

MORNING WORSHIP  
The Promise of Restoration

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved." —Psalm 80:3

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

"Oh, Come, Emmanuel" Jan Bender (1909-94)

Advent Candle Liturgy

Prince Family

Long ago, the prophet Jeremiah proclaimed a word from God:  
"The days are surely coming when I will fulfill my promise to my people."  
While fear and anxiety surround us on every side,  
we choose to embrace God's promise of restoration.  
In lighting the first Advent candle,  
**we watch and wait in hope  
for God's reign of love, justice, and mercy.**

++Hymn 88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Veni Emmanuel  
(stanzas 1, 4, & 7)

Prayer of Confession

Ruth Stubbs

**Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped. We've looked away from signs we'd rather not see. We've stopped listening to distress we'd rather not hear. We are numb to inconvenient truths. Keep us alert to the needs of our neighbors. Revive our hearts, burdened by compassion fatigue. Sharpen our minds clouded by worries. Sober our lives addicted to privilege. Restore us, O God, in your mercy and steadfast love...**

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Swee Hong Lim



Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
MUSIC: Swee Hong Lim, 1990  
SINGAPURA  
Music © 1990 Swee Hong Lim (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik)

Assurance of God's Grace

As sure as the fig tree blossoms, so sure is the promised salvation of God,  
poured out for the world in Jesus Christ our Lord. Believe the good news.  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

++Response Hymn 357 "The Days are Surely Coming"

Llangloffan

(stanza 1)

**The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,  
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.  
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land  
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.**

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Ministry of Music

"Morning Dawn" Shaker Melody arr. Jordan Sramek  
Zion shall arise and blossom like the rose,  
Her glorious light shine forth to the islands afar,  
As when the star of Bethlehem arose. Hail! all hail the coming day!  
The wilderness shall bloom, hills and valleys rejoice,  
Woodlands sing for joy, and the barren desert smile to hear the Savior's voice.  
Hail! all hail the coming day!  
Thus saith the Lord, "It shall yet come to pass:  
Many people and strong nations shall come to Jerusalem  
to seek and to pray before the Lord." Hail! all hail the coming day!  
Viviana Kloostra & Anna Fulton, Sopranos  
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

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Old Testament p. 738  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 New Testament p. 204

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

Sermon

"The Promise of Restoration" Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 100

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" Star of the County Down

++Affirmation of Faith (adapted from the Confession of 1967)

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.

**His faith and obedience were the response  
of the perfect child of God.**

He was the fulfillment  
of God's promise to Israel,  
**the beginning of the new creation,  
and the pioneer of the new humanity.**

He gave history its meaning and direction  
**and called the church to be his servant  
for the reconciliation of the world.**

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

"Advent Message" Martin How (1931-2022)  
Come Lord Jesus, O come quickly, Amen come Lord Jesus.  
The voice of Him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord,  
Make straight in the desert, A highway for our God.  
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!**

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Communion will be served to you in the pews. Please hold the elements until all  
have been served. We will partake together. All bread is gluten free. Children are  
welcome to participate.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

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.**

The Words of Institution

Communion Music Lee Copenhaver, Cello

Communion of the People

Prayer of Response

**God of abundance, we thank you for gathering us at your table and  
feeding us with the bread of life. As we leave this table to go where  
you call us, send your Spirit to accompany us, so that we may share  
in your saving work: lifting up those who are laid low, showing  
mercy to all in need, and feeding the bodies and hearts of all who are  
hungry. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 83

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Stuttgart

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Veni, Emmanuel" Robert J. Powell (b.1932)

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 Discipleship Ministries (United Methodist Church), Call  
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# RESTORE US, O GOD



*The Lord Is My Light, Mike Moyers*

## The Promise of Restoration

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024  
10:00 A.M.

### PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

Liturgists ..... Prince Family  
..... Ruth Stubbs  
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families  
..... Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate

Musicians..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music  
..... Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano  
..... Viviana Kloostra & Anna Fulton, Sopranos  
..... Sanctuary Choir

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

AV Team ..... Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Karsten Kotchenruther  
..... Ricky Rivard, 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](mailto:crystalh@wpcgr.org). More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at [westminstergr.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:crystalh@wpcgr.org).

616-456-1456 / [westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org) / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### AHEAD IN WORSHIP

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

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

**December 15**  
**Third Sunday In Advent**  
Rev. Jen Porter  
Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Sanctuary Choir, Kirk Singers, Chapel Singers,  
Carol Choir, & Cherub Choir

### Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

**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 today we will have food together and create crafts to enrich our journey to Christmas.

**Lectio Divina: December 8, 15, & 22, Chapel following worship**  
Through Advent, Larry Slager will lead us in the practice of Lectio Divina. We will listen prayerfully and respond together to scripture as we make our way through the season. In community, we anticipate God's hope and restoration.



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 serve those who are marginalized or in need, by building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.