

MORNING WORSHIP
When You Pass through the Waters

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"The one who created us is waiting for our response to the love that gave us our being. God not only says: 'You are my Beloved.' God also asks: 'Do you love me?' and offers us countless chances to say 'Yes.'" —Henri 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.

Opening Voluntary "Hymn-tune Prelude on St. Columba"

C.S. Lang (1891-1971)

++Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 43:1-7)

Elder Ben Boerkoel

God has redeemed us and called us by name.

Therefore, we need not fear, for God is with us.

As with the Israelites, God promises to pass with us through the waters.

**The rivers shall not overwhelm us,
for God is our guide and our protector.**

++Hymn 482

"Baptized in Water"

Bunessan

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Jen Porter

God of the covenant, you call us into community with you and with each other. But we exclude and reject those we deem different. You claim us as beloved, but we turn against each other in anger and hate. You liberate and lead us in your way of peace, but we build walls and dismiss peace as unrealistic. Redeeming God, forgive our worldly ways. Call us and claim us for the work of building your beloved community...

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

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!

++Response Hymn 485 "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

Engelberg

(stanza 2)

**We share by water in Christ's saving death.
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!**

++ 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

"Take Me to the Water"

Spiritual

The text of this anthem can be found in the hymnal, hymn 480.

Sanctuary Choir

Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today is Eloise Sophia Corner, daughter of Shanna and Josh Corner.

Waters of Baptism

Response Hymn "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Stuttgart

**Child of blessing, child of promise,
Baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With this water God has sealed you
Unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of love, our love's expression,
love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits;
into joy and laughter lead.**

**Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you:
live as one who bears Christ's name.**

Reception into the People of God

This child is now received into the holy universal Church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God. And we are!

Child of the Covenant, we welcome you into Christ's church for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you.

We promise to help you know Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Amen!

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

Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

New Testament p. 60

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"When You Pass through the Waters"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

We will invite you to come forward and be anointed as a reminder of your baptism. If you have not been baptized and would like to receive a blessing, we invite you to come forward as well, so that we may offer you one. If you would like to participate, but wish to remain seated, simply raise your hand and a pastor will come to you.

Music

"Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam" Dietrich Buxtehude
(Christ Our Lord Came to the Jordan), BuxWV 180 (1637-1707)

"Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam"

Johann Pachelbel
(1653-1706)

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

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 Mission—Open Door Ministry

Brian Kamstra

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

"Come to the Water"

John Foley (b. 1939)
arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

Oh let all who thirst, let them come to the water.

And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without price.

Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.

And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord: all who labor without rest.

How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?

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.

Holy Spirit, breathe now onto these gifts we offer. Bless both giver and gift for your work in this community. Help us receive your presence through the hands, words, and actions of one another, that all the world may know that we are your people, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

++Hymn 295 "Go to the World!" Sine Nomine

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Thirty-Five Miniatures for Organ, Op. 55" Flor Peeters VII. Allegro maestoso (1903-86)

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 19 Second Sunday after Epiphany Rev. Lynette Sparks John 2:1-11 Sanctuary Choir

January 26 Third Sunday after Epiphany Rev. Lynette Sparks 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Sanctuary Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

Faith Formation is held in the Chapel fifteen minutes following worship and runs for about an hour, ending between 12:15 and 12:30 p.m. depending when worship concludes. There is time to pause for fellowship and refreshment before we begin. Faith Formation offers spaces to engage with theology, spiritual practices, scripture, and to reflect on how our lives engage in culture and service. All are welcome while youth and children have their programming. Nursery is available.

WORSHIP WORDS: Join us in the 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. Today, Rev. Lynette and Rev. Jen will share and respond to questions about our Presbyterian understanding of worship. On January 19, Rev. Lynette will lead a session on the particular language of our Sacraments.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists.....Ben Boerkoel, Elder for Children's Ministries
.....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
.....Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate
.....Brian Kamstra, Community Outreach Coordinator
.....Rev. Jessica Bratt Carle
Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
.....Janlee Richter, Organ
.....Sanctuary Choir
AV Team.....Dan 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.



Baptism of Jesus, Liz Valente

When You Pass through the Waters

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 12, 2025 10:00 A.M.

