

MORNING WORSHIP

It Defies Logic

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"We could cope—the world could cope—with a Jesus who ultimately remains a wonderful idea inside his disciples' minds and hearts. The world cannot cope with a Jesus who comes out of the tomb, who inaugurates God's new creation right in the middle of the old one." —N. T. Wright

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

As we prepare for worship, we are invited to be attentive to God's presence in our midst.

Opening Voluntary

"Verse"

anon. Spanish, 17th C.

++Call to Worship (from Psalm 92)

Elder Rachel Kamstra

One: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

All: to sing praise to God Most High;

One: to declare God's steadfast love in the morning

All: and God's faithfulness at nighttime.

One: Those who are planted in the house of the Lord flourish; no matter their age, they bear fruit and remain lush and fresh, proclaiming:

All: The Lord is righteous! God is my rock!

++Hymn 36

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

Ar Hyd y Nos

Prayer of Confession

When our actions are not consistent with the truth of your gospel, forgive us, Lord. When our lives do not proclaim the power of your love, compel us, Lord. When our minds are full of self-condemnation, with no room for your grace, revive us, Lord. Help us to grow in faithfulness, rooted in your deep love for us...

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Musical notation for Kyrie - Unison, including lyrics: 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 717 "For the Life That You Have Given" Pleading Savior

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known, with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own: here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"How Wonderful Thou Art"

Blanche Osborn

John Nienhuis, Tenor

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Nancy Greidanus

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

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

New Testament p. 181

Mark 4:26-34

New Testament p. 38

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"It Defies Logic"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 817

"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

Dunlap's Creek

++Affirmation of Faith (A New Creed, United Church of Canada) Rev. Jen Porter

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. Amen.

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

"I'll Praise Your Name, Lord"

Don Wyrzten

John Nienhuis, Tenor

++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

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.

Bless, O God, the gifts that we bring this day, that they may be a sign of our commitment to your kingdom and a pledge of our love for you and your world. Multiply the work done by our time, treasures, and talents, that your compassion may be known in all the earth. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 822

"When We Are Living"

Somos del Señor

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Rondeau in C Major" Francois Couperin (1668-1733)

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 Call to Worship Journal and Feasting on the Word. Kyrie used by permission of composer.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

June 23

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Lynette Sparks
1 Samuel 17:32-49
Diane Helle, Violin

June 30

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Jeff Chu
Psalm 30 & Mark 5:21-43
Cheri Reid, Soprano

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

Liturgists Rachel Kamstra, Elder for Communication
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children and their Families
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Piano & Organ
..... John Nienhuis, Tenor

Ushers..... Doug & Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs, Kari & Chris Fuller
..... Ann & Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp

AV Team Brad Sparks, Karsten Kotchenruther, Sam Putt

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. 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.

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.



Olive Trees, Vincent van Gogh



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.

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: *What in the World is Wrong with Gisbert?* by Weeber

Next Week: *Maurice* by Jessixa Bagley

Meet Gisbert, a tall, young giraffe. Gisbert is tall enough to do everything a giraffe might want to do, and his life is good. But one day, something happens. Gisbert's friends start making fun of him, and with each negative comment they say, he begins to shrink! What in the world is wrong with Gisbert? This insightful book helps teach children about the consequences of bullying and the power of friendship.

Activity: Write each other positive notes to hang in the hallway.

It Defies Logic

FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 16, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Announcements

SUBMIT TO REFLECTIONS: June 24 Submissions for Summer 2024 Reflections are due June 24! Share your story with the congregation by submitting articles, photos, devotions, artwork, or other materials for the fourth edition of our publication. All voices are welcome to share! Email submissions to reflections@wpcgr.org. For more information, or to view previous Reflections editions, visit the Reflections page on our website.

S.H.O.E.S. SUMMER PROJECT: This June, we are raising money for the In the Image S.H.O.E.S. Program. Elementary students who may not be able to afford shoes may sign up at In the Image to receive a pair of new athletic shoes for school. Donating money directly is preferred, and you can do so by visiting intheimage.org/shoes. You can also bring new, in the box pairs of children's athletic shoes to the children's check-in tables from now until June 30. Contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org with questions.

YOUTH UPDATE: Our high schoolers wrap up their summer trip this week! Middle schoolers, we depart next Friday for our trip to South Manitou. Please be at church at 8:00 a.m. sharp on Friday so that we are not late for the ferry.

SUMMER CAMP AT CAMP HENRY: June 19 Registration for summer camp 2025 at Camp Henry opens on June 19 at 9:00 a.m.!

WESTMINSTER AT PRIDE! June 22 Come see us at the Pride Festival on Saturday, June 22! We are sharing a booth with GIFT (Gays in Faith Together) and we'd love to see you! Our booth is located near the corner of Ionia and Lyon. Westminster has participated in Pride for many years and we are proud to support the LGBTQ+ community with our presence and affirmation.

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 digitally or in person. Want to bring a friend or family member? No need to have them register separately; just include their name on the form. We cannot match anyone under the age of 18. However, if you are under 18 and would like to participate, you are welcome to attend with your parent or guardian. Visit our website to sign up.

WESTMINSTER CAMP 2024: August 29-September 1 Enjoy some late summer days at the exciting and beautiful Camp Henry by joining your church family at Westminster Camp 2024. Visit our website to register.



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. JUNE 16

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 3:00 p.m. David Abbott Funeral ServiceSanctuary

TUES. JUNE 18

- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee Meeting..... Online

WED. JUNE 19

- 9:30 a.m. WPA Committee Meeting Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus..... Choir Room

THURS. JUNE 20

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry.....Front Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. TWM Core Team Meeting.....Parlor

FRI. JUNE 21

- 8:00 a.m. Middle School Summer Trip.....Parking Lot

SUN. JUNE 23

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