

MORNING WORSHIP

Birth Pangs

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“Movements are born not in times of peace but at the center of struggle, forged in fire, and shaped by hope.” –Melissa Florer-Bixler

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

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

Opening Voluntary "Songs Without Words, Op. 19" Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47) IV. Confidence

++Call to Worship

Kat Hand

Whether we are sure of God's work in the world or still waiting for a sign, **let us worship the Lord, encouraging one another in hope.**

Whether we are confident in what the future will bring or carry more questions than answers, **let us worship the Lord, strengthening one another in faith.**

++Hymn 275 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Ein' feste Burg

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, too often we settle for the way things are. Sometimes we embrace what is comfortable and disengage from the work of necessary change. Sometimes we struggle to hope for a new day, and a new world, and give up on the promise of your kin-dom. Forgive us. Fill us with the passion to live and work towards a world that is just, equitable, and new...

Silent Confession

Kyrie "Lord, Have Mercy" Lee J. Afdahl. Musical notation for two staves with lyrics: Lord, have mer - cy up - on us, Christ, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Assurance of God's Grace

The psalmist assures us, "As far as the east is from the west, that's how far God has removed our sin from us." Friends, hear the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!

++Response Hymn 79 "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

(stanza 3)

Temple of Peace

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Ministry of Music "Intrada: Adoration and Praise" Claude T. Smith (1932-87) Westminster Winds

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

Scriptures

Mark 13:1-8

New Testament p. 50

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Birth Pangs"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 292

"As the Wind Song"

Wairua Tapu

++Affirmation of Faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA)

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love, God created the world good, acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation, and makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, was crucified, and raised from the dead, delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

Focus on Discipleship: Skill Cafe

Elder Rachel Kamstra

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

"Ave Maria"

Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

arr. Robert Cameron & John Martin

This arrangement offers excerpts of Biebl's Ave Maria for choir alternating with an orchestration for Wind Ensemble.

Sanctuary Choir & Westminster Winds

++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.

To you, O God, we offer our lives—our abundance, our poverty, all that we are—a sign of our thanks for the treasure of your grace. Take and use us for good in the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 357

"The Days Are Surely Coming"

Llangloffan

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"A Mighty Fortress"

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

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

Sunday, November 24
Reign of Christ
All Creation Waits

Rev. Jen Porter
Romans 8:18-25

Bell Choir, Cherub Choir, Kirk Singers, Sanctuary Choir

Monday, November 25

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
7:00 p.m., Westminster Sanctuary
Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, December 1

First Sunday in Advent
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Bell Choir, Sanctuary Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

THIS WE BELIEVE: THE LORD'S PRAYER

November 10, 17, & 24, Chapel following worship We pray the Lord's Prayer each week; it is certainly familiar. For three weeks we will renew our experience of this bold prayer of hope and trust. Whatever the reality of the world—weekly, daily—we root ourselves in the power and presence of the God of all creation. We will seek to hold this prayer anew exploring its expression of critical hope, its context, our experiences, and how the striking Aramaic translation can shift our settled familiarity. Led by Elder Karen Meyers and Rev. Jen Porter.

CIVIL RIGHTS ROAD TRIP INFORMATION MEETING

November 17, Parlor following worship Join us on Sunday, November 17 after worship for an informational meeting about our plans for a Civil Rights Road Trip in April 2025. A group from Westminster and First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor will be traveling to Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham April 14-18. We'll share more details and you'll hear from others that have made the impactful trip. Questions? Contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org.



Actively Engaged in the World

Worship liturgies adapted from *Call to Worship Journal* and *The Presbyterian Outlook*.
Intrada: Adoration and Praise © 1980, C.L. Barnhouse Company.
Ave Maria © 1964/1993/2004, Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.
Kyrie used by permission of composer. "A Mighty Fortress" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists.....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
.....Kat Hand, Minister with Youth & Young Adults
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
.....Rachel Kamstra, Elder for Communications
Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
.....Janlee Richter, Organ
.....John Martin, Westminster Winds Director
.....Westminster Winds
.....Sanctuary Choir
Acolytes.....Phoebe Lowry & Lilli Muir
Ushers.....Bernie & Kathy Smith, Stephen Marshall
.....Marian Vanderwall, Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel

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.

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



Virgin and Child with the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, Artist Unknown

Birth Pangs

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 17, 2024
10:00 A.M.