

MORNING WORSHIP  
What Do We Do Now?

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.”  
—Augustine of Hippo

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 "Klavierstücke" (Piano Pieces), Op. 118  
V. Romanze

Johannes Brahms  
(1833-97)

++Call to Worship (from Psalm 146)

Elder Rachel Kamstra

Our hope is in God, maker of heaven and earth—  
**for God keeps faith forever.**  
God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food for the hungry.  
**God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.**  
God lifts up those who are bowed down.  
**God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.**  
People of God, sing praise to the One who is your help—  
**for God keeps faith forever.**

++Hymn 828

"More Love to Thee, O Christ"

More Love to Thee

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you call us to love you with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind.  
**Forgive us when greed takes up too much of our heart, when worry crowds wonder out of our soul, when fear closes our minds to the new thing you are doing.**  
You call us to bear with one another in love.  
**Forgive us when we cannot love our neighbors. Forgive us when we cannot love ourselves...**

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Assurance of God's Grace

The psalmist assures us, “As far as the east is from the west, that’s how far God has removed our sin from us.” Friends, hear the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!**

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Response Hymn 79 "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

(stanza 3)

Temple of Peace

**Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.**  
**Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.**  
**The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!**  
**We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Ministry of Music

"Peace"

Diane Helle, Violin

Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981)

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Rev. Jen Porter

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

Scriptures

Mark 12:28-34

New Testament p. 49

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“What Do We Do Now?”

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 203

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

Chereponi

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

In life and death we belong to God.  
**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
**In sovereign love, God created the world good, acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation, and makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.  
**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, was crucified, and raised from the dead, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.**

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
**we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!**

Focus on Discipleship

Elder Cheri Reid

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

"Ukuthula" (Prayer for Peace)

Zulu hymn

Translation from isiZulu: arr. André van der Merwe

In this sinful world, through the blood of Jesus:  
We find peace! We are saved! We are filled with gratitude!  
We will conquer! We are consoled!

Sarah Faasse, Soprano; Cheri & Trish Reid, Mezzo-Sopranos  
Tom Macholan, Tenor; 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.**  
**Loving God, thank you for the many blessings in our lives. Through these gifts may we freely share your love with others, as you have so freely given your love to us. May they be signs of our devotion to you. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 366

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Hyfrydol

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Suite VIII in F Minor"  
Allemande

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

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

**November 17**

**Birthpangs**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Mark 13:1-8

Westminster Winds, Sanctuary Choir

**November 24**

**Reign of Christ**

**All Creation Waits**

Rev. Jen Porter

Romans 8:18-25

Bell Choir, Sanctuary Choir


**Ahead in Adult Faith Formation**

THIS WE BELIEVE: THE LORD'S PRAYER

**November 10, 17, & 24, Chapel following worship** We pray the Lord's Prayer each week; it is certainly familiar. For three weeks we will renew our experience of this bold prayer of hope and trust. Whatever the reality of the world—weekly, daily—we root ourselves in the power and presence of the God of all creation. We will seek to hold this prayer anew exploring its expression of critical hope, its context, our experiences, and how the striking Aramaic translation can shift our settled familiarity. Led by Elder Karen Meyers and Rev. Jen Porter.

CIVIL RIGHTS ROAD TRIP INFORMATION MEETING

**November 17, Parlor following worship** Join us on Sunday, November 17 after worship for an informational meeting about our plans for a Civil Rights Road Trip in April 2025. A group from Westminster and First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor will be traveling to Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham April 14-18. We'll share more details and you'll hear from others that have made the impactful trip. Questions? Contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org.



**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, The Presbyterian Outlook, and re:Worship. "Peace" by Jessie Montgomery used by permission of NYC Music Services. Kyrie used by permission of composer. "Ukuthula" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

- Preacher .....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
- Liturgists ..... Rachel Kamstra, Elder for Communications  
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
..... Cheri Reid, Elder for Nominations
- Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music  
.....Janlee Richter, Organ  
..... Diane Helle, Violin  
..... Sarah Faasse, Soprano  
.....Cheri & Trish Reid, Mezzo-Sopranos  
..... Tom Macholan, Tenor  
..... Sanctuary Choir
- Ushers.....Bernie & Kathy Smith, Stephen Marshall  
..... Marian Vanderwall, Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel
- AV Team ..... Rachel Kamstra, Dan Cisler, Ian Dengerink-Van Til

**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.



Jesus Mural of Faith, Hope, Love, and Peace, Chicago

**What Do We Do Now?**

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2024  
10:00 A.M.**

# Announcements

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**STEWARDSHIP REMINDER:** We have had a great start with our annual stewardship campaign, and we are halfway to our goal! If you haven't already, please complete your 2025 Giving Intention card and return to the office or fill it out online by scanning the QR code.

**CUBA/FIRST HAND AID MEDICINE COLLECTION:** In November, a group of folks from First Hand Aid will be traveling to Cuba with Westminster member Marc Bohland. They will deliver much needed medicine and other supplies to Havana and other areas of Cuba. We will have a collection table available in the Gathering Place on Sunday, November 10 and 17. Thank you for helping our friends in Cuba!

**JOIN OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND SHAPE THE FUTURE OF WPC:** Join us in shaping the future of Westminster by becoming a member of our Nominating Committee. As a vital part of our church leadership, the committee is responsible for presenting a carefully chosen slate of officers annually at our congregational meeting. If you're passionate about serving our church community and helping to discern its leaders, contact us for more information at [nominations@wpcgr.org](mailto:nominations@wpcgr.org).

**GRAND RAPIDS CITY COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING WITH TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN: November 12, Meeting in Westminster Parking Lot at 12:45 p.m.** Together West Michigan is rallying people to go to City Hall on November 12 in support of affordable housing! Visit the website to learn more.

**YOUTH UPDATE:** Current high schoolers, claim your spot on the trip to Washington State! Save \$50 if you register before Thanksgiving. Next week Wednesday, registration for the HS trip will open for current 8th graders. There is limited space on this trip. Please don't hesitate to call Kat with any questions you have.

**YOUNG ADULT PUB NIGHT: November 13, 7:00 p.m., Brewery Vivant** All young adults are welcome! Contact [kath@wpcgr.org](mailto:kath@wpcgr.org) with any questions.

**WESTMINSTER YOUNG ADULTS FRIENDSGIVING: November 17, 5:00 p.m., 453 Barth Ave SE, Unit 1, Grand Rapids, MI 49506** It's WYA Friendsgiving time! Come hang out and enjoy a chill potluck dinner as we celebrate Friendsgiving together. Please RSVP to [rachelwoodward1997@gmail.com](mailto:rachelwoodward1997@gmail.com) so we know how much seating we need. Please plan to bring a dish or snack to share! If you have dietary restrictions or allergies, please let us know when you RSVP.

**ELISABETH CIRCLE November 19, 1:00 p.m., Parlor** Elisabeth Circle will be discussing Chapters 4 and 5 in *The Story of Ruth*. For more information contact Sandy Topliffe at [stopliffe@comcast](mailto:stopliffe@comcast) or 616-447-2941.

**LET'S HANG OUT! November 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Horrocks Market in Kentwood** Join us for our final all-ages hangout of the year. Contact [deannac@wpcgr.org](mailto:deannac@wpcgr.org) with any questions!

**WESTMINSTER SKILL CAFE: November 22, 6:00-8:30 p.m., Gathering Place** The Skill Cafe is an event where folks who need something repaired can talk to people who have the skills to repair them. Do you have the skills to fix something or you need something fixed? Reach out to Deanna at [deannac@wpcgr.org](mailto:deannac@wpcgr.org) to get involved.

**WEST MICHIGAN OPERA PROJECT November 24, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Atrium** West Michigan Opera Project will perform their Remembering Puccini Concert in the Westminster Sanctuary! Come enjoy an hour of glorious arias by Puccini, as well as a few chorus numbers conducted by Robert Ragoonanan.



**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. NOVEMBER 10

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service .....Sanctuary
- 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
- 11:20 a.m. Westminster Winds..... Choir Room
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Meeting..... Youth Room

## MON. NOVEMBER 11

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

## TUES. NOVEMBER 12

- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting..... Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting..... Chapel

## WED. NOVEMBER 13

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast..... Wolfgang's
- 11:30 a.m. WPA Punchbowl & Registration..... Dining Room
- 12:00 p.m. WPA Lunch & Presentation..... Dining Room
- 6:00 p.m. Communications Committee .... Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Pub Night..... Brewery Vivant

## THURS. NOVEMBER 14

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry ..... Front Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Technology Team Meeting..... Online
- 5:45 p.m. MGD Committee ..... Library
- 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal.....3rd Floor Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room

## SUN. NOVEMBER 17

- 8:45 a.m. Westminster Winds Breakfast ..... Dining Room
- 9:00 a.m. TWM Core Team Meeting..... Library
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service .....Sanctuary
- 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. Civil Rights Road Trip Meeting ..... Parlor

**Welcome to our new members that were officially received into membership on October 27! We look forward to getting to know them and the work we will do together as a community of faith.**



**Karen Oliver-Behee  
& Evan Behee**



**Jim Burdick**



**Alec, Leslie, Eleanor, Simon,  
& Beatrice Elsen**



**Katie Day Good**



**Ron, Joanna, Maddie, Will,  
& Emma Kovar**



**Suzanne & Michael Moore**



**Emily Nietering**



**Benjamin Ohene**

**Welcome to our new members that were officially received into membership on October 27! We look forward to getting to know them and the work we will do together as a community of faith.**



**Michaela, Juan, Owen, Noah,  
& Jack Rango**



**Catie, Steve, Charlie, Elliot,  
Stellan, & Oliver Richert**



**Janlee & Eric Richter**



**Mandy Stumbo**



**Patti & Dave VanMeurs**



**MeiLi, Steve, Finn, Milo,  
& Oscar Wieringa**