

MORNING WORSHIP

Cues from Creation

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"When you act on behalf of something greater than yourself, You begin to feel it acting through you with a power that is greater than your own. This is grace."

—Joanna Macy

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

"Ascending" Westminster Winds

Larry Clark (b.1963)

++Call to Worship

Elder Matt Russell

One: Scripture tells us that "creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed."

All: Creation is waiting for us:

One: To open our eyes to the devastation of the world. To put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful.

To move from what is easy to doing what is necessary and right. To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self. To remove pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies, and hearts. Creation is waiting for us.

All: In all these things and more, creation waits for us. With God's help, we will answer creation's call.

++Hymn 13

"The Mighty God with Power Speaks"

Kingsfold

++Prayer of Adoration

God of the cosmos, we praise you for the gifts of the earth. May we love all your creation, all the earth, and every grain of sand in it. May we love every leaf, every ray of your light. May we love the animals. May we live in communion with all living things. For we acknowledge that all is like an ocean, flowing and blending, as we share your love with one another. Give us a full understanding of your mercy, and the courage to be respectful, holy, and obedient through all of our days. Amen.

++Response Hymn 246

"Christ Is Alive!" (stanza 2)

Truro

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

"This is the Day" from Psalm 118 Dan Forrest (b.1978) This is the day the Lord has made, We will rejoice and be glad in it, The Lord is my strength, The Lord is my song, He has become my salvation. You are my God, I will exalt you. Sanctuary Choir

Sacrament of Baptism

Elder Ben Boerkoel & Nancy Greidanus

Receiving the sacrament of baptism today: Sylvie Maree Brown, daughter of Annaliese and Jonathan Brown; Charles Brandon DeLano-Taylor, son of Merritt and Dennis DeLano-Taylor; Cameron Goodspeed Hakim, son of Emily and Andrew Hakim; Andrew Shuart Turner, son of Alison and Corey Turner; Graham Christian Vanderkaay, son of Lauren Johnson and Christian Vanderkaay.

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

Matthew 6:25-34

New Testament p. 6

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Cues from Creation"

Rev. Jen Porter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith (from the Confession of 1967)

Rev. Lynette Sparks

One: Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

All: With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world.

One: It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

All: "Now to him who by the power within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

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

"Be Still, My Soul"

arr. James Swearingen

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord, when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Be still, my soul. Amen.

Westminster Winds

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.

Compassionate Creator, as you receive these offerings, stir our souls and call us again and again, to be true children of the universe. May we be attentive and alert to how you would have us live, sharing our abundant lives with others. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 490 "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"

Beach Spring

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Chorale, Op. 37 No. 4"

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

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.

Bulletin Cover photo taken by Debby Reynolds. Liturgies adapted from "The Book of Common Worship," Creation Justice Ministries "Plastic Jesus" resource for earth day, and "Out of the Ordinary" by Joyce Rupp. "This is the Day" & "Chorale, Op. 37 No. 4" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

Congregational Meeting Today

A brief Congregational Meeting has been called by the Session for this Sunday, April 21 at the close of worship. The following nominees will be presented for election: Patti Haist—Connecting Deacon, Deb Kammer—Elder for Westminster Adults, Betty Jo Norby—Supporting Deacon, Bob Norby—Supporting Deacon, and Sam Walma—Elder for Membership Growth & Development. We are thankful for your presence as we affirm the call of these new leaders.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Choir Recognition Sunday

May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Dr. Charles B. Hardwick
Sanctuary Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

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

April 21: Earth Day "Plastic Jesus" 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.

April 28: Mental Health Awareness and Support As mental health awareness month approaches, those working with the Together West Michigan (TWM) mental health team have invited in Steve Bergman, director of NAMI for West Michigan. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization working for awareness, education, and support. Unlike ways support may come during other illnesses, mental health has been called the "no casserole illness." Together we learn what the TWM team is finding with mental health needs here in our community, and we learn about supporting those with mental health illnesses within our family and congregation.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
Liturgists Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
..... Matt Russell, Elder for Camp Henry
..... Ben Boerkoel, Elder for Children & Families
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Piano & Organ
..... Westminster Winds, Director John Martin
..... Sanctuary Choir, Director Ellen Pool

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

AV Team Brad Sparks, Dan Cisler, Sam Putt, 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. 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

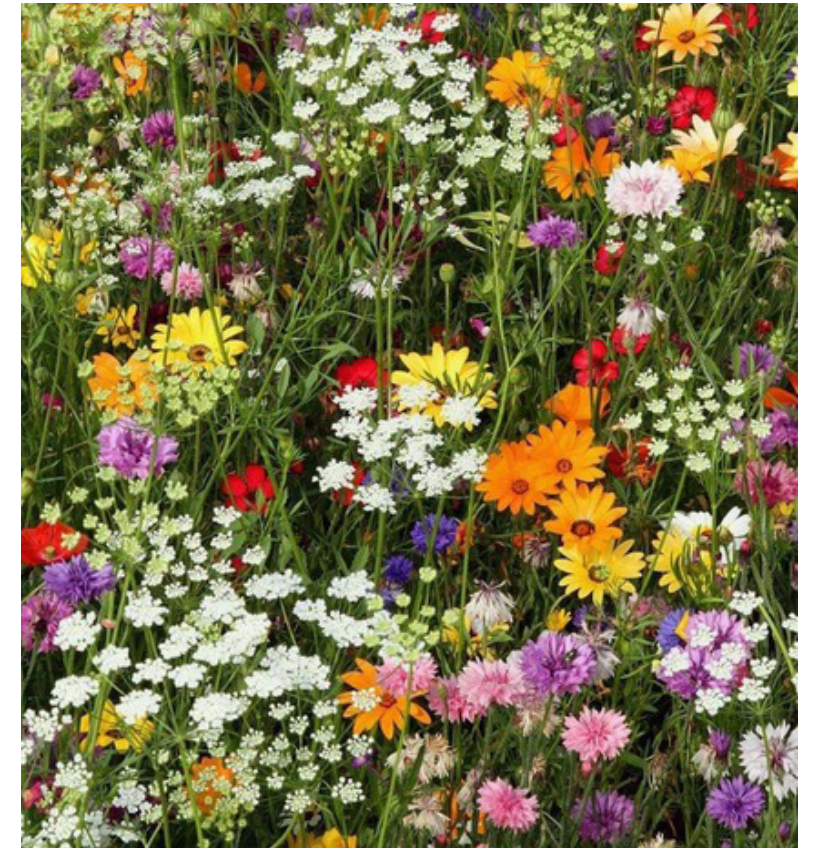
Parents of three-year-olds to fifth graders, come to the children's check-in tables in the Gathering Place before the service to sign in. Ask an usher if you'd like special worship bags, folders, or children's bulletins to help your kids engage in worship. The nursery (babies through two-year-olds) is 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 Hand at kath@wpcgr.org.



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



Wildflowers, Cemetery in Rockport, Texas

Cues from Creation

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

SPRING 2024 REFLECTIONS: Check out our spring edition of Reflections at 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!

UPDATED MEMBER DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE: We have updated our church member directory! If you'd like a copy, please contact Nicole at nicolek@wpcgr.org or 616-717-5529. The directory is available in an eco-friendly electronic version or if you'd like a hard copy, it is available for a suggested donation of \$5.

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 cookie reception hosted by the Music Committee will be held following the concert.

VISIT THE GRAND RAPIDS INDIAN MOUNDS: May 2, 11:00 a.m. Join us as we learn more about the sacred Indian Mounds located in southwest Grand Rapids. Ron Yob, Chairman of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, will offer a tour on Thursday, May 2, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will meet at church at 11:00 a.m. and carpool to the area. If you'd like to attend this free event, register on our website or contact Nicole at nicolek@wpcgr.org by Tuesday, April 30. The area is muddy so sturdy shoes or boots are recommended. Back up date for inclement weather is Thursday, May 9 at 11:30 a.m.

WALK FOR MENTAL HEALTH: May 19 Join us after church on May 19 to walk together to Cherry Park for fellowship, play, and lunch. We will be walking to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health and to financially support the Barbara Molhoek-Callum McPheeters Mental Health Fund. This fund is available for anyone in our community who is seeking mental health care and who may need financial assistance to do so. If you would like to participate in the event, contact Nancy Greidanus (nancyg@wpcgr.org) before May 6, so we can plan for Jimmy John's and order your free T-shirt. If you would like to donate, use the QR code below or send a check to church.

WESTMINSTER CAMP 2024: August 29-September 1, Camp Henry Enjoy some late summer days at exciting and beautiful Camp Henry by joining your church family at Camp 2024. Visit our website to register! Contact Nancy Greidanus at 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 or call (616) 717-5533 with questions.

This Week's Calendar

SUN. APRIL 21

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational MeetingSanctuary
- 11:10 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

MON. APRIL 22

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room

TUES. APRIL 23

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

WED. APRIL 24

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgang's
- 12:00 p.m. Food Pantry Board Meeting Library
- 6:30 p.m. West Michigan Gay Men's ChorusChoir Room

THURS. APRIL 25

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 11:30 a.m. Samaritas Gathering..... Dining Room
- 6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir RehearsalChoir Room

SUN. APRIL 28

- 9:15 a.m. Children & Youth Choir Rehearsal.....Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Church School Party Dining Room
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:30 a.m. Confirmand Picnic Gathering Place
- 3:15 a.m. Pre-Concert Talk.....Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. GVSU Chamber Music ConcertSanctuary
- 5:20 p.m. Cookie Reception Gathering Place