

MORNING WORSHIP

All Creation Waits

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Blessed are those who plant peace each season."

—Neil Douglas-Klotz

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

"We Praise You, O God"

Janet Linker & Jane McFadden

Westminster Bell Choir

++Litany of Thanksgiving

Brian Kamstra

We gather in thanksgiving for the many gifts of creation:

For all the ways the earth sustains us, for the food it supplies, for the land which grows seed, for the recent harvest.

We gather in thanksgiving for communities of faith joining together for our ingathering of food this day:

For the ministry of the Downtown Food Pantry, for the collaboration of First United Methodist Church, Fountain Street Church, LaGrave Christian Reformed Church, St. Andrew's Cathedral, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church. For all the ways we work towards a world where hunger is no more.

We gather in thanksgiving for the ways God calls us to be the church in the world:

For generosity of gifts offered and resources shared, for the gifts of the Spirit, nourishing us all.

Remembering God's steadfast love, we worship with open hearts in joyful thanksgiving.

++Hymn 612

"We Praise You, O God"

Kremser

Prayer of Confession

John Nienhuis

Loving creator, you hold all that is past and all that is to come. You are present everywhere, in everything. You keep the whole earth and all its beings in your heart. Help us to trust you with it all. Help us remember what is good and what you require of us: to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with you, our God. Forgive us when we doubt whether this is enough...

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!

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

Temple of Peace

(stanza 1)

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice 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

"Swingin' Sweet Chariot"

Spiritual

arr. Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan and what did I see: a band of angels comin' after me.

If you get to heaven before I get through, tell all my loved ones "I am comin' too."

In the mornin' as I look into the skies, it's comin' for to carry me on home.

In the midnight hour as I close my weary eyes, it's comin' for to carry me home.

Kirk Singers

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

Romans 8:18-26a

New Testament p. 158

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"All Creation Waits"

Rev. Jen Porter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 543

"O Christ, Surround Me"

Green Tyler

(stanzas 2, 3, & 4)

++Affirmation of Faith (from 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. 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

"Ride On, Jesus"

Spiritual

arr. Jens Klimek (b. 1984)

Ride on Jesus, conquering king, ride, Jesus, ride.

King Jesus rides on a milk white horse, the river Jordan he did cross.

My Jesus lifted his throne above, let's see his mercy and his love.

Hosanna to the blessed one, Hosanna to the King of 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!

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

Bearing the Light

++Hymn 666

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

Puer Nobis Nascitur

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ"

Johann Pachelbel

Only upon you, Lord Jesus Christ, does my hope rest on earth. (1653-1706)

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Monday, November 25
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
7:00 p.m., Westminster Sanctuary
Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, December 1
First Sunday of Advent
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, December 8
Second Sunday of Advent
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Malachi 3:1-4;
Cherub Choir, Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, December 8
Christmas Concert
7:00 p.m., Westminster Sanctuary

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.

All-Church Advent Event: December 1, Dining Room following worship Prepare for the Advent season with our All Church Advent Event! After the worship service we will have food together and create crafts to enrich our journey to Christmas.



Actively Engaged in the World

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
Liturgists.....Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission
..... Brian Kamstra, Community Resource Coordinator
.....John Nienhuis, Worship Committee
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Janlee Richter, Piano & Organ
..... Bell Choir
.....Sonja Fryer & Sarah Faasse, Bell Choir Co-Directors
..... Kirk Singers
..... Sanctuary Choir
Acolytes..... Kyah & Norah Van Brouwer
Ushers.....Bernie & Kathy Smith, Stephen Marshall
..... Marian Vanderwall, Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel
AV Team..... Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Karsten Kotchenruther
..... Stella Sheckler, Marcos Calderon

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.



A Mother's Love Hold's the World, Artist Mary Jane Miller

All Creation Waits

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 24, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Announcements

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who has submitted their 2025 Giving Intentions so far! We are off to a great start. We have reached 70% of our goal. If you have not submitted your Giving Intention for 2025 yet we encourage you to use the QR code to complete the form online or use the Giving Intention cards in the pews and put it in the offering plate.



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 today! Come enjoy an hour of glorious arias by Puccini, as well as a few chorus numbers conducted by Robert Ragoonanan.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING: November 25, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Please join the interfaith community of Grand Rapids for the 25th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration, "Gratitude for our Shared Home."

AN EVENING IN DECEMBER: December 2, 6:30 p.m., Catholic Information Center Join us for this annual ecumenical gathering of neighbors for dialogue, prayer, and community as we anticipate the coming of Christ. Visit the website to register.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: December 8, 7:00 p.m. Join us for the annual Westminster Christmas Concert! The Sanctuary Choir, Kirk Singers, a chamber orchestra comprised of Grand Rapids Symphony musicians, and soloists will join together in a vibrant, global program of music from North America, Europe, and Africa. The program will also include opportunities to sing along to favorite carols.

COME TO THE MANGER: December 10, 1:00 p.m., Dining Room A collector since 1976, Rev. Kay DeMoss has nativity sets from 76 countries. Fifty creches will be displayed for this presentation. Guests will hear stories and will be invited to share their own special holiday memories. Kay is an ordained deacon in The United Methodist church, now retired after ministry as a Christian educator and communicator. Join us for an experience that will bring joy and hope on this year's journey to Christmas.

WPA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: December 11, 12:00 p.m., Dining Room Sarah Faasse and the West Michigan Opera Project will provide a musical program for us. Contact crystalh@wpcgr.org to register by December 5!

LONGEST SEASON SERVICE: December 11, 6:00 p.m., Chapel Join us for a time of music, prayer, reflection, and communion as we gather together as a community seeking calm and healing. Bring your grief, bring your weariness, bring whatever your heart holds at this time and allow yourself a quiet space to reflect and draw near to God. All are invited to stay afterwards for a light supper in the Dining Room.

CIVIL RIGHTS ROAD TRIP: Interested in joining other Westminster members and friends on the 2025 Civil Rights Road Trip, April 14-18? We will be traveling to Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, and Memphis. Previous travelers have found it to be a life-changing trip! The deadline to sign up is December 14. Contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org to sign up or for additional information.

FIRST HAND AID: Thank you to the congregation for your generous donations to First Hand Aid. All supplies of medicine, hygiene products, and pharmaceuticals have arrived in Cuba! Your contributions will make a huge impact on the well being of the Cuban people. Again, thank you!

WINTER REFLECTIONS SUBMISSIONS: Share your hopes, stories, joys, and sorrows through poems, articles, photos, art, and anything else you are inspired to submit. Submissions can be sent to reflections@wpcgr.org. The deadline is December 6.

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. NOVEMBER 24

- 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
- 3:00 p.m. WM Opera Project Concert.....Sanctuary

MON. NOVEMBER 25

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 5:30 p.m. Justice Committee Meeting Library
- 7:00 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.....Sanctuary

TUES. NOVEMBER 26

- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting..... Library
- 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting..... Online
- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee Meeting Online
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

WED. NOVEMBER 27

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

THURS. NOVEMBER 28

Church Office Closed

FRI. NOVEMBER 29

Church Office Closed

SUN. DECEMBER 1

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. All-Church Advent Event Dining Room
- 11:00 a.m. Middle School Choir Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. High School Night..... Dining Room

Poinsettia Donation



We invite you to donate a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of someone special to you. These flowers will fill our Sanctuary during worship, and donors may take them home after the late service on Christmas Eve.

Donation: \$10.00 each **Order Deadline:** December 9

Donated by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Please return form and payment to the office, email christined@wpcgr.org or find the online form at westminstergr.org. Thank you!



Advent at Westminster

1

DECEMBER

All-Church Advent Event

After Worship in the Dining Room
All are welcome to join for food, fellowship,
& a craft!

2

DECEMBER

An Evening In December

6:30 p.m., Catholic Information Center
Anticipate an Advent of Hope! Join for an Ecumenical,
community wide event. Visit the website to register.

8

DECEMBER

Christmas Concert

7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Mark your calendars for Westminster's annual
Christmas Concert!

10

DECEMBER

“Come to the Manger”

1:00 p.m., Dining Room
Rev. Kay DeMoss will share her collection nativity sets,
and all will be invited to share holiday memories.

11

DECEMBER

Longest Season Service

6:00 p.m., Chapel, Dinner following in Dining Room
Join us for a time of music, prayer, and reflection as we
gather together as a community seeking calm and healing.

24

DECEMBER

Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. Intergenerational Service
8:00 p.m., Service of Lessons & Carols
11:00 p.m., Candlelight Communion Service