

MORNING WORSHIP
Living in Light

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about this promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you.” —2 Peter 3:8-9a

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

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

Opening Voluntary "Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich, BWV 605"

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

++Call to Worship (adapted from 1 Peter 2:9-10 & Exodus 19:6)

We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's own people,
**in order that we may proclaim the mighty acts
of the one who called us out of darkness
into marvelous light.**

Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people;
once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.
Praise be to the God of light.

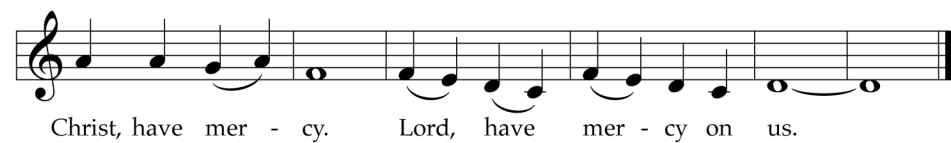
++Hymn 152 "What Star is This, with Beams so Bright" Puer nobis nascitur

Prayer of Confession

Divine Love, your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we often choose privilege and power. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we often seek security in what we possess and accumulate. You have given light to the world in Jesus Christ. Forgive us for the ways we remain in the shadows of this world. Help us to walk in the light. Lord, hear our prayer...

Silent Confession

Kyrie "Lord Have Mercy" Swee Hong Lim



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

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"

(stanza 4)

Engelberg

**A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia!**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Ministry of Music "Sonata in C major, I Largo cantabile"

J. B. Loeillet (1680-1730)

Sarah Constable, Oboe

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

John 1:1-5
Isaiah 2:1-5

New Testament p. 91
Old Testament p. 631

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Living in Light"

Rev. Jen Porter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 514 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

Schmücke dich

++Affirmation of Faith ("Our Song of Hope," RCA)

Rev. Kyle Nolan

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure hope:
**Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true hope.**

Come, Lord Jesus:
**We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone. 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

"Sonata in C major, II Allegro"
Sarah Constable, Oboe

J. B. Loeillet

++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

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements and partake of them immediately as you receive them. Please take your used cups with you as you return to your seats and place them in the cupholders in the back of your pew. If you would like the elements brought to you, please raise your hand and a server will bring them to you. All bread is gluten-free. Children are welcome to participate in this sacrament.

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 "Trio Sonata IV, BWV 528"
II Andante

J. S. Bach

Communion of the People

Prayer of Response

We give you thanks, O God, for the gifts of this table. Lead us forth by your light to share the gifts of your grace with all people everywhere, giving glory, honor, and praise to Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 744

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

Festal Song

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Sortie"

César Franck (1822-90)

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.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

January 12

Baptism of the Lord

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Sanctuary Choir

January 19

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Lynette Sparks

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

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Liturgy adapted from "Feasting on the World." Cover art: Scary, Scary Night, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54127> [retrieved January 2, 2025].*

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
LiturgistsSusan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
.....Rev. Kyle Nolan, Presbyterian Foundation
Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano
..... Sarah Constable, Oboe
Acolytes.....Wenzel Family
Ushers.....Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, Bill Baguley
..... Todd Helle, Heather Lermont-Pape, Bob & Betty Jo Norby

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.



Living in Light

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**JANUARY 5, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

Announcements

JANUARY FAITHSTEPS WORKSHOPS: During the month of January, our church school classes in grades 2-5 are exploring the story of Jesus Feeding the 5000. We will focus on how Jesus cares about our physical needs and experience how our church cares about people's physical needs. We will experience storytelling, create food baskets, and work in our food pantry. Our memory verse is Mark 6:41-42: "Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled."

FICTION BOOK GROUP: January 5, 4:00 p.m., Library The WPC Fiction Book club is meeting this evening in the church Library. We're discussing "The Stupidest Angel" by Christopher Moore, led by Doug Dowling. Please bring recommendations for other good books you've read! The criteria is simple: a fiction book you've read that you think would make for a lively discussion. We need selections for the remainder of the year!

YOUNG ADULT PUB NIGHT: January 8, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Long Road Distillers Since we had to cancel our December pub night, we're taking pub night to Long Road Distillers this month instead! Please join us; new faces are always welcome.

JOIN THE CHOIR: Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room January is a great time to start fresh with the choir in our spring semester! We welcome singers of all ages and skill levels, and sing a wide variety of music from different time periods and cultures. It's a great way to lift up your voice to God, explore the global community of faith, and find community. Spring semester rehearsals begin this Thursday, January 9, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

WE BELIEVE: A CHORAL WORSHIP SERVICE January 24, 7:00 p.m., Cathedral of Saint Andrew Join the choirs of Westminster Presbyterian, LaGrave CRC, and the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in a Choral Worship Service of hymns, anthems, and readings. The service will feature each choir individually and together, the organists and pianists from each church, as well as clergy offering readings and prayers. It will be a moving and exuberant service full of music commemorating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

JANUARY DONATION DRIVE: Every time someone visits In the Image, they have the opportunity to access basic necessities at no cost. We are having a donation drive during the month of January. Especially needed are large-sized toiletries like shampoo and toothpaste, also baby diapers and wipes. We are also collecting individual-sized toiletries to fill our Valentine Bags for the food pantry! Bring all your donations to the boxes in the coatroom behind the children's check-in tables.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER SAVE THE DATE: February 23 after church The high schoolers are looking forward to our trip to Washington State this June. Together we'll learn about missions from the people of Mending Wings, an indigenous youth organization. We are holding a fundraiser pasta dinner and silent auction to mitigate cost barriers. Please join us! Tickets will go on sale soon.

TEA FOR TWO: Sign up to be paired with someone for an in-person or online meetup! Make a new friend or reconnect with someone you already know for an hour or two of fellowship. Visit our website to sign up.



DONATIONS: Donations can be made by scanning the QR code, through our secure online giving site, or by check sent to the church office. Email angiek@wpcgr.org or call (616)717-5533 with questions.

This Week's Calendar

SUN. JANUARY 5

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Middle School Choir Choir Room
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Fiction Book Group Library
- 6:00 p.m. High School Night..... Dining Room

MON. JANUARY 6

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room

WED. JANUARY 8

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast.....Wolfgang's
- 6:00 p.m. MGD Committee Library
- 6:00 p.m. Communication Committee Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Pub Night.....Long Road Distillers

THURS. JANUARY 9

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Technology Team Meeting..... Online
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir..... Choir Room

SUN. JANUARY 12

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group and Choirs..... Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Church School and Choirs Various Locations