

MORNING WORSHIP
A Modest Proposal

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared with love in dreams."
— Father Zosima, *The Brothers Karamazov*

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

"Trois Pièces"
II. Angélus

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

++Call to Worship

Rev. Kyle Nolan

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
**On those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.**

Christ is born!

Glorify him!

Christ is born!

Glorify him!

In his name and power, let us worship God!

++Hymn 146

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Tempus adest floridum

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You call us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your Spirit.

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 GBGMusik)

SINGAPURA

Assurance of God's Grace

It is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness" who shines in our hearts. Jesus Christ, the light of the world shines in each of us, and in him we find forgiveness. Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Glory to God in the highest!

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Response Hymn 145

"What Child Is This"

Greensleeves

(stanza 1)

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"7 Pieces in D Major and minor for Christmastime" César Franck (1822-90)
VI. Old French Carol

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

Colossians 3:12-17

New Testament p. 201

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"A Modest Proposal"

Rev. Kyle Nolan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 129

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Es ist ein' Ros'

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

When the gospel is proclaimed and believed, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which we know that God loves and accepts us in spite of what we are.

We therefore accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

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

"7 Pieces in D Major and minor for Christmastime" César Franck
VII. Offertoire

++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.

Gracious God, you have shown your great love for your children by using commonplace things for your purpose—water to mark your children, bread and wine to feed and nourish us ordinary people to be disciples, a child in a manger to announce your grace. Take these commonplace things, these gifts of paper and metal and the lives that stand behind them. Bless and use them to proclaim your gracious love, for we offer them in the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 132

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

In dulci jubilo

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "In dulci jubilo" (In Sweet Rejoicing), BWV 751

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.

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AHEAD IN WORSHIP

January 5
Epiphany of the Lord
Communion Sunday
Rev. Jen Porter
Sarah Constable, Oboe

January 12
Baptism of the Lord
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Sanctuary Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

WORSHIP WORDS: January 5, 12, 19, Chapel following worship

In January we turn to the language of our worship, examining hymns, the order of our worship service, and the language we use in our Sacraments of Baptism and Communion. If you have wondered about the reasons for aspects of our worship, here is your opportunity to ask questions and think theologically about why and how we use particular language. On January 5, our Minister for Music, Robert Ragoonanan, will lead us through the different styles of Hymns in our hymnal. January 12, Rev. Lynette and Rev. Jen will share and respond to questions about the flow of our worship. And on January 19, Rev. Lynette will lead a session on the particular language of our Sacraments.



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.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher..... Rev. Kyle Nolan, Presbyterian Foundation
Liturgists Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
Musicians..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
Ushers..... Doug & Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs, Chris & Kari Fuller
..... Ann & Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp
AV Team ... Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Karsten Kotchenruther, 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.

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.



Christ Pantocrator, Padua Baptistry, by Giusto de' Menabuoi (1320-1391)

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FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 29, 2024
10:00 A.M.