

MORNING WORSHIP

The Way of Love

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Have courage enough to trust Love one more time, always one more time"

-Maya Angelou

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

"Elegiac Romance"

Frederick Freeman

++Call to Worship (from Iona Abbey Worship Book)

One: Believing that God made and loves the world,

All: we gather.

One: That it may be reshaped to fulfill God's purposes,

All: we pray.

One: To seek a wisdom deeper than our own thinking,

All: we listen.

One: To honor God who gave us voice,

All: we worship.

++Hymn 366

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Hyfrydol

Prayer of Confession (by Rev. Roger Gench)

Merciful God, you have commanded us to love you above all and to have no other gods. You have called us to love others as you love them. But we are personally and socially deformed by the love of other "gods" — the false gods of prosperity and materialism, of racial and ethnic privilege, of gender exclusivity, and of nationalistic imperialism. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit that we might learn to love as you love and to live as people who have been baptized as your own children.

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Musical notation for the Kyrie Unison. It consists of two staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff starts with a fermata over the first measure, followed by the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy up - on us,'. The second staff continues with the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.'

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 "Amazing Grace/Jesus Loves Me"

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see! Alleluia.

Jesus loves me. This I know for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong. Alleluia.

Nate & Duncan Roosien, Guitar

Audrey Faasse & Dillan Roosien, Cello

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

1 Corinthians 13

New Testament p. 175

2 Corinthians 5:13-14

New Testament p. 181

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Way of Love"

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 300

"We Are One in the Spirit" They'll Know We Are Christians

++Affirmation of Faith (from 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.

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

"Be Thou with Me"

J. S. Bach

++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. 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

Hymn 519 "You Are My Strength When I Am Weak" Jernigan

Hymn 525 "Let Us Break Bread Together" Let Us Break Bread

Prayer of Response

We thank you, Living God, for nourishing us with your abundant love and feeding us with your grace. Grant us courage and resolve to draw from this well of love and grace as we seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk with you. May the love of Christ urge us on! Trusting in the power of the Spirit, we pray, Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 749

"Come! Live in the Light!"

We Are Called

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Tune for the Tuba"

C. S. Lang

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

September 8
Fall Kick-Off with Brunch
Rooted in Hope
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Psalm 1; Mark 7:24-37
Sanctuary Choir

September 15
Ministry Mingle after Worship
Hard-Won Hope
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Psalm 19:1-14; Mark 8:27-38
Sanctuary Choir

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Guest Preacher
Liturgists Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission
..... Christy, Dylan, & Duncan Roosien
Musicians..... Ronald Krebs, Guest Organist
..... Nate & Duncan Roosien, Guitar
..... Audrey Faasse & Dillan Roosien, Cello
Ushers..... Doug & Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs, Kari & Chris Fuller,
..... Ann & Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp
AV Team Dan Cisler, Ian Dengerink-Van Til, 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: *The Candy Dish* by Kobi Yamada

Next Week: Join us for Worship Center registration after the service!

Here is the story of an inquisitive child and a curious little candy dish. A dish that is both exhilarating and, at times, utterly frustrating. It is a story about how everything is shaped by how we look at it, and the magical powers of patience, perspective, and gratitude. This is a reminder of how lucky we are to wake up each morning. To see the wonder and possibilities that come with each fresh, sparkling new day. But mostly this is an invitation to be grateful for the time we have and the gift of being alive.



WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church

Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, the Presbyterian Church (USA) decided to act boldly and compassionately to see our neighbors through Jesus' eyes and serve those who are marginalized or in need, by building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO WEAR A NAMETAG

We encourage you to wear a nametag every Sunday, to help us learn to know one another better and help extend our welcome. If you would like a reusable nametag, please email Crystal at crystalh@wpcgr.org.



Choose Love Over Fear

The Way of Love

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2024
10:00 A.M.**

Announcements

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL: Thursdays, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Choir Room Choir is back in session! Join us Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

FALL REFLECTIONS SUBMISSIONS: September 3 Submit your article, poem, photos, or anything else to reflections@wpcgr.org to be included in the next installment of Reflections. Submissions are due September 3.

LET'S HANG OUT! September 4, 6:30 p.m., Broad Leaf Kentwood Celebrate September with us, and enjoy good fellowship and fun at our next hang out on September 4 at Broad Leaf Brewery & Spirits - Kentwood location. Join us at 6:30 p.m. for our final hangout before Kickoff! If you are planning to join us, please let Deanna know by emailing deannac@wpcgr.org.

KICKOFF SUNDAY: September 8 Reconnect with Westminster as we renew our energy and begin our program year with an all-church meal after the service next week! Parents, our children's ministry program will have registration following worship.

SEPTEMBER WPA LUNCHEON: September 11, Punchbowl at 11:30 a.m., Lunch at noon Our guest presenter, Clerk Lyons, will present "Elections 101." Register on our website or call the church office at (616)717-5529 no later than September 3.

FALL YOUTH RETREAT: September 14-15 Our next youth event is our Fall Retreat! Sign up for the Fall Retreat (and let us know if you'll join the carpool) by September 8.

MINISTRY MINGLE: September 15, following worship in the Dining Room
The Ministry Mingle is a new event designed to facilitate conversation about ministry and fellowship opportunities offered at Westminster. Join us 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!

EVERGREEN CIRCLE: September 19, 9:30 a.m., Library The Evergreen Circle will hold their first meeting on Thursday, September 19 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. We will be using Richard Rohr's book *Everything Belongs* for our study this year. New members are always welcome. Call Marilyn Lawrence at 616-682-4924 if you'd like to join us or for more information.

PARENT SOCIAL HOUR: September 22 Parents of young children, we are planning a Sunday Social Hour for you. On Sunday, September 22, we will gather after the 10:00 a.m. church service and will enjoy more than just church cookies and coffee! Come and get to know church people who have young children! Our gathering will be in the rooms of the Children's Ministry Hallway.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: We have an upcoming two-day 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.

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.



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. SEPTEMBER 1

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

MON. SEPTEMBER 2

All Day Church Office Closed for Labor Day

TUES. SEPTEMBER 3

- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting..... Chapel

WED. SEPTEMBER 4

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgang's
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting..... Online

THURS. SEPTEMBER 5

- 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Formation Group..... Library
- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry.....Front Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

SUN. SEPTEMBER 8

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.....Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Kick-Off Brunch Dining Room
- 12:00 p.m. Confirmation Meeting..... Youth Room