

MORNING WORSHIP

Hard-Won Hope

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"When we go before [God], God will ask, "Where are your wounds?" And we will say, "I have no wounds." And God will ask, "Was there nothing worth fighting for?" -Allan Boesak

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

"Suite in D minor"

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

VI. Récits de cromorne et de cornet séparé, en dialogue

(1676-1749)

++Call to Worship

We have been gathered in this place for this time, that we might hear the good news we can't help but share. On this day and each one to come, may the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, and the actions of our lives proclaim our faith.

++Hymn 11

"Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud"

Aberystwyth

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, you have called us to take up our cross and follow you: to carry the truth of your justice like a banner and bear the yoke of life as your servant. Yet we hesitate to serve anyone but ourselves. We draw away from the imagery of the cross, forgetting that in you, it has become a source of glory. Forgive us and call us once more to set aside our selfishness and follow in your way...

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 (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff starts with a fermata over the first measure, followed by a second measure with a '2' above it. The lyrics are: 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

Day to day, God offers us mercy and hope. Moment to moment, God's never-ending love surrounds us. Friends, trust this good news: God takes our prayers of confession and crafts them into words of grace, joy, and peace.

Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

++Response Hymn 772

"Live into Hope"

Truro

(stanza 4)

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed. God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"He Leadeth Me"

Benjamin Wegner (b. 1992)

He leadeth me; oh blessed thought! Oh, words with heav'nly comfort fraught!

Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,

by waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me.

His faithful foll'wer I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine;

Content whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vict'ry's won,

E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Lambert Zuidervaart, Baritone

Sarah Faasse, Soprano

Sanctuary Choir

Commissioning of Westminster Child Development Center Staff

Susan Jennings & Bert Dugan

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Nancy Greidanus

Children three years through second 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

Mark 8:27-38

New Testament p. 43

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Hard-Won Hope"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 450

"Be Thou My Vision"

Slane

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

Rev. Tim Tuthill

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Focus on Mission—Together West Michigan

Laurel Schantz

Prayers of the People and 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

"Blessed Be the Lord, My Rock"

Abbie Betinis (b. 1980)

Blessed be the Lord, my rock and my fortress, my stronghold, my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge.

We are like breath, our days are like a passing shadow.

Bow thy heav'ns, O Lord, come down!

Stretch forth thy hand from on high, rescue me, deliver me.

I will sing a new song to thee, O God.

Sanctuary Choir

++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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Generous God, you are the source of every good gift. May this offering serve as a powerful witness to your love for the world.

Help us to use the gifts that you have given us to build your kin-dom of justice and peace, through Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 826

"Lift High the Cross"

Crucifer

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Toccata in C Major"

Carlos Seixas (1704-42)

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 22
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Hope Is Near
Rev. Lynette Sparks
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37
Kirk Singers, Sanctuary Choir

September 29
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Hope: For Such a Time as This
Rev. Jen Porter
Luke 6:27-38
Sanctuary Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

MINISTRY MINGLE: Join us after worship today 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—simply come and mingle!

TOWARDS A FUTURE WITH HOPE: AN INDUCTIVE JOURNEY WITH JEREMIAH
Lead by Rev. Kyle Kooyers: Begins September 22

Have you been offered a cheap platitude in a moment of pain? Has anyone ever sold you a painting, cross stitch, or print containing the words “For I know the plans I have for you”? Are you growing tired of people peddling thoughts and prayers in response to the trauma and anxiety of our world? You may be entitled to a thoughtful inductive study of the Book of Jeremiah! As we journey with the “Weeping Prophet,” we'll explore how we might lean into the gritty and faithful work of resilience amid darkness. In a world of uncertainty and chaos, trauma and pain, we must get our hands dirty in the hard work of hope. Join us!



**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 and serve those who are marginalized or in need, by building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Worship liturgies adapted from Call to Worship Journal and Feasting on the Word. Bulletin image from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library. Kyrie used by permission of composer. Blessed Be the Lord, My Rock © 2006 Graphite Publishing, used by permission. He Leadeth Me used by permission of the composer. "Fanfare" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Rev. Tim Tuthill
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Mission
..... Bert Dugan, Trustee
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Families
..... Laurel Schantz
Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Sarah Faasse, Soprano
..... Lambert Zuidervart, Baritone
..... Sanctuary Choir
Ushers..... Doug & Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs, Kari & Chris Fuller,
..... Ann & Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp
AV TeamDeanna Clark, Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Ricky Rivard

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 extend our welcome. If you would like a reusable nametag, please email Crystal at crystalh@wpcgr.org.

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



Front gate, Ganghwa Anglican Church

Hard-Won Hope

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
10:00 A.M.**

Announcements

ELISABETH CIRCLE: September 17, 1:00 p.m., Parlor Elisabeth Circle will be meeting on September 17. Our study for this year is *The Story of Ruth* by Joan Chittister. For more information contact Sandy Topliffe at stopliffe@comcast.net or 616-447-2941.

EVERGREEN CIRCLE: September 19, 9:30 a.m., Library The Evergreen Circle will hold their first meeting on Thursday, September 19. 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 HOURS: Parents and young children, we are planning two different Social Hours for you. Sunday, **September 22** will begin after the 10:00 a.m. church service and will include more than just church cookies and coffee! Come and get to know church people who have young children while the children are in choir and church school! Thursday, **October 3** will start at 9:30 a.m. and will include treats, informal conversation, and playtime. Come when you are able before lunch! Both Social Hours will be in the rooms of the Children's Ministry Hallway. Let Nancy Greidanus know if you are planning on coming to either at nancyg@wpcgr.org.

YOUTH UPDATE: There is no regular youth group this week due to our Fall Retreat! See you on September 22 for our regular programming.

FAITH OVER DIVISION TOUR: A CONVERSATION WITH RANDY CALLENDER September 24, 7:00 p.m., GVSU As our country faces new challenges of division and polarization, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the rhetoric and hostility around us. Despite the challenges, there's an opportunity to come together, listen, and bridge the divides that threaten our communities. Event hosted by Kaufman Interfaith Institute and the One America Movement. Visit gvsu.edu/interfaith/ to learn more and register.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: September 29 & October 6, 11:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. This two-day orientation is open to all who would like to learn more about Westminster. New members will be received into membership on October 27. Contact Crystal at crystalh@wpcgr.org or 616-717-5529 if you would like to join!

SHARING THE BOUNTY WALK: October 6, 1:00 p.m. Come participate in the second Annual 'Sharing the Bounty' food walk! The 1.75 mile route will center on the Heartside neighborhood. This fundraiser supports our Food Pantry & St. Mark's Episcopal Breakfast Cafe. Contact angiek@wpcgr.org or visit the website to register. You can donate directly by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the page.

WPA OCTOBER BUS TRIP: October 9 Our October Bus trip will be to the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio with lunch at Antonio's Restaurant in Midland and a Canopy Walk at Whiting Forest of Dow Gardens. WPA is Westminster's fellowship ministry for adults (55+), who may or may not be retired. There is a \$10 cost for this event. Please call the church office, 616-717-5529, or sign up online before September 27.

SIGN UP FOR TEA FOR TWO! Make a new friend at Westminster—virtually or in person. We will match you with someone who shares your meet-up preference and share their phone number or email address with you. Reach out and make a plan to get together. Sign up on the website or by emailing deannac@wpcgr.org.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: As the fall program year begins, we encourage you to make sure you are up to date with your giving. While regular donations and offerings often slow down in the summer months, our expenses remain steady.



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 15

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Ministry Mingle Dining Room
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations

MON. SEPTEMBER 16

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnerships Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. FASD Support Group Various Locations

TUES. SEPTEMBER 17

- 12:30 p.m. Elisabeth CircleParlor
- 5:45 p.m. Nominating Committee Online
- 6:00 p.m. Music Committee..... Library
- 6:30 p.m. Camp Henry Board Meeting..... Parlor

WED. SEPTEMBER 18

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast..... Wolfgang's
- 10:00 a.m. WPA Committee Meeting Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting..... Online

THURS. SEPTEMBER 19

- 9:30 a.m. Evergreen Circle Library
- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir RehearsalChoir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Together West Michigan..... Dining Room

SUN. SEPTEMBER 22

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Youth Group & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Meeting..... Youth Room