

MORNING WORSHIP

And the Winner Is...

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Our only desire and our one choice should be this: I want and I choose what better leads to God's deepening life in me." - St. Ignatius of Loyola

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 "Filled with the Spirit's Power"

setting Kim Patterson

++Call to Worship (from Psalm 1)

Rev. Tim Tuthill

One: Come, let us delight in the Word of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

All: Our worship grounds us in God, like trees planted by streams of water.

One: God helps us yield good fruit, consistent with who God has created us to be.

All: No one is like God, whose ways are full of life!

One: Our joy is found in the love of God and neighbor.

All: In awe and wonder, we worship our Creator!

++Hymn 305

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy"

Darwall's 148th

++Prayer of Adoration

Loving God, you are the ground of our being and the river of life. You steady our roots, and draw them to seek living waters. You are like the sunlight enticing us taller, and like the breeze rustling our leaves. You are with us through hard seasons of summer heat. When winter's frost ices the landscape, your love warms and sustains us. You are everything to us. Let our gratitude be great, let our praise be plentiful, and let our worship be exuberant! Through Christ Jesus, your ever-living Son. 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

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

John Rutter (b. 1945)

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, For the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,

Hill and vale and tree and flower,

Sun and moon and stars of light,

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,

Friends on earth and friends above,

For all gentle thoughts and mild,

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,

Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

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

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

New Testament p. 118

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"And the Winner Is..."

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 722

"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak"

Canonbury

++Affirmation of Faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA)

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls all people to ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

Focus on Discipleship—Westminster Camp

Diane Helle & Marian Wenzel

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

"Prayer of St. Francis"

Allen Pote (b. 1945)

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, thy pardon, Lord,

Where there is doubt, let there be faith.

Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,

Where there's despair, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, let there be light,

Where there is sadness, let there be joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console.

To be understood as to understand, To be loved, as to love.

Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

And it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. 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!

++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.

O God, maker and provider, you have blessed us with many gifts. Use us, and what we have gathered, to feed the world through your love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 731 "Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm"

Repton

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Variations on Amazing Grace"

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.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

May 19

Day of Pentecost

Celebrating the Music of G.F. Handel

Breath of Bones
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Sanctuary Choir

May 26

Trinity Sunday

Another Birth Story

Rev. Lynette Sparks
John 3:1-17
Sanctuary Choir

Special Music Presentation

On Sunday, May 19, the Sanctuary Choir will present G. F. Handel's Coronation Anthem No. 4, "Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened," as part of the morning service. This choral work consists of three movements, using text from Psalm 89.

The accompanying instrumental ensemble of string quartet and two oboes will be used for the Coronation Anthem and also for two movements of Handel's Organ Concerto Op. 4 No. 1, which will be played during the service.



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.

Liturgies adapted from Bruce Prewer, re:worship, and the Presbyterian Outlook. "For the Beauty of the Earth," "Prayer of St. Francis," & "Variations on Amazing Grace" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsRev. Tim Tuthill
.....Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
..... Diane Helle
..... Marian Wenzel
Musicians.....Janlee Richter, Organ
.....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 Hand at 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.



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And the Winner Is...

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 12, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Announcements

MEMBER DIRECTORY PHOTOS: May 12, Library Today is our final day for spring directory photos! Come get your photo taken before or after church so that it can be included in our new member church directory. We will do another round of photos after Kickoff in the fall.

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN: May 12 If you are curious about Together West Michigan and its current activities, we will be offering two opportunities following the service. We'll have a table set up in the Gathering Place with members to describe an August childcare millage that TWM is supporting. We'll also have some members in the Parlor for a listening group to talk about other issues and concerns we are addressing.

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 support the Barbara Molhoek-Callum McPheeters Mental Health Fund. If you would like to participate in the event, contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org so we can plan for Jimmy John's.

BARBARA MOLHOEK-CALLUM MCPHEETERS MENTAL HEALTH FUND: May is Mental Health Awareness month and what better time to remind folks about the Barbara Molhoek-Callum McPheeters Mental Health Fund! This fund is available to anyone that needs financial assistance with access to mental health care. You don't have to be a member of Westminster to receive support. If you or someone you know may benefit from the use of this fund, or if you have any questions, contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org or Jen Porter at jenp@wpcgr.org.

ORDINATION OF NATHANIEL FRYER: May 19, 3:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor Westminster member Nathaniel Fryer will be ordained as Minister of the Word and Sacrament on Sunday, May 19! All are welcome to attend and celebrate with Nathaniel!

ELISABETH CIRCLE: May 21, 1:00 p.m., Parlor Elisabeth Circle will meet on May 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor to discuss Chapter 6 and the conclusion of *Signs and Wonders*. If you need more information, contact Sandy Topliffe at stopliffe@comcast.net or 616-447-2941.

YOUTH UPDATE: May 29, 7:00 p.m. There will be a parent meeting about our high school trip on Wednesday, May 29. The meeting will be online and will cover trip schedule and vision, packing list, and waivers so that youth can participate fully with our partnering non-profits. Contact Kat for more information.

CAMP HENRY GOLF OUTING: June 27 Camp Henry's Golf Outing will take place at Thornapple Pointe on June 27th, 2024! Proceeds help provide scholarships for kids to go to camp. You can register to join at birdease.com/camphenrygolf.

CAMP 2024: August 29-September 1 Enjoy some late summer days at exciting and beautiful Camp Henry by joining your church family at Camp 2024. Absolutely everyone is welcome! Register for camp on our website, and 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! You can purchase one at check out, or pick one up at the Welcome Desk and scan it in the store. You can also give directly to the pantry by scanning the QR code below.



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. MAY 12

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Member Directory Photos..... Library
- 11:15 a.m. TWM Housing Meeting.....Parlor

MON. MAY 13

- 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. MAY 14

- 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting..... Online
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting..... Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. FASD Support Group Various Locations

WED. MAY 15

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgang's
- 6:30 p.m. West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus..... Choir Room

THURS. MAY 16

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

SAT. MAY 18

- 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir RehearsalSanctuary

SUN. MAY 19

- 9:00 a.m. TWM Core Team Meeting..... Library
- 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. Walk For Mental Health..... Offsite
- 3:00 p.m. Nathaniel Fryer Ordination Service Offsite
- 6:30 p.m. Climate Book Study..... Online