

MORNING WORSHIP
Hope for Such a Time as This

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Dear God, let my love be stronger than my anger." —Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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

"Suite Argentina"
III. Zamba

Carlos Guastavino (1912-2000)

++Call to Worship

Rev. Jen Porter

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks for this day, for the air,

for the ground beneath our feet,

for the turning of the seasons,

for holy things, seen and unseen,

for the leading of the Spirit in our world,

for the Word spoken and revealed.

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

++Hymn 39

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Faithfulness

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, you call us to love one another, to love as we would want to be loved, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to love you with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, to love our enemies. Yet, in our loving, we justify our actions. We come up with reasons we cannot. We alter reality to fit our definitions. Forgive and transform us, we pray. Start us again, loving you and loving all. In the silence, hear our prayer...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl



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.

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Response Hymn 772

"Live into Hope"

(stanza 4)

Truro

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.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"God Is My Strong Salvation" Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010)

God is my strong salvation: what foe have I to fear?

In darkness and temptation, my light, my help is near:

Though hosts encamped around me, firm in the fight I stand;

What terror can confound me, with God at my right hand?

Place on the Lord reliance; my soul with courage wait;

His truth be thine affiance, when faint and desolate;

His might thy heart shall strengthen, his love thy joy increase;

Mercy thy days shall lengthen; the Lord will give thee peace.

Sanctuary Choir

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

Luke 6:27-38

New Testament p. 64

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Hope For Such a Time as This"

Rev. Jen Porter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 750

"Goodness Is Stronger than Evil"

Goodness Is Stronger

++Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from the Confession of 1967)

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

The kingdom of God represents the triumph of God over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation.

Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world.

It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.

In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

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

"Earth Song"

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

Sing, Be, Live, See...

This dark stormy hour, the wind, it stirs.

The scorched Earth cries out in vain:

Oh war and power, you blind and blur.

The torn heart cries out in pain.

But music and singing have been my refuge,

and music and singing shall be my light.

A light of song, shining strong: Alleluia!

Through darkness and pain and strife, I'll

Sing, Be, Live, See...

Peace.

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.

You have given us life and being. You have given us creativity, vision, identity, and call. In your Spirit we receive and in your Spirit we give. May you use all that we have and all that we are as you lead us into your promised future. What a blessing it is to welcome all to the way of peace and life. We do so in your holy names. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 79

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

Temple of Peace

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Carillon"

Herbert Murrill (1909-52)

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

October 6
World Communion Sunday
A Community of Hope: Gather

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Psalm 1; Mark 10:2-16
Sanctuary Choir

October 13
A Community of Hope: Engage

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Psalm 1; Mark 10:17-31
Westminster Winds
Sanctuary Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation


TOWARDS A FUTURE WITH HOPE: AN INDUCTIVE JOURNEY WITH JEREMIAH
Led by Rev. Kyle Kooyers: Sunday, September 22 - October 13
In the Chapel Fifteen Minutes Following Worship

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!

CUBA INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 13, In the Parlor Fifteen Minutes Following Worship

Are you curious about Westminster's long connection with Cuba? Would you like to learn more about our next partnership trip this spring? We travel in partnership with Guines Presbyterian Church and with First Hand Aid. These are not work trips or tourist trips—they are relational, partnering in ministry together.



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.

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
Liturgists Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Mission
..... Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Janlee Richter, Organ
..... Sanctuary Choir
Ushers..... Doug & Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs, Kari & Chris Fuller,
..... Ann & Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp
AV Team Dan Cisler, Rachel Kamstra, Stella Sheckler

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.



Hope for Such a
Time as This

NINETEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN: Together West Michigan is working hard to get our concerns about child care, housing, and safety heard by the people running for state and local offices this year. Come to our table in the Gathering Place after the service today to ask questions and have a chance to register for two upcoming events.

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN RELATIONAL POWER WALKS: Thursdays & Saturdays Starting September 21 As we get ready for the next election at every level, we're digging in to build relational power with our neighbors and make sure candidates act on the things we care about. It might sound scary, but we'll provide training, materials, a buddy for you to walk with, and more! All walks will depart from either Oakdale Park Church or Neland Ave. CRC. Visit westminstergr.org/other-partnerships/ to sign up!

PARENT SOCIAL HOUR: Thursday, October 3 at 9:30 a.m., Children's Ministry Hallway Parents with young children are invited to join for treats, informal conversation, and playtime. RSVP to Nancy at nancyg@wpcgr.org if you are planning on joining!

SEPTEMBER CHURCH SCHOOL EXPLORATIONS: This month, we are exploring how Moses is a witness to God's presence through storytelling, drama, and art, along with how we witness God's presence in our lives. Our memory verse is Exodus 3:14.

YOUTH UPDATE: In our newsletter you can find updated information about our 2025 summer trips, October events, and photos from our last youth group meeting. Next Sunday, October 6, the only youth programming after church will be middle school choir. High school night will take place that evening from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

3RD GRADE WORSHIP/COMMUNION SEMINAR: October 6, 9:15 a.m., Sanctuary All 3rd-graders and their parents are invited to attend a seminar that provides a short introduction to the why and how's of Westminster worship and communion. Please let Nancy Greidanus know if you are able to attend at nancyg@wpcgr.org.

YOUNG ADULT PUB NIGHT: October 9 7:00-9:00 p.m., Arktos Meadery Join us at Arktos for this month's pub night!

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST: Visit westminstergr.org to sign up for our weekly email newsletters!

DONATION REQUESTS FROM THE SAMIMI FAMILY: The Samimi's, the refugee family our congregation supports, are in need of two twin size bed frames and mattresses. Please contact Cheryl Bremer (616)328-3736 or Ellen Pool (616)581-1017. Thank you for those who have donated!

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING: October 6 On Sunday, October 6, we will receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering of the PC(USA). Through this offering, we connect with each other to confront systems of injustice and promote reconciliation around the world and here at home.



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 29

- 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
- 11:15 a.m. New Member Orientation Dining Room
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds Rehearsal Choir Room

MON. SEPTEMBER 30

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room

TUES. OCTOBER 1

- 1:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee..... Library
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting..... Chapel

WED. OCTOBER 2

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast..... Wolfgang's

THURS. OCTOBER 3

- 9:30 a.m. Parent Social Hour.....Children's Ministry Hallway
- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry.....Front Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Westminster Men's Group Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

SUN. OCTOBER 6

- 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Mentor Breakfast..... Dining Room
- 9:15 a.m. 3rd Grade Worship SeminarSanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Middle School Choir Choir Room
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. New Member Orientation Dining Room
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds Rehearsal Choir Room
- 1:00 p.m. Sharing the Bounty Walk.....Parking Lot
- 3:30 p.m. Worship Service Porter Hills
- 4:00 p.m. Fiction Book Group Library
- 6:00 p.m. High School Night..... Dining Room



**Sunday, October 6th
1 - 3 PM**

Join us next Sunday for our second Annual 'Sharing the Bounty' food walk benefiting Westminster's Downtown Food Pantry and St. Mark's Breakfast cafe. All ages welcome.

Starting at Westminster, the 1.75 mile route will center on the Heartside area of Grand Rapids with stops along the way where community resident, Daniel Drent, will briefly educate us on the significance of local buildings and murals. Walkers in wheelchairs or with strollers are welcome as all street crossings are ADA compliant.

Walk With Us: Visit westminstergr.org to register!

We encourage each walker to set a goal to raise \$100 in pledges for their walk.



Donate: Not available to join, but still want to show support? Scan the QR code or send cash or check to the church to donate!

Questions? Contact angiek@wpcgr.org

Candidate Accountability Session

Together



West Michigan

Saturday, October 12th
10:00am-12:00pm
Oakdale Park Church
961 Temple St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

It's time to decide again who represents us on important decisions about our lives like childcare, housing, mental health, and more!

Join us as we share real stories and ask candidates for real commitments to work with us if they're elected!

- State House Candidates, Districts 80-84
- Grand Rapids Mayoral & 3rd Ward City Commission Candidates

Register today!



or at

<https://bit.ly/twmcandidate2024>

<https://togetherwmi.nationbuilder.com>
organizewmi@gmail.com
616.710.1431

