

MORNING WORSHIP  
The Just Way

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"The way of Jesus cannot be imposed or mapped—it requires an active participation in following Jesus as he leads us through sometimes strange and unfamiliar territory, in circumstances that become clear only in the hesitations and questionings, in the pauses and reflections where we engage in prayerful conversation with one another and with him."  
—Eugene H. Peterson

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 "Organ Fantasia No. 8 in D minor" Johann Jakob Froberger (1616-67)

++Call to Worship Elder Ted Duncan

Only the hungry search for bread. Only the thirsty look for water.

**This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.**

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

**This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.**

We come here today with our hunger and thirst,

our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

**to let the God of Life satisfy our souls.**

++Hymn 739 "O for a Closer Walk with God" Caithness

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, though you lovingly tend us, we have not put forth the good fruits of your Spirit. Our consumption poisons the earth. Our violence threatens our neighbors. Our greed exploits the poor. Forgive us and lead us in your way of love, peace, goodness, and faithfulness...**

Silent Confession

Kyrie "Lord, Have Mercy" Lee Afdahl

Assurance of God's Grace

Our defenses crumble in the presence of God's holiness. Our hearts are softened in the presence of Christ's mercy. The Spirit guides us as we navigate the known and the unknown. Trust the good news of the gospel: nothing in life or death, nor any power, can separate us from us the love of God.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

++Response Hymn "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"

Ebenezer

**Through the night of doubt and sorrow  
onward goes the pilgrim band,  
singing songs of expectation,  
marching to the promised land.**

**Clear before us through the darkness  
gleams and burns the guiding light;  
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim,  
stepping fearless through the night.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Ministry of Music "Medley on the Cross" Patricia Sanders Cota (b. 1954)  
Bell Choir

Sacrament of Baptism Rev. Lynette Sparks & Rev. Miranda Trussell  
Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today is Isla Skye York, daughter of Rev. Hailey Malcolm and David York.

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

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 13:1-9 New Testament p. 76

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Just Way" Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 423 "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God" Saraday

++Affirmation of Faith (from A New Creed, United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God:  
**who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation,  
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

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 "Hide not thou thy face" Richard Farrant (c. 1525-80)  
Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord, and cast not off thy servant in thy displeasure:  
for we confess our sins unto thee and hide not our unrighteousness.  
For thy mercy's sake deliver us from all our sins.  
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.**

**Gracious God, you give to us out of your abundance. For the**

**material and spiritual gifts you give us, we thank you. We**

**dedicate these gifts of time, talents, and treasures to you, that we**

**may join your work in this community. We pray in Jesus' name.**

**Amen.**

**++Hymn 832** "Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand" *Kwake Yesu nasimama*

**++Charge and Benediction**

**Closing Voluntary** "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" *setting, David N. Johnson*  
Theme and Two Variations (1922-1987)

**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**

**March 30**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Youth-Led Worship**  
Kirk Singers, Chapel Singers,  
Carol Choir, & Cherub Choir

**April 6**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**The Costly Way**  
Rev. Lynette Sparks  
John 12:1-8  
Sanctuary Choir, Westminster Winds,  
& Sarah Faasse, Soprano

**Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:  
Life 360: In Community & For Community**

**Join us in the Chapel 15 minutes following worship.**

**March 23, Sharing Our Faith Intergenerationally**

How can we convey our spiritual story intergenerationally to family and friends? In the lineage of Children in Worship, we welcome Rev. Olivia Stewart who will share about the importance of our stories, talk about the ways different generations relate to story, and offer us examples of how we can think through and convey our stories. Led with Karen Meyers.

**March 30, The Human Solution**

**Navigating Discomfort: Understanding Self**

We welcome Anna Baeton, founder of Human Solutions, to lead us in learning to embrace discomfort and complexity in relationships and in community. This will be an extended 90 minute Adult Faith Formation session following worship, snacks provided. Please register for this event on the website or contact jenp@wpcgr.org to receive a link to fill out a 10 minute personal inventory to prepare us for our conversation together.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Preacher .....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

Liturgists .....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
..... Ted Duncan, Elder for Youth  
.....Rev. Miranda Trussell

Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music  
..... Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate  
.....Sonja Schultz Fryer & Sarah Faasse, Bell Choir Co-Directors  
..... Bell Choir  
..... Sanctuary Choir

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

**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](mailto:crystalh@wpcgr.org). More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at [westminstergr.org](http://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 & YOUNG ADULTS**

For more information about youth or young adult ministry, please contact our Minister with Youth and Young Adults Kat Hand at [kath@wpcgr.org](mailto: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](mailto:crystalh@wpcgr.org).



**Lent 2025: On the Way**



*"You Are Worthy" by Lauren Wright Pittman*

**The Just Way**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**MARCH 23, 2025  
10:00 A.M.**