

MORNING WORSHIP

This We Declare

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus."

—Kathleen Thomerson

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 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

setting Hugo Gehrke

++Call to Worship (based on Psalm 133)

Lambert Zuidervaat

One: We gather to worship God and reaffirm our shared relationship as God's children.

All: God welcomes us to worship, fellowship, prayer, and praise.

One: We gather to be re-invigorated in our worship, and in the witness and relationships that flow from it.

All: The holy winds of God's Spirit blow around and within us, cleansing and refreshing us.

One: Our God gives new life and blessings when we are united in praise and glory of God.

All: Blessing, honor, glory, and power belong to our God, who claims us all as beloved children.

++Hymn 393

"O Day of Rest and Gladness" *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*

++Prayer of Adoration

God of infinite wisdom, you bring the dawn of each new day. We praise your name for sending Christ with the promise of new life. You scatter the clouds of darkness so that our eyes can behold the truth of your love. You replace the finality of death with an affirmation of life without ending. You burst upon our being with each ray of sunlight, bringing light to illumine our world with the presence of your redeeming grace. As we stand at the threshold of your magnificence, receive our worship as we praise your name. 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 "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth"

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

from Messiah

I know that my redeemer liveth and that he shall stand at the latter day, upon the earth.

And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

Maria Schoon, Soprano

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

1 John 1:1-2:2

New Testament p. 238

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"This We Declare"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 265

"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

Duke Street

++Affirmation of Faith (from The Study Catechism, Questions 43 & 46)

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.

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

"Hallelujah, Amen" (Judas Maccabaeus)

G. F. Handel

Hallelujah, Amen. O Judah, rejoice! Rejoice, O Judah, in songs divine,

With Cherubim and Seraphim, harmonious join. Hallelujah, Amen.

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!

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements and partake of them immediately as you receive them. Please take your used cups with you as you return to your seats and place them in the cupholders in the back of your pew. If you would like the elements brought to you, please raise your hand and a server will bring them to you. All bread is gluten-free. Children are welcome to participate in this sacrament.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

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.

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion Music "Veni Creator Spiritus"

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

Prayer of Response

Loving God, you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face. For you have made us your own people by the death and resurrection of your Son and the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 826

"Lift High the Cross"

Crucifer

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Max Drischner (1891-1971)

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

April 14

Third Sunday of Easter

Rev. Derrick Weston, Guest Preacher
Sanctuary Choir

April 21

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Jen Porter
Sanctuary Choir & Westminster Winds

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Mission
..... Lambert Zuidervaart
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Families

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Piano & Organ
..... Maria Schoon, Soprano
..... Sanctuary Choir, Director Ellen Pool

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

AV Team Rachel Kamstra, Ian Dengerink-Van Til
..... Ricky Rivard, Stella Sheckler

Ahead Adult Faith Formation

April 7: Westminster food ministry panel facilitated by Kyle Kooyers

Our congregation participates in food justice through a number of ministries: The Community Food Club, Dégagé Ministries, Downtown Food Pantry, meals through Family Promise, and the Sandwich Brigade with Mel Trotter Ministries. A panel of volunteers and staff join for conversation facilitated by Rev. Kyle Kooyers.

April 14: Derrick Weston Rev. Derrick Weston, author of "The Just Kitchen," leads Adult Faith Formation conversation after preaching in the service.

April 21: Earth Sunday 2024 "Plastic Jesus" We continue our reflection on food and climate justice as we watch "Plastic Jesus" developed by PC(USA) Creation Justice Ministries and Derrick Weston.

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.



Lily Resurrection, Frank Wesley

This We Declare

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 7, 2024
10:00 A.M.



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

Liturgies adapted from "When We Gather," James G. Kirk, re:worship, Joan Stott. Bulletin Cover Art from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Announcements

DÉGAGÉ VOUCHERS: Dégagé vouchers will be on sale for \$2 each after the worship service today in the Gathering Place. Members and friends of Westminster have offered these vouchers to folks looking for assistance in the parking lot and other places. These vouchers can be used for services at Dégagé, including meals, storage space, haircuts, clothing, and more.

CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE CHANGES AND ACTIVITIES FOR SPRING: April 7: No choirs or church school. **April 28:** End of program year celebration for families.

YOUNG ADULT PUB NIGHT: April 10, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Brewery Vivant Young adults, join us at Brewery Vivant on April 10 for our monthly pub night!

THE JUST KITCHEN: DINNER AND CONVERSATION: April 13, 6:00-8:30 p.m. Join us for dinner and conversation with Derrick Weston, author of *The Just Kitchen*. Derrick Weston is a writer, filmmaker, podcaster, speaker, and educator whose most recent work has focused on the intersection of food and faith. Event will be catered by Fava Mediterranean Grill. Cost is \$25 per person. Register on our website now; the deadline to sign up is the end of the day today!

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN ORGANIZING TRAINING: April 12 & 13 Attend a Together West Michigan training to learn about Broad-Based Organizing and how to build relational power around issues that affect you and your community. Visit our website to register.

BAPTISM SEMINAR: April 14, 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 (nancyg@wpcgr.org) for more information.

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 or 616-447-2941.

YOUTH UPDATE: Middle schoolers, our spring lock-in is coming up! Join us from April 20-21 at church. Visit our newsletter for more information, and sign up for summer trips on our website.

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.

WPA MAY BUS TRIP: May 8 After fellowship at church over coffee and donuts, we'll travel to Frankenmuth for a full day including a relaxing sightseeing tour on the Cass River aboard the Bavarian Belle Riverboat, lunch at Zehnder's Restaurant, and a tour of the historic St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. There is a \$10 cost for this event. Register on our website or fill out a hard-copy registration found at the Welcome Desk by April 10.

WESTMINSTER CAMP 2024: August 29-September 1, Camp Henry 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!

A NOTE FROM JOY POSTMUS: The family of Bill Postmus thanks the congregation for their words of comfort and prayers relating to the passing of Bill to heaven on March 8. This includes the family of Bill and Mary Van Skiver, daughter of Bill and member of this church.



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 7

- 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. Westminster Winds Rehearsal Choir 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

MON. APRIL 8

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 4:30 p.m. UCCF Board Meeting Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Connecting Deacons Meeting.....Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Supporting Deacons MeetingPastoral Suite
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee..... Online

TUES. APRIL 9

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

WED. APRIL 10

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgang's
- 11:30 a.m. WPA Punchbowl & Registration..... Dining Room
- 12:00 p.m. WPA Lunch & Presentation..... Dining Room
- 6:00 p.m. Communications Committee Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus..... Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Pub Night..... Offsite

THURS. APRIL 11

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Technology Team Meeting..... Online
- 5:30 p.m. MGD Committee Meeting Library
- 6:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Social Hour Gathering Place
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

FRI. APRIL 12

- 5:00 p.m. TWM Organizing Training ...Oakdale Park Church

SAT. APRIL 13

- 9:00 a.m. TWM Organizing Training ...Oakdale Park Church
- 6:00 p.m. Derrick Weston Event Dining Room

SUN. APRIL 14

- 9:15 a.m. Baptism Seminar.....Parlor
- 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. 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