

MORNING WORSHIP  
Give Me a Sign

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"The Eucharist—or what many Christians refer to as communion—becomes our ongoing touchstone for the Christian journey. It becomes a place to which we must repeatedly return in order to find our face, our name, our absolute identity, who we are in Christ, and thus who we are forever."  
—Father Richard Rohr

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

"Contemplation" Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)  
from Songs Without Words, Op. 30  
Robert Ragoonanan

++Call to Worship

Lambert Zuidervaart

One: All you with grumbling stomachs,  
hungry for bread, nourishment, and flourishing:

All: draw near to God.

One: All you with dry throats, thirsting for water, wisdom, and justice:

All: draw near to God.

One: All you with empty arms, searching for a warm embrace,  
a meaningful life, and a loving community:

All: draw near to God.

++Hymn 509

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" Holy Manna

Prayer of Confession

You are the Bread of Life, O God, and you promise that we will never hunger again. But we do hunger, often for the wrong things. You feed us with grace, but we hunger for achievements. You offer us peace, but we hunger for control. You bless us with plenty to share, but we are quick to hoard what we have. Forgive us, and teach us to hunger for things that you do: justice and equality, working for the common good until none of your children hunger for bread. In your mercy, hear us as we pray...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison "Lord, Have Mercy" Lee J. Afdahl

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us,  
Christ, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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.

++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

"Praise Be to Thee" G. F. Handel (1685-1759)  
Kathleen Veenstra Pool

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!

Recognition of Music Minister Search Committee

THE WORD

Scripture

John 6:24-35 New Testament p. 98

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Give Me a Sign" Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 395

"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" Liebster Jesu

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

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 all 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!"

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

"Psalm XXIII" Paul Creston (1906-1985)

++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!

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements and partake of them immediately as you receive them. Please take your used cups with you as you return to your seats and place them in the cupholders in the back of your pew. If you would like the elements brought to you, please raise your hand and a server will bring them to you. All bread is gluten-free. Children are welcome to participate in this sacrament.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 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.

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion Music "Prayer" from Suite for Organ Paul Creston

Prayer of Response

Nourishing God, thank you for inviting us to your table where all are welcome, for feeding us with the bread of life, and for quenching our thirst with the cup of blessing. As you have filled our lives with love and hope, may we be a source of your love and hope for others who hunger and thirst for good news. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 504

"We Come as Guests Invited" Wie lieblich ist der Maien

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Festal March" Florence Price (1887-1953)

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

August 11

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Randal Jelks  
Janet Carter and Lily Fiore, Flute Duet

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

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher .....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

Liturgists .....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
..... Lambert Zuidervaart

Musicians..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music  
..... Janlee Richter, Piano & Organ  
..... Kathleen Veenstra Pool, Soprano

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

AV Team ..... Deanna Clark, Sam Putt, Stella Sheckler



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:** *We Are Going to be Pals!* by Mark Teague

**Next Week:** *Snake's Big Mistake* by Kurpiel

In a not-so-simple symbiotic friendship between two pals, Egret does his best to teach Rhino about how to be a friend. Friends eat together, have fun together, and help each other out, right? But they also respect boundaries, recognize their differences, and compromise (sometimes). When Egret ends up in a sticky situation, it's Rhino to the rescue as this unlikely pair realizes that communication and kindness are the key to any friendship.

**Activity:** Play a friendship game

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](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org). More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at [westminstergr.org](http://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.

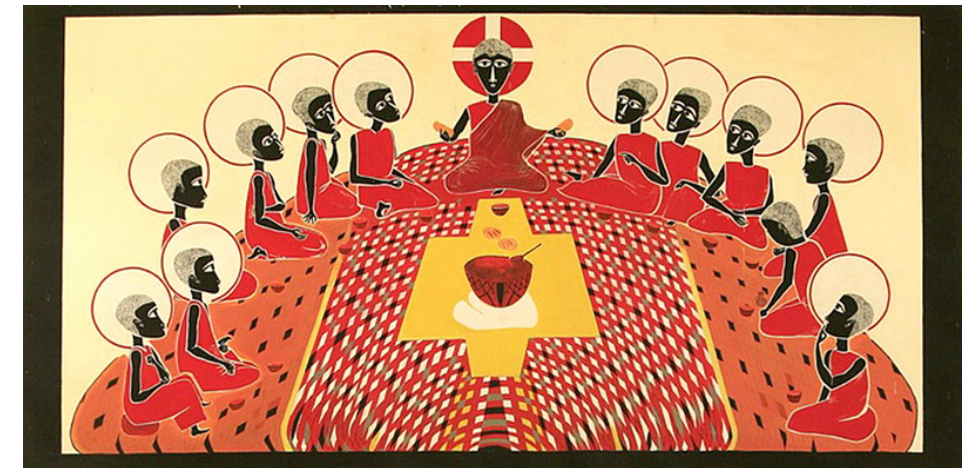
**YOUTH**

If you would like more information about youth ministry, please contact our Minister with Youth and Young Adults Kat Hand at [kath@wpcgr.org](mailto: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](http://westminstergr.org) / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



*Last Supper, Father George Saget, Keur Moussa Abbey, Senegal*

Give Me a Sign

ELEVENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 4, 2024

10:00 A.M.



Actively Engaged in the World

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

# This Week's Calendar

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## SUN. AUGUST 4

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

## TUES. AUGUST 6

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

## THURS. AUGUST 8

- 9:30 a.m. Let's Hang Out! ..... Morning Ritual  
10:30 a.m. Food Pantry ..... Front Lobby  
3:00 p.m. Youth Kickball ..... Midtown Green

## SUN. AUGUST 11

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

## Announcements

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**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MINISTER OF MUSIC!** Today we welcome our new Minister of Music, Robert S. Ragoonanan. Robert (who also goes by Bobby) relocated to Grand Rapids this past week from Minneapolis, MN, where he most recently served as Minister of Worship and Music at University Lutheran Church of Hope. He is a graduate of Luther College (B.A. in Music) and Bowling Green State University (M.M. in Orchestral Conducting). He has conducted choirs, orchestras, new music groups, and wind ensembles both in the US and in Europe. He is also a collaborative pianist, organist, harpsichordist, and voice coach. Please join us in the Gathering Place after worship for coffee, refreshments, and a chance to meet Bobby.

**THANK YOU TO THE MUSIC MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE:** Gaëtan Gerville-Réache, Peter Larson, Linda Nelson, Elizabeth Topliffe, Lambert Zuidervaart, and Aaron Doty.

# Announcements

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**DÉGAGÉ VOUCHERS:** Dégagé Vouchers will be for sale in the Gathering Place after worship today. These \$2 vouchers can be given to our neighbors here in the Heartside neighborhood or in the surrounding areas of Grand Rapids, to be used at Dégagé Ministres for a meal, a haircut, use of laundry facilities and much more. Folks have even purchased them for use at the Greeter Desk for staff to hand out as needed. The vouchers are a helpful resource for folks requesting financial assistance.

**LET'S HANG OUT!** Have you joined us for on of our hang outs yet? If not, Let's Hang Out! These meetups serve as an opportunity for folks from Westminster to gather together for fellowship and fun. All are welcome, and no registration is required. We will be at Morning Ritual in Grand Rapids on August 8, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and at the John Ball Zoo on August 13, from noon to 4:00 p.m. (We will meet just past the entrance gates). If you have questions or want to let Deanna know to look for you, contact (616) 717-5544 or [deannac@wpcgr.org](mailto:deannac@wpcgr.org).

**YOUNG ADULT PUB NIGHT: August 14, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Pide and Stick** Young Adults, join us at Pide and Stick for pub night this month! Curious about other Young Adult events? Contact [kath@wpcgr.org](mailto:kath@wpcgr.org), or follow our group called "WYA" on Facebook.

**DINING ROOM TABLE AND CHAIRS NEEDED:** The Afghan refugee family we have been working with, the Samimis, purchased their first home last week! 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](mailto:ellenpool@comcast.net). The Samimis navigate this daunting journey with consistent resolve and gratitude. Thank you, Westminster family, for your support.

**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.

**TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN UPDATES:** Together West Michigan had over 100 people from more than 20 institutions join for their Delegates Assembly last weekend. You can support Together West Michigan's early childhood education initiative by voting to renew the Ready by 5 millage on August 6. Visit [organizewmi.com](http://organizewmi.com) to sign up for their newsletter and stay up to date on upcoming opportunities to get involved.



**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](mailto:angiek@wpcgr.org) or call (616) 717-5533 with questions.