

MORNING WORSHIP
The Way to Restoration

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Maybe today is the right time to come before the refiner's fire and confront those two exasperating questions, 'What's the one thing that really matters?' and 'So why aren't you filling your whole time with that?'"
—Samuel Wells

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Kat Hand

As we prepare for worship, we are invited to be attentive to God's presence in our midst.

Opening Voluntary

"Freu dich Sehr"

Egil Hovland (1924-2013)

(Comfort, Comfort, Now My People)

Advent Candle Liturgy

Tom & Marilyn Lawrence

Long ago, the prophet Malachi called God's people to watch for the messenger God would send—a messenger with a passion for God's coming salvation. Though the world often settles for the status quo, we choose to embrace God's promise of restoration.

In lighting the second Advent candle,
**we submit ourselves
to God's refining, purifying grace.**

++Hymn 105

"People, Look East"

Besançon

Prayer of Confession

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we evade your searching hand. Our sin leads us away from abundant life in you. Return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ. 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

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

SINGAPURA

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

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

Ministry of Music

Recitative: Thus saith the Lord

Aria: But who may abide the day of his coming?

from Messiah George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts; yet once, a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations; and the Desire of All Nations shall come. The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.
Jonathan Bratt Carle, Baritone

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

Malachi 3:1-4

Old Testament p. 889

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Way to Restoration"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Bereden väg för Herran

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

Rev. Jen Porter

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.

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

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

French Carol

arr. Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

The text of this anthem can be found in the hymnal, hymn 347.

Trish Reid, Mezzo-Soprano & Josh Leckrone, Baritone
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.

**Generous God, how can we thank you enough for all your blessings?
We offer these gifts back to your service, that this church might
continue to shine Christ's light into the world. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 87

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Genevan 42

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Plusieurs Noël en Tambourin"

Jean-Jacques Charpentier

(1734-94)

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 to Worship Journal, and The Book of Common Worship.
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AHEAD IN WORSHIP

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

Wednesday, December 11
Longest Season: A Weary World Rejoices
6:00 p.m., Chapel

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

December 22
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Micah 5:2-5a
Sanctuary Choir

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.



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.

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.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

LiturgistsKat Hand, Minister with Youth and Young Adults
..... Tom & Marilyn Lawrence
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor

Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Janlee Richter, Organ
..... Jonathan Bratt Carle & Josh Leckrone, Baritones
..... Trish Reid, Mezzo-Soprano
..... Sanctuary Choir

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

AV TeamDan Cisler, Rachel Kamstra, Ricky Rivard

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.



RESTORE US, O GOD



The Lord Is My Light, Mike Moyers

The Way to Restoration

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024
10:00 A.M.