

MORNING WORSHIP

How Do You Read the Story?

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"It is an easy mistake to make, but simply being a fan of the underdog does not make you an underdog." -Matthew Johnson

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

"Capriccio"

W.A. Mozart (1756-91)

++Call to Worship

Ruth Stubbs

One: The God who first heard the morning stars sing never forgets the cry of the afflicted.

All: You, O God, have not forsaken those who seek you.

One: The God who set the limits of the seas remains a stronghold for the oppressed.

All: You, O God, have not forsaken those who seek you.

One: Come, let us thank God for steadfast love,

All: for all God's mighty works.

++Hymn 689

"When the Morning Stars Together"

Weisse Flaggen

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that sometimes we are faithful to you, and sometimes we fall short. We respond to the powerful with righteous anger, but cling to any sense of power we attain. We are grateful when grace is extended to us, yet withhold grace when others have wronged us. We treat our own as family, yet ignore those in need around us. We long for oneness with Christ and creation. Make us whole so that your justice and love may flow freely...

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 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: 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

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

arr. C. DeRousse

Diane Helle, Violin

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

1 Samuel 17:1, 4-11,19-23, 32-49

Old Testament p. 260

1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16

Old Testament p. 262

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"How Do You Read the Story?"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 612

"We Praise You, O God"

Kremser

++Affirmation of Faith (A New Creed, United Church of Canada) Rev. Kyle Kooyers

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 worshipping next to you. We invite you to fill out any of the pew cards and place them in the offering plate.

Offertory

"Tempo di Menuetto" from Sonata in E minor, K. 304 Diane Helle, Violin Roelof Bijkerk, Piano

W. A. Mozart

++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.

Generous God, for all the ways you love and provide for us, we bless you. For the opportunity to give, we offer our gratitude. For the work of your kin-dom that our offerings make possible, we praise you. For letting us be part of Christ's mission in the world, we thank you. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 744

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

Festal Song

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Gigue in E major, BWV 817"

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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 re:Worship. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All Rights reserved. Kyrie used by permission of composer.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

June 30

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Jeff Chu

Psalm 30 & Mark 5:21-43

Cheri Reid, Soprano

July 7

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Live into Hope

Rev. Lynette Sparks

1 Peter 1:3-9

Sarah Faasse & Jonathan Bratt Carle, Vocal Duet

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

Liturgists ..... Ruth Stubbs

..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children and their Families

..... Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate

Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Piano & Organ

..... Diane Helle, Violin

..... Roelof Bijkerk, Piano

Ushers..... Doug & Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs, Kari & Chris Fuller

..... Ann & Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp

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.

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



How Do You Read the Story?

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 23, 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.

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:** Maurice by Jessixa Bagley

**Next Week:** The Good for Nothing Tree by Levine and Sasso

Maurice is a character who loves what he does, and the joy he gets from playing music allows him to appreciate the little things in life. Whether it's simply saying hello to a neighbor or reveling in the world around him, his character is present and ready with a smile, showing that if we can find it within ourselves to pursue what we love, what drives us, we are able to make the world a brighter place to be.

**Activity:** Play instruments & make birdfeeders

# Announcements

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**MISSION PALOOZA:** Come see our display in the Gathering Place that was created for the Presbytery Mission Palooza on June 11. Churches were invited to share areas of focus in their mission ministry at the Presbytery meeting and Westminster highlighted our work with refugee resettlement. A team of volunteers has been walking alongside the Samimi family for over two years and the display is an overview of their rewarding and challenging experience.

**WELCOME TO TRAVIS!** Join us in welcoming our new Lead Facilities Technician, Travis Holwerda! Travis is a native Grand Rapidian, a graduate of Grand Valley State University, and a father of four. He comes to us from the world of property management and general contracting with a keen sense for upkeep of historic structures. An avid traveler and adventurer, his former life before marriage and children was spent in the wilds of America from Alaska to Belize. Drawing from his time spent as a whitewater guide, a wilderness EMT, and the better part of a decade of back country problem solving and historic project management, there is no task too daunting, too large, or too small.

**SUBMIT TO REFLECTIONS: June 24** Submissions for Summer 2024 Reflections are due tomorrow! 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](mailto:reflections@wpcgr.org). For more information, or to view previous Reflections editions, visit the Reflections page on our website.

**LYNETTE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY: June 25 - July 4** Next week, Rev. Lynette Sparks will be serving as one of four commissioners from the Presbytery of Lake Michigan to the PCUSA's bi-annual General Assembly. She is serving on the Christian Formation Committee, which meets online from June 25-27, and then will travel to Salt Lake City for plenary sessions. Please keep the General Assembly in your prayers as they discern how God is calling the church in this season.

**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](http://intheimage.org/shoes). You can also bring new and 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](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org) with questions.

**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.

**PLASTIC BAGS FOR THE PANTRY:** The food pantry is in need of clean plastic grocery bags! Bags can be brought to the Welcome Desk.

**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](mailto:angiek@wpcgr.org) or call (616) 717-5533 with questions.

# This Week's Calendar

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## SUN. JUNE 23

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

## MON. JUNE 24

- 12:30 p.m. Middle School Summer Trip Pick-Up...Parking Lot

## THURS. JUNE 27

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry .....Front Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting ..... Offsite

## FRI. JUNE 28

- 2:00 p.m. Grace Orders Funeral Service.....Sanctuary

## SUN. JUNE 30

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