth, your creation, filled with your blessing. In company
with these earthly things your Son came to dwell, showing
us the enormity of your love. Through Christ we are brought
to new life, called to pray and work for the renewal of all. In
this act of offering we dedicate ourselves again to you. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 485 "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

Engelberg

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Toccatà"

Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

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 c.

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AHEAD IN WORSHIP

**April 21**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Rev. Jen Porter

Sanctuary Choir & Westminster Winds

**April 28**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Choir Recognition Sunday

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

**Adult Faith Formation meets at 11:15 a.m. in the Chapel**

**Food and Faith with Derrick Weston April 14:** Derrick Weston joins us from Creation Justice Ministries, an ecumenical ministry based in Washington DC. Following worship, he will lead our conversation around his work with food, faith, and creation care. His book, *The Just Kitchen*, opens us to see the sacred in the daily mundane and to forge connection with the people and the earth around us. His work encourages us to engage in ministry and justice beyond assistance.

**Earth Day "Plastic Jesus" April 21:** Highlighting Earth Day, we join with Creation Justice Ministries and our PC(USA) denomination focusing on the epidemic of plastic in our daily lives and environment. This year's focus is titled: "Plastic Jesus: Real Faith in a Synthetic World." Facilitated by Rev. Jen, along with members of the faith formation committee, we raise our awareness and reflect about the reality of plastic around us and the choices we can make as individuals and as a faith community.



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 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..... Derrick Weston, Creation Justice Ministries  
 Liturgists .....Kat Hand, Minister with Youth and Young Adults  
 ..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
 ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
 ..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Families

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Organ  
 ..... Anna Fulton, Eric Richter, Joshua Leckrone  
 ..... Sanctuary Choir, Director Ellen Pool

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

AV Team ..... Rachel Kamstra, Ricky Rivard, Stella Sheckler

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 Hand at [kath@wpcgr.org](mailto:kath@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 Best Supper @Jan Richardson. [janrichardson.com](http://janrichardson.com)*

**Eating Is Believing**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 14, 2024  
10:00 A.M.**

# Announcements

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**NOTES ON TODAY'S ANTHEMS:** The choir anthems today are movements of larger choral works. Haydn composed "The Creation" in 1798. This oratorio depicts and celebrates the creation of the world as narrated in the Book of Genesis. The first performance was in 1799 in Vienna. René Clausen, choral conductor and professor of music at Concordia College in Moorehead, Minnesota, composed "A New Creation" in 1990. The multi-movement cantata is based on familiar scriptures and has become one of the composer's most performed works.

**SPRING 2024 REFLECTIONS:** Check out our spring edition of Reflections at [westminstergr.org/reflections](http://westminstergr.org/reflections)! This edition includes a meditation by Rev. Lynette Sparks on what it means to be a Matthew 25 church, 2024 Senior Sermons, articles on the WCDC's impact, and more!

**ELISABETH CIRCLE: April 16, 1:00 p.m., Parlor** Elisabeth Circle will meet on April 16 to discuss Chapter 5 of *Signs and Wonders* by Amy Jill Levine. For further information contact Sandy Topliffe at [stopliffe@comcast.net](mailto:stopliffe@comcast.net) or 616-447-2941.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN: April 20-21** Middle school families, RSVP for the lock-in by tomorrow, April 15, so that we can be sure to have enough leaders and food. If you can't make it this year, please help us by RSVP'ing "no." Email [kath@wpcgr.org](mailto:kath@wpcgr.org) to let us know if you're coming!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS: April 21, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary** The Session has called for a brief congregational meeting after worship on April 21 to elect officers to fill vacancies on the Session and Board of Deacons.


**YOUTH SCHEDULE UPDATE: April 28** April 28 is Youth Choir Sunday! Please plan on choir rehearsals these next couple weeks to prepare. While the choirs will sing on April 28, there will be no youth group or choir after the service on April 28. There will be a confirmation event after church.

**TRIVIA PARTY FOR ALL CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES! April 28, 11:10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Dining Room** Children and families are invited to celebrate our church school with an after-church party on April 28. We'll play a big trivia game and have food and fun together.

**GRAND VALLEY PIANO CHAMBER SERIES: April 28, 4:00 p.m.** On Sunday, April 28 Westminster will host the Grand Valley Piano Chamber Series concert in our Sanctuary. A pre-concert conversation will take place at 3:15 p.m. The concert is offered to the public free of charge. A reception hosted by the Music Committee will be held following the concert.

**WESTMINSTER CAMP 2024: August 29-September 1, Camp Henry** Visit our website to register! Contact Nancy Greidanus at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org) if you have questions.

**SIMPLY GIVE:** From now until June 19, purchase a \$10 Meijer Simply Give donation card at the Meijer on Kalamazoo and 28th Street to benefit the pantry!

 **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. APRIL 14

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service .....Sanctuary
- 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. Youth Group & Choirs ..... Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs ..... Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Westminster Winds Rehearsal .....Choir Room

## MON. APRIL 15

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group .....Multipurpose Room
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnerships Committee..... Library
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Faith Formation Committee..... Online

## TUES. APRIL 16

- 1:00 p.m. Elisabeth Circle ..... Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Camp Henry Board Meeting.....Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee ..... Online

## WED. APRIL 17

- 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 Committee Meeting..... Online

## THURS. APRIL 18

- 9:30 a.m. Evergreen Circle ..... Library
- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry .....Front Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Men's Inner Compass Group ..... Chapel
- 6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room

## SAT. APRIL 20

- 6:00 p.m. Middle School Overnighter..... Various Locations

## SUN. APRIL 21

- 8:00 a.m. Westminster Winds Breakfast ..... Dining Room
- 9:00 a.m. TWM Core Team Meeting..... Library
- 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. Adult Faith Formation ..... Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Choirs & HS YG..... Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs ..... Various Locations
- 6:30 p.m. Climate Book Study..... Online