

MORNING WORSHIP
The Promise of Faith

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“The movement of the Spirit of God in the hearts of men and women often calls them to act against the spirit of their times or causes them to anticipate a spirit which is yet in the making. In a moment of dedication they are given wisdom and courage to dare a deed that challenges and to kindle a hope that inspires.” –Howard Thurman

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

"Andantino"

Joseph Harris (1799-1869)

++Call to Worship

One: I will bless the Lord at all times;

All: **God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

One: My soul will rejoice in the Lord;

All: **Let the humble hear it and rejoice.**

One: O magnify the Lord with me,

All: **And let us exalt God's name together.**

++Hymn 49

"The God of Abraham Praise"

Leoni

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, you call us to stand with the least and the last, but we cling to power and privilege. We fear worldly consequences for faithful action. We fail to follow where Christ leads, making excuses for ourselves, for our silence in the face of oppression, for our lack of action. Forgive us, God, and help us to follow where Christ calls...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Assurance of God's Grace

One: We are covered by the saving grace of God. Therefore let us stand firm in our faith, ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

++Response Hymn 293

"Loving Spirit"

Omni Dei

(stanza 1)

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: **And also with you.**

Ministry of Music

"The Peasant Dance"

D. Garrett & F. Weber

Lily Fiore, Flute

Blessings with Younger Disciples

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

Galatians 3:23-29

New Testament p. 189

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"The Promise of Faith"

Rev. Dr. Randal Jelks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 317

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

Mc Kee

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

Rev. Lynette Sparks

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image of every gender, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Prayers of the People & 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

"Aria"

arr. H. Voxman

Janet Carter & Lily Fiore, Flute Duet

++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.**

The bounty of summer is upon us. God's table is filled with a feast beyond our wildest dreams. We are grateful to be God's welcome guests. May the gifts we give during this offering bless others as we have been blessed. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 320

"The Church of Christ in Every Age"

Wareham

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Fugue in A Major"

William Selby (1738-1798)

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.

Worship liturgies adapted from the Presbyterian Outlook, and re:Worship.
Bulletin image from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library
Kyrie used by permission of composer.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

August 18

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Willing to Learn

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Psalm 111:1-10; 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14

Trillium Quartet plays Mozart after worship

August 25

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
From Strength to Strength

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Psalm 84:1-12; Ephesians 6:10-20

Josh Leckrone, Baritone

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Dr. Randal Jelks

Liturgists Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Mission

Musicians..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Janlee Richter, Piano
..... Janet Carter & Lily Fiore, Flute

Ushers..... Bernie & Kathy Smith, Stephen Marshall, Marian Vanderwall
..... Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel

AV Team Rachel Kamstra, Ricky Rivard, Sam Putt



About Today's Guest Preacher

Randal Maurice Jelks is The Ruth N. Halls Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University, award-winning author, documentary filmmaker, and an ordained clergy in the PC(USA). Jelks' writings have appeared in the Boston Review, Black Perspectives, Los Angeles Review of Books as well as other national scholarly periodicals.

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.



People Around a Baobab Tree, Frits Ahlefeldt

The Promise of Faith

TWELFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 11, 2024
10:00 A.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: *Snake's Big Mistake* by Kurpiel

Next Week: *A Day with no Words* by Hammond

For weeks, Snake has looked forward to sculpting the most spectacular clay pot in art class. But when his pot breaks and his teacher confuses Snake's pot with Turtle's, Snake takes home Turtle's masterpiece to show his family and pretends that he made it. Now, Snake will have to craft a way to repair a broken pot and a broken friendship.

Activity: Create clay pots.

This Week's Calendar

SUN. AUGUST 11

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

MON. AUGUST 12

- 4:30 p.m. UCCF Board MeetingConference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Leader Training..... Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities CommitteeOnline
- 7:30 p.m. High School Movie Night Youth Room

TUES. AUGUST 13

- 12:00 p.m. Let's Hang Out! John Ball Zoo

WED. AUGUST 14

- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Pub NightPide & Stick

THURS. AUGUST 15

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

FRI. AUGUST 16

- 6:30 p.m. Middle School Gathering.....Offsite

SUN. AUGUST 18

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.....Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. String QuartetGathering Place
- 6:30 p.m. Back to Youth Group Night Youth Room

Announcements

LET'S HANG OUT! August 13, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., John Ball Zoo Our friendship and fellowship meetup program is going to the John Ball Zoo! Absolutely anyone is welcome to join us; we will meet at noon just past the entrance gates in front of the "Information Wall." Questions? Reach out to Deanna at deannac@wpcgr.org.

THE AUDIO/VIDEO TEAM IS HIRING! If you want to help support our digital ministry and would enjoy working with cameras and audio equipment, this could be the perfect opportunity for you! No experience is necessary. Contact Deanna at deannac@wpcgr.org if interested.

YOUNG ADULT PUB NIGHT: August 14, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Pide and Stick Young Adults, join us at Pide and Stick for pub night this month!

BACK TO YOUTH GROUP NIGHT: Sunday, August 18, 6:30 - 8:15 p.m. From 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. we will cover important information about youth group and choir with all youth and parents (MS & HS). Following this meeting, parents are invited to join a social hour while youth have pizza together, connect with youth leaders, and meet our new Minister of Music, Bobby!

CHOIR BEGINS AUGUST 29! Thursdays, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Choir Room Choir will soon be back in session! Join us Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning August 29. All are welcome, hope to see you there!

SEPTEMBER WPA LUNCHEON: September 11, Punchbowl at 11:30 a.m., Lunch at noon Join us for our next lunch/presentation to be held on Wednesday, September 11. Our guest presenter, Clerk Lyons, will present her "Elections 101" presentation. This presentation includes information on Michigan's election system, recent changes in State election law, and how the Kent County Clerk's office ensures all elections are secure, transparent, fair, and accurate. Register online or call the church office at (616)717-5529 no later than September 3.

DINING ROOM TABLE AND CHAIRS NEEDED: The Afghan refugee family we have been working with, the Samimis, purchased a home this month! They are searching for a dining room table and chairs suitable for six people. If anyone has a table and chairs to donate, please contact ellenpool@comcast.net.

TEA FOR TWO: Sign up to be paired with someone else for an in-person or online meetup! Make a new friend or reconnect with someone you already know for an hour or two of fellowship. 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.