

MORNING WORSHIP
From Strength to Strength

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"The joy of the Lord is your strength."

—Nehemiah 8:10

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 "24 Pieces in Free Styles, Op. 31" Louis Vierne (1870-1937)
I. Pr embule

++Call to Worship

Carolyn Morse

One: Holy One, you are the shore in sight,
you are hands that reach out,
you are the ground on which we rest.

All: God, you are our refuge.

One: Holy One, you are the life we long for,
you are the refusal to give up,
you are the keys of home we carry with us.

All: God, you are our refuge.

One: We call on you, O Lord, from the ruins and the rubble;
we call on you from the wildness and the deep.

All: We call on you to meet us in this place.

++Hymn 269

"Lead On, O King Eternal!"

Lancashire

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, you are near to the brokenhearted, and you save the
crushed in spirit. You are near to people who are hurting, but we
keep our distance to avoid hard conversations. You envision a
world where all needs are met, but we hoard our possessions and
cling to our power. In our brokenness, love us into wholeness. By
your mercy, forgive our sins. By your grace, free us to try again...

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

"There Is a Balm in Gilead" arr. Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)
Josh Leckrone, Baritone

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 84:1-12 Old Testament p. 543
Ephesians 6:10-20 New Testament p. 195

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"From Strength to Strength" Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 756

"O God of Every Nation"

Llanglofan

++Affirmation of Faith ("Our Song of Hope," Reformed Church in America)

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true hope.
Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.
Amen.

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

"10 Sacred Solos and Duets" David von Kampen (b. 1986)
VII. How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place
Josh Leckrone, Baritone

++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.

Holy God, we thank you for your words of eternal life. As a
sign of our gratitude, we offer you these gifts. Multiply them
for the good of our faith community, our neighbors, and the
world you love so much. Shape and mold our lives, that we
become a loving response to your goodness, through Christ
our Savior. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 275

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Ein' feste Burg

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" Johann Gottfried Walther
(A Mighty Fortress Is Our God) (1684-1748)

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 Claudio Carvalaes' Liturgy from Below, Call to Worship
Journal, and the Presbyterian Outlook. Bulletin image from Art in the Christian Tradition,
a project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library. Kyrie used by permission of composer. "24 Pieces
in Free Styles, Op. 31," "There is a Balm in Gilead," and "10 Sacred Solos and Duets" used by
permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

September 1

Worship at Camp Henry

Rev. Jen Porter
2 Corinthians 5:16-20
Sanctuary Choir

Worship at Westminster

The Main Thing

Rev. Laurie Hartzell
1 Corinthians 13; 2 Corinthians 5:13-14
Nate Roosien, Guitar

September 8

Fall Kick-Off with Brunch

Rooted in Hope

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Psalm 1; Mark 7:24-37
Sanctuary Choir

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists.....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
.....Carolyn Morse
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children and Families
Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
.....Josh Leckrone, Baritone
Ushers.....Bernie & Kathy Smith, Stephen Marshall, Marian Vanderwall
.....Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel
AV Team.....Dan Cisler, Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Karsten Kotchenruther

Welcome to Westminster

MEMBERSHIP

If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Crystal Hovey at crystalh@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.

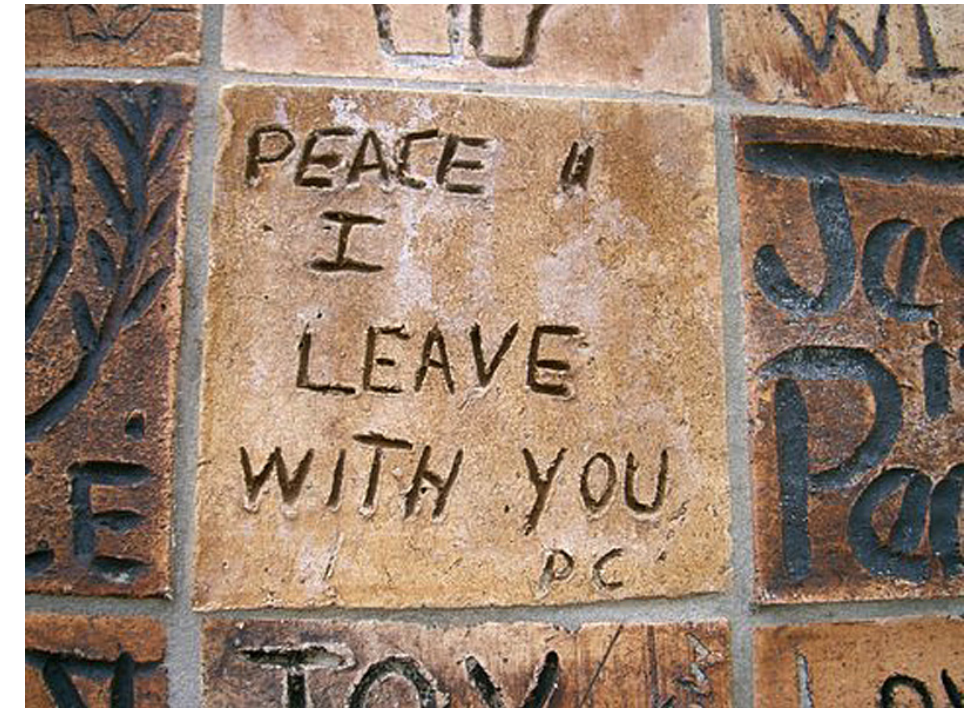
YOUTH

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.

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



Tile from Peace Wall in Hamilton, New Zealand

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: *Grandpa's Window* by Laura Gehl

Next Week: *The Candy Dish* by Kobi Yamada

Every window at the hospital faces dull, gray buildings—except the one in Grandpa's room. Grandpa can see the ocean every day! When Daria visits, she and Grandpa look out at the beach, hoping they will build sandcastles and fly kites together again. This touching exploration of a child's experience of loss offers an unexpected ending, encouraging creativity and self-expression in the midst of grief.

Activity: Create pictures of scenes you and a loved one experience together.



Actively Engaged in the World

From Strength to Strength

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 25, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

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.

FALL REFLECTIONS SUBMISSIONS: September 3 As we mark the first anniversary of this 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.

KICKOFF SUNDAY: September 8 Reconnect with Westminster as we renew our energy and begin our program year. Our children's ministry program will have registration following worship and there will be an all-church meal.

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. Register on our website or call the church office at (616)717-5529 no later than September 3.

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN POVERTY EDUCATION WORKSHOP: September 14, 9:00 a.m. Visit westminstergr.org to learn more about this opportunity from Together West Michigan to learn and reflect.

MINISTRY MINGLE: September 15 The Ministry Mingle is a new event designed to facilitate conversation about ministry and fellowship opportunities offered at Westminster. Join us after worship on Sunday, September 15 in the Dining Room to learn from people involved in various groups about what's happening and why they're involved. There will be no tables or sign-ups at this event—come and mingle!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: We have an upcoming New Member Orientation scheduled for Sunday, September 29 and October 6, 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with new members being received into membership during worship on Sunday, October 27. If you'd like to attend, please contact Crystal at crystalh@wpcgr.org or 616-717-5529. These sessions are open to all who would like to learn more about the work and ministry of Westminster.

YOUTH UPDATE: If you missed our meeting last week, check out the youth page on the website to see the calendar for the year, complete waivers, and find other information about youth group this year. Scroll down the page to sign up for our newsletter so you can stay up-to-date on youth group information.

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.

PLASTIC BAGS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY: The Food Pantry is in need of more clean, plastic grocery bags! Donations can be brought to the Welcome Desk.



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 25

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Youth Group & Choir Various Locations

MON. AUGUST 26

- 6:30 p.m. Justice Committee Meeting Library

TUES. AUGUST 27

- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting..... Library

WED. AUGUST 28

- 7:00 p.m. MGD Committee Meeting Online

THURS. AUGUST 29

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Westminster Camp Begins..... Camp Henry
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

SUN. SEPTEMBER 1

- 10:00 a.m. Worship at Camp Camp Henry
- 10:00 a.m. Worship at WestminsterSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place