

MORNING WORSHIP
Shoots and Ladders

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“Earth is not left to its own resources and heaven is not a remote self-contained realm for the gods. Heaven has to do with earth. And earth finally may count on the resources of heaven... that is the substance of the vision. It shatters the presumed world of Jacob. He had assumed he traveled alone with his only purpose being survival... earth is a place of possibility because it has not been and will not be cut off from the sustaining role of God.”
—Walter Bruggeman

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

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

Opening Voluntary

"Interlude"

J. H. Knecht (1725-1817)

++Call to Worship

Elder Matt Russell

One: Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, And I will give you rest.”

All: O God, we do not rest until we rest in you.

One: To one and to all, Jesus said, “Come.”

All: Come with your doubts. Come with your hopes.

One: Come with your inadequacies. Come with your strengths.

All: Trust the call. Trust the invitation:

One: Come, Jesus loves you!

++Hymn 301

"Let Us Build a House"
(stanzas 1, 2, 4)

Two Oaks

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, in the pain of this existence, it is so easy for us to lose perspective. It is so easy to let the world shrink down to the size of our plans, our friends, and our concerns. It is so easy to end up serving ourselves alone. Holy God, free us from narrow horizons. Release us from the bonds of false self-interest and set our sights on you: on your agenda, your hope, and your love. In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Lee J. Afdahl

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Hear the good news: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All: God has forgiven and reconciled us through Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.

++ Stand in body or in spirit

++Response Hymn 693 "Though I May Speak"

Gift of Love

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Sicilienne, Op. 78"

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Stacey Tanner, Cello

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Nancy Greidanus

Children three years through third 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 13:24-30

New Testament p. 14

Genesis 28:10-22

Old Testament p. 24

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Shoots and Ladders”

Rev. Chrissy Westbury

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 850

"In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness"

Divinum Mysterium

++Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from The Confession of Belhar)

One: We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

All: We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the Church, as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

One: We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the Church of Jesus Christ.

All: We believe that, through the working of God's Spirit, it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought.

One: We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways:

All: in that we love one another, and that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another.

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

Offertory

"Divertimento"

J. Haydn, trans. G. Piatigorsky

Stacey Tanner, Cello

++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, you have given us so much: life, love, forgiveness, and even the hope of the resurrection. We indeed live by your grace. We now dedicate ourselves to living in your continual breath of life. Grant that we may be good stewards of your grace—all to the glory of your name. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 63

"The Lord is God"

Azmon

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Prelude, op. 29 no. 1"

Gabriel Pierné (1863-1937)

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

July 21
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Building Buildings?
Rev. Jen Porter
2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Michael Schaefer, Accordion

July 28
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Lynette Sparks
2 Samuel 11:1-15
Ron Krebs, Organ

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Chrissy Westbury, Associate Presbyterian
LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
.....Matt Russell, Elder for Camp Henry
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children and their Families
Musicians.....Janlee Richter, Piano & Organ
.....Stacey Tanner, Cello
Ushers.....Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, Bill Baguley
..... Todd Helle, Heather Lermont-Pape, Bob & Betty Jo Norby
AV Team Dan Cisler, Karsten Kotchenruther, Sam Putt



About Today's Guest Preacher

Rev. Chrissy Westbury serves the Lake Michigan Presbytery as our Associate Presbyterian. Our presbytery connects about 70 churches from the southern border of Michigan up to Cadillac and from the Lakeshore across to Jackson. Along with Fran Lane-Lawrence, Chrissy offers leadership to the presbytery and serves as pastor to the clergy and congregations within our presbytery. She works to strengthen relationships across our congregations. She has served in this role since Nov. 2022 and also continues to serve First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo as one of their associate pastors.

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.

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

Summer Books for Children's Worship

Summer Worship Center for children ages 3 - those finished with 3rd grade

During the summer months, we vary our curriculum to provide a time for children to apply biblical concepts to daily life situations by reading excellent children's illustrated books. Children will think and talk about how we should treat God's creation, each other, people who have lives that are unfamiliar to us; and what we can do to share God's love and beauty with others. We conclude our time together by lighting the Christ Candle and praying.

This Week: *Never Forget Eleanor* by Jason June

Next Week: *Saving Delicia* by Laura Gehl

Elijah loves spending time with his grandma Eleanor. She knows all the best words to answer tricky crossword puzzles and to tell the most beautiful stories to her family and friends. Everyone calls her "Never Forget Eleanor" because she remembers every word she reads and person she meets. Lately though, Elijah has started to notice Grandma Eleanor forgetting little things. So, when Grandma Eleanor doesn't show up for her Saturday story session, Elijah will need to find a way to use her favorite words and become the storyteller himself to bring her home.

Activity: Draw pictures for Grandmas and Grandpas or older people at WPC of favorite places and favorite things to do.



Shoots and Ladders

EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 14, 2024

10:00 A.M.



Actively Engaged in the World

This Week's Calendar

SUN. JULY 14

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

MON. JULY 15

- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee Online

TUES. JULY 16

- 1:00 p.m. Together West Michigan..... Conference Room

THURS. JULY 18

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby

SUN. JULY 21

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

Announcements

DÉGAGÉ VOUCHERS: Dégagé vouchers will be on sale for \$2 each this morning in the Gathering Place after worship. Members and friends of Westminster have offered these vouchers to folks asking for money; these vouchers can be used for services at Dégagé Ministries, including meals, storage space, haircuts, clothing, and more.

REGISTER NOW FOR 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. **The deadline to register is July 28!**

LET'S HANG OUT! If you'd like to spend time in fellowship with other folks from Westminster, join us for our new casual meetups this summer. Anyone is welcome to join us as we visit different places in the Grand Rapids area to explore the city and enjoy spending time with one another. Interested in joining? Let Deanna know you're coming at deannac@wpcgr.org! See below for currently planned outings:

July 18, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Horrocks Market We will be meeting by the bar area and hanging out in the beer garden.

July 24, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., Grand Rapids Downtown Market

July 29, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., Tippy Cow Ice Cream

THANK YOU: The family and friends of David Abbott would like to give many thanks for those who worked and volunteered to make his Memorial Service such a meaningful service. Specifically to those who volunteered as Ushers and Parking Attendants, to the Deacons for all the support they provided, and to the staff at Westminster who went the extra mile to assure a wonderful service. Your care and ministry was greatly appreciated.

TEA FOR TWO: Make a new friend at Westminster—virtually or in person. We will match you with someone who shares your meet-up preference and share their phone number or email address with you. Reach out and make a plan to get together digitally or in person. Visit our website to sign up.



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.