

MORNING WORSHIP
Of Water and Spirit

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“There are times when being truly free in the Spirit means being deeply bound to the outworking of God’s mission in the world, with all the consequences of the fact that this mission and this world are so often fragmented and broken. In that sense, Jesus is not just a teacher of the Spirit but an embodiment of it.”
— Robert C. Saler

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

"Espressivo" from Miniatures Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

++Call to Worship

Elder Ben Boerkoel

One: Holy, holy, holy is our God;
All: Heaven and earth are filled with God’s glory.
One: The God of glory thunders;
All: God’s voice shakes the wilderness.
One: No one knows from where it comes, or to where it goes,
All: and all in God’s temple say, “Glory!”

++Hymn 1

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Nicaea

Prayer of Confession

One: For times we embrace war when you call for peace,
All: forgive us.
One: For times we dehumanize our neighbor instead of loving them,
All: forgive us.
One: For times we serve powers and principalities rather than you, our Servant Savior,
All: forgive us.
One: For times we domesticate you to our cultural identities,
All: forgive us.
One: For selectively hearing your good news of grace for us without considering the same for others,
All: forgive us.
One: For seeing ourselves less than the full person you created in beauty with delight,
All: forgive us and grant us peace.

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Lee J. Afdahl

++Assurance of God's Grace

One: Hear the good news of God’s promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

++Response Hymn 717 "For the Life That You Have Given"

Pleading Savior

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Ministry of Music

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” Thomas A. Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone;
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
Sanctuary Choir

Sacrament of Baptism

Nancy Greidanus

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today is Phoebe Elizabeth Lowry.

Waters of Baptism

Response Hymn "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Stuttgart

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit’s sign,
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God’s call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; trust and love God more than all.

Reception into the People of God

One: This child is 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: Child 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

John 3:1-17

New Testament p. 93

One: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Of Water and Spirit”

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 490

"Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"

Beach Spring

++Affirmation of Faith (from the Brief Statement of Faith)

Rev. Jen Porter

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!

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. We invite you to fill out any of the pew cards and place them in the offering plate.

Offertory

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Michael Joncas

And He will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.
You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in His shadow for life,
say to the Lord: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust.”

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:
under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

For to His angels He’s given a command to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

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, teach us to give our whole lives to you. May the treasure become not the money gathered here but the mission of your love in the world. For the giver, the gift, and the soon gifted, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 280

"Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us"

Ebenezer

++Charge

"A Blessing"

Martin Shaw

*Go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage,
Hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted, support the weak,
help the afflicted, honor all people.*

Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost
be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.*

Sanctuary Choir

++Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Very Fast with Fire" from Triptych *Dan Locklair (b. 1949)*

*Liturgies adapted from Call to Worship Journal, Kyle Walker, and the Presbyterian Outlook.
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AHEAD IN WORSHIP

June 2

Confirmation Sunday

Rev. Jen Porter

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Youth String Ensemble

June 9

Worship at Westminster

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

**Worship at Camp Henry
Commissioning of Camp Henry Staff**

Rev. Jen Porter

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

LiturgistsBen Boerkoel, Elder for Children & Families

..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families

..... Jen Porter, Associate Pastor

Musicians.....Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano

.....Sanctuary Choir, Director Ellen Pool

Ushers.....Bernie Smith, Kathy Smith, Stephen Marshall

.....Marian Vanderwall, Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel

AV TeamKarsten Kotchenruther, Sam Putt, Stella Sheckler

Welcome to Westminster

MEMBERSHIP

If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Susan Jennings at susanj@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.



Nicodemus, Henry Ossawa Tanner

Of Water and Spirit

TRINITY SUNDAY

MAY 26, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Announcements

NEW PEW CARDS: Take a look at the new pew cards in the slots in front of your pews! These cards can be placed in the offering plate during the offertory. Our hope is to provide new opportunities to participate in the offering of our lives and resources.

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. 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.

ENDOWMENT GIFTS: With gratitude we'd like to inform you that we have received a generous gift from the estate of Budge and Marilyn Sherwood designated for our endowment fund. Our endowment fund was established to support capital improvements and the upkeep of our historic building. We also received a generous undesignated bequest from the estate of Margaret and Jean Feringa. Per our policy for undesignated bequests, the gift was distributed as follows: 25% to the Mission Fund, 37.5% to the Memorial Trust Fund (which supports capital costs and church programs), 37.5% to the Trustees Discretionary Fund (which supports ongoing facilities needs for our historic building).

HONORING OUR GRADUATES: June 2 This week is your last chance to offer information about a graduate you'd like to honor. On June 2, we will list the names of graduates (high school, college, and post-college) from our community in our bulletin. If you are a member, frequent attender, or alumni of Westminster's programs, contact christined@wpcgr.org to fill out the information form.

YOUTH TRIP PARENT MEETINGS: Middle school parents, if your child is signed up for the trip this summer, please join Kat for a brief meeting on June 2, right after the morning worship service, in the Chapel. There will be a parent meeting about the high school trip on May 29 at 7:00 p.m. online. If you cannot attend, please let Kat know at katj@wpcgr.org.

PHIL HERTEL MEMORIAL SERVICE CHOIR: June 8, 9:45 a.m. Former members of Westminster's Sanctuary Choir are invited to sing in the choir for Phil Hertel's memorial service on June 8. Please arrive at 9:45 a.m. to be fitted for a robe. The choir will rehearse at 10:00 a.m. in advance of the 11:00 a.m. service. Questions may be directed to Ellen Pool at ellenpool@comcast.net.

SUMMER BOOK DISCUSSION: Wednesdays June 12- July 24, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Online Join Amelia Grayson and Heather Lermont-Pape in a summer book discussion. In *The Gifts of Imperfection*, Brené Brown explores the theory behind living wholeheartedly, as well as ten practical steps you can take to invite wholeheartedness and worthiness into your life. Visit the website to register!

WESTMINSTER CAMP 2024: August 29-September 1 Enjoy some late summer days at the exciting and beautiful Camp Henry by joining your church family at Westminster Camp 2024. Visit our website to register.

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 26

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.....Gathering Place

MON. MAY 27

All Day Church Office Closed

TUES. MAY 28

- 5:45 p.m. MGD Committee MeetingLibrary

WED. MAY 29

- 6:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation Committee.....Offsite
- 6:30 p.m. West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus .. Choir Room

THURS. MAY 30

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Men's Inner Compass GroupChapel
- 7:00 p.m. Children's Program.....Chapel

SUN. JUNE 2

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.....Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Middle School Summer Trip Meeting.....Chapel
- 3:30 p.m. Communion ServicePorter Hills