

MORNING WORSHIP

Willing to Learn

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"We are not what we know but what we are willing to learn."

—Mary Catherine Bateson

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

"Flötenuhr Musik" Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
Music for Flute Clocks
I. Allegro moderato

++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

"Sonata in D Major, K.V. 381" W.A. Mozart (1756-91)
for Piano Four Hands
II. Andante

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

Psalm 111:1-10 Old Testament p. 562
1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 Old Testament p. 302

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Willing to Learn"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 174

"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"

Madeleine

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

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

Offertory

"Cello Suite No. 1, BWV 1007" J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
II. Allemande
Lee Copenhaver, 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.

As we present these gifts, O Lord, use them to spread the
abundance of your love and justice in the world, that all may
taste your goodness. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Cwm Rhondda

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Postludium"

Flor Peeters (1903-86)

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.

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!

AHEAD IN 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

September 1

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at Camp Henry**

Rev. Jen Porter
Sanctuary Choir

Worship at Westminster

Rev. Laurie Hartzell
1 Corinthians 3; 2 Corinthians 5:13-14

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Ruth Stubbs
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children and Families
Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano
..... Lee Copenhaver, Cello
Ushers.....Bernie & Kathy Smith, Stephen Marshall, Marian Vanderwall
.....Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel
AV TeamKarsten Kotchenruther, Ricky Rivard, 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.

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.



Wisdom, Olusola David, Ayibiowu

Willing to Learn

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 18, 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: *A Day with no Words* by Hammond

Next Week: *Grandpa's Window* by Laura Gehl

A Day With No Words is a colorful and engaging picture book for young readers shares what life can look like for families who use nonverbal communication, utilizing tools to embrace their unique method of "speaking." The story highlights the bond between mother and child and follows them on a day where they use a tablet to communicate with others.

Activity: Learn sign language for our worship center songs and greetings.



Actively Engaged in the World

Announcements

LET'S HANG OUT! August 21, 6:00 p.m., Long Road Distillers All are welcome for our "Let's Hang Out" meetup on August 21 at Long Road Distillers! Join us from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. as we enjoy fellowship and fun. Planning to join us? Let Deanna know by emailing deannac@wpcgr.org. We hope to see you there!

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!

KICKOFF SUNDAY & UPCOMING DATES: Kickoff Sunday will be September 8! Reconnect with Westminster as we renew our energy and begin our program year. Kickoff marks the official beginning of programming as we return from summer rejuvenated. Our children's ministry program will have registration following worship and there will be an all-church meal. The following Sunday, September 15, our Ministry Mingle will take place following worship. Adult Faith Formation will begin Sunday, September 22, and new member orientation will be September 29 and October 3, with new members being received on October 27.

FALL REFLECTIONS SUBMISSIONS: September 3 It is time to start thinking about submissions for Fall Reflections! As we mark the first anniversary of this new venture into sharing the stories and life of the Westminster congregation, you are invited to share your story. Submit an article, poem, photos, or anything else to reflections@wpcgr.org to be included in the next installment of Reflections. Submissions are due September 3.

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 "Elections 101." 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. The WPA committee felt that since this is a presidential election year, it is a great time to learn and ask questions. There is no charge for this event. Register on our website or call the church office at (616)717-5529 no later than September 3.

UPDATE FROM TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN: WPC/Together West Michigan Core team wants to thank you! The Ready by Five Millage passed with 59% of voters saying YES! TW/M/WPC will continue our work with county and state officials regarding childcare affordability and accessibility. To learn more about Together West Michigan, contact erinmolhoek@gmail.com.

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.

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.

226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN BRIEF: You can find information about the actions of the 226th General Assembly on our website.



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. AUGUST 18

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Dining Room
11:15 a.m. String Quartet Gathering Place
6:30 p.m. Back to Youth Group Night Dining Room

MON. AUGUST 19

- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnerships Committee..... Online

WED. AUGUST 21

- 6:00 p.m. Let's Hang OutLong Road Distillers

THURS. AUGUST 22

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby

SUN. AUGUST 25

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

The Music Department of Westminster presents The Trillium String Quartet

Diane Helle, Violin Linda Nelson, Violin
Andrew Pool, Viola Lee Copenhaver, Cello

**Performing in our Gathering Place:
String Quartet. K. 458 in B-flat major ("The Hunt")**

- I. Allegro, vivace assai
- II. Menuetto and Trio
- III. Adagio
- IV. Allegro assai

Notes:

- I. The "Hunt" nickname might have been appended by listeners because of the galloping meter and melody of the chase in the first movement.
- II. Menuetto is a type of (pre-waltz) movement common to Haydn and Mozart (classical Viennese) symphonies and string quartets. Though the movements are often stately, Mozart pokes some fun at the tradition with the comic short-note accompaniment and swooping gestures in the Trio.
- III. Though also in a major key, the probing slow movement invokes heartfelt scenes, perhaps like those of a serious opera.
- IV. "Assai" means "very" and so the final movement is very joyous ("allegro")—perhaps representing the celebration after the hunt. The plan is traditionally that of a rondo—meaning that the opening melody is strong enough to deserve repeating four plus times with other material between. But here the jocular opening—heard only twice—is tossed around developed—as if to suggest that even the fun can be "mock" serious.