

MORNING WORSHIP
The Song of Restoration

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

—Henry Nouwen

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.

Introit

"Light One Candle"

Mark Patterson (b. 1969)

Light one candle for hope/peace/joy/love that the whole world needs.

Light one candle for hope/peace/joy/love that the Savior will bring.

Cherub Choir

"Jesus Is Born, Let the Earth Rejoice!"

Cindy Berry (b. 1949)

Jesus is born, let the earth rejoice! Jesus is born, hear the angels sing. Join us as we celebrate the birth of the newborn King. See baby Jesus lying in a manger, God's own Son, this child so small.

Glory to God, all glory in the highest. Jesus is the best gift of all.

Carol Choir

Advent Candle Liturgy

Evan Behee & Karen Oliver-Behee

Long ago, the prophet Zephaniah
promised deliverance to God's weary and defeated people.
When faced with pain and hurt in our world,
we choose to embrace God's promise of restoration.

In lighting the third Advent candle,
**we rejoice in God,
whose salvation fills us to overflowing.**

++Hymn 17

"Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!" *Wie lieblich ist der Maien*

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you are near. Your joy is at hand. Your promises resound through all creation. A new day dawns before us, and we taste the fruit of your kin-dom. Still, we waiver. Can all things be made new? Can this world be set right? In our apathy and distraction, in our doubt and desperation, in our wandering...forgive and restore us, we pray.

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
Music © 1990 Swee Hong Lim (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBCMusik)

SINGAPURA

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

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.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

Lily Fiore

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

Ministry of Music

"Away in a Manger"

English Carol, arr. Jeff Reeves

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.

I love thee Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and take us to heaven to live with thee there.

Frances Heethuis, Cello

Chapel Singers

"Dors, dors, petit bébé" (Sleep, Sleep, Little One)

Cajun folk song

arr. Victor C. Johnson (b. 1978)

Translation from Louisiana French and transcription from English:

Sleep, sleep, little one. Listen to the river running.

Sleep, sleep, my little one. Sleep on, my precious child.

May the sound of the river bring you slumber mild.

Diane Helle, Violin

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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Old Testament p. 877

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Song of Restoration"

Rev. Jen Porter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 107

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

Rejoice, Rejoice

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

Rev. Lynette Sparks

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.**

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.**

Focus on Stewardship

Anita Sukenik

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

"Away in a Manger"

Lucy Walker (b. 1998)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and take us to heaven to live with thee there.

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.

**We join with the fields and floods, the rocks, hills, and plains to
repeat the sounding joy given by God. Through the Spirit of Christ,
God births a new day. With all the children of the Lord, we sing a
song of joy. Thanks be to God, this day and forevermore. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 134

"Joy to the World"

Antioch

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary Fantasia on "In dulci júbilo" BWV 729 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.

Music used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Micah 5:2-5a
Sanctuary Choir

December 24

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

December 29

First Sunday after Christmas
Rev. Kyle Nolan

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

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.



Actively Engaged in the World

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

- Preacher.....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
- Liturgists.....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
.....Evan Behee & Karen Oliver-Behee
.....Lily Fiore
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
.....Anita Sukenik
- Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
.....Janlee Richter, Piano & Organ
.....Frances Heethuis, Cello
.....Diane Helle, Violin
.....Cherub Choir & Carol Choir, Director Lindsey Hoekstra
.....Chapel Singers
.....Kirk Singers
.....Sanctuary Choir
- Ushers.....Doug & Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs, Chris & Kari Fuller
.....Ann & Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp
- AV Team.....Brad Sparks, Dan Cisler, Rachel Kamstra

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.

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



RESTORE US, O GOD



The Lord Is My Light, Mike Moyers

The Song of Restoration

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024
10:00 A.M.