

MORNING WORSHIP

Rooted in Christ, Grounded in Hope

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." -Colossians 2:6-7

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

"Meditation on Penrose"

Brooke Joyce (b. 1973)

++Call to Worship (based on Psalm 1)

Elder Ben Boerkoel

We rejoice and praise God's holy name, because the Lord has kept us from a harmful path. We give thanks because God's word gives us hope to reflect on at all times. God is the Source of deep seated faith, and our spirits are renewed in Christ's presence.

++Hymn 611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Hymn to Joy

Prayer of Confession

You love us with open arms, O God. Forgive us when we do not put your love into practice: when we do not challenge the injustice around us; when we are not generous with the gifts we have to share; when we are slow to show kindness and quick to judge; when we cause hurt in the world instead of helping to make it whole. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the 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 and 4/4 time. The first staff starts with a fermata over the first measure. 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 293

"Loving Spirit"

(stanza 1)

Omni Die

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

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Lead Me, Lord"

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-76)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

Cheri Reid, Mezzo-Soprano

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

Colossians 2:6-7

New Testament p. 200

Mark 7:24-37

New Testament p. 42

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Rooted in Christ, Grounded in Hope"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 79

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

Temple of Peace

++Affirmation of Faith (A New Creed, United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to 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

"Wondrous Love"

American Hymn

arr. Parker & Shaw

The text of this anthem can be found in the hymnal, hymn 215.

++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.

Holy God, how often we take for granted all that we have. How often we fail to recognize how blessed we are. Take these gifts we

give in response to your generosity and use them to further

Christ's mission in a hurting world. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 772

"Live into Hope"

Truro

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "The Agora Sacred Suite for Organ" Sharon J. Willis (b. 1949)

III. O Happy Day, The Gospel in C Major

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 the Presbyterian Outlook and re:Worship. Kyrie used by permission of composer. "Wondrous Love" & "The Agora Sacred Suite for Organ" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

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

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

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
.....Ben Boerkoel, Elder for Children's Ministries
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Families
Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
.....Janlee Richter, Organ
.....Cheri Reid, Mezzo-Soprano
.....Sanctuary Choir
Ushers..... Doug & Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs, Kari & Chris Fuller,
.....Ann & Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp
AV TeamBrad Sparks, Ricky Rivard, 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.



Don't lose hope, Olusola David Ayibiowu

**Rooted in Christ,
Grounded in Hope**

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2024
10:00 A.M.**



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.

Welcome Back!

KICK-OFF BRUNCH: Today we are kicking off the program year with an all-church brunch after worship. Join us for fellowship and fun! Parents, be sure to register your children for children's ministry programming this Sunday.

MINISTRY MINGLE: September 15, 11:00 a.m., Dining Room The Ministry Mingle is a new event designed to facilitate conversation about ministry and fellowship opportunities offered at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Join us after worship next Sunday 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!

Announcements

FASD AWARENESS DAY: September 9 is International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day. One in twenty individuals have been prenatally exposed to alcohol. This day serves as a reminder to abstain from drinking alcohol during the nine months of pregnancy. Adults and parents with fetal alcohol syndrome in our congregation hope you will share this prevention message with your family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, even strangers. You are invited to join parents and young adults from the FASD support group in the Parlor after worship on September 22. Our hope is to share ways that you can support and show love to those traveling this challenging road.

DÉGAGÉ VOUCHERS: Dégagé vouchers will be on sale for \$2 each this morning in the Gathering Place after worship. Members and friends of Westminster have offered these vouchers to folks asking for money; these vouchers can be used for services at Dégagé Ministries, including meals, storage space, haircuts, clothing, and more.

YOUNG ADULT PUB NIGHT: September 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Speciation Cellars Young adults, please note that if Speciation is full, we will go to 40 Acres, across the street.

YOUTH UPDATE: The deadline to register for the Fall Retreat is today. There is no youth group this Sunday due to the kick off brunch. Ninth grade families, please join us for an information meeting about confirmation! We will meet at 12:00 p.m. in the Youth Room after brunch.

DINNER AT DÉGAGÉ VOLUNTEERS: September 15, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. We are looking for six people to help serve dinner at Dégagé on Sunday, September 15. Please call Margaret Tuori at 616-299-1845 or email at cusht@comcast.net to volunteer.

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 [@stopliffe@comcast.net](mailto:sttopliffe@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 HOUR: September 22, After Church, Children's Ministry Hallway Parents of young children, come and get to know other church people with kids!

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 with any questions.

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.

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 8

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

MON. SEPTEMBER 9

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 4:30 p.m. UCCF Board Meeting Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Connecting Deacons Meeting..... Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Supporting Deacons MeetingPastoral Suite
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee..... Online

TUES. SEPTEMBER 10

- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting..... Library
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting..... Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. FASD Support Group Various Locations

WED. SEPTEMBER 11

- 6:30 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast Wolfgang's
- 11:30 a.m. WPA Punchbowl & Registration..... Dining Room
- 12:00 p.m. WPA Luncheon & Presentation Dining Room
- 5:30 p.m. New Member Gathering..... Offsite
- 6:00 p.m. Communications Committee Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Pub Night..... Speciation Cellars

THURS. SEPTEMBER 12

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 3:00 p.m. Together West Michigan..... Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Technology Team Meeting..... Online
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

SAT. SEPTEMBER 14

- 9:00 a.m. Poverty Education Workshop..... Offsite
- 10:30 a.m. Fall Youth Retreat..... Camp Henry

SUN. SEPTEMBER 15

- 9:00 a.m. Together West Michigan..... Library
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Ministry Mingle Dining Room