

MORNING WORSHIP  
The Cross-Bearing Way

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Like splendid palm branches, we are strewn in the Lord's path." –Latin Antiphon

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

"Ten Pieces for Organ" Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)  
I. Entrée (Prelude)

++Proclamation of the Entrance into Jerusalem

Kat Hand & Brian Kamstra

Luke 19:28-40

Narrator: After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying,

Jesus: "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it.'"

Narrator: So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them,

**All: "Why are you untying the colt?"**

Narrator: They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

**All: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"**

Narrator: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered,

Jesus: "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

++Hymn 196

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Valet will ich dir geben

Prayer of Confession

**Triumphant God, we join the crowds of the ages in shouting your praises. While our lips give you glory, our lives seldom reflect your purposes. We sing easily of your greatness, but living faithfully is often beyond us. We hear of your salvation, yet sin leads us away from you. Have mercy on us. Enter our hearts with healing grace. Forgive what we have done and direct who we shall be...**

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee Afdahl



++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

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 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

"6 Antiphons for Palm Sunday, D. 696" Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

I. Hosanna filio David

Translation from Latin:

*Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*O King of Israel: Hosanna in the highest.*

Sanctuary Choir

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

Philippians 2:5-11

New Testament p. 197

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

Sermon

"The Cross-Bearing Way"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 216

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

St. Christopher

++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.**

Focus on Deacon Ministry

Kara Heslinga

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

"Indondana"

Xhosa hymn

arr. Michael Barrett & Ralf Schmitt

Translation from isiXhosa:

*The Lord has taken his son who lived among us. The son of the Lord God was crucified.*

*We weep, Father Jehovah.*

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 One, in gratitude we share these gifts out of the abundance you have given us. Receive them as a symbol of our dedication to you, and use them for the healing of the world. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 209

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

Love Unknown

++Charge and Benediction

Choral Postlude

"Drop, drop slow tears" Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

*Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet,  
which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.*

*Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;  
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.*

*In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;  
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.*

Sanctuary Choir

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.*

Lent 2025: On the Way



*Vision of the Cross, Frederic Edwin Church*

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

**April 17, 7:30 p.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
Lee Copenhaver, Cello  
Sanctuary Choir

**April 18, 12:00 p.m.**

**Community Good Friday Service**

**Park Congregational Church**  
Scripture, Music, and Prayers  
Ecumenical Choir

**April 20, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.**

**Easter Sunday**

**The Way of Resurrection**

Rev. Lynette Sparks  
Luke 24:1-12  
Jonathan Ruffer & Dylan Griffor, Trumpets  
Kia Weeldreyer, Timpani  
Sanctuary Choir

**April 27, 10:00 a.m.**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

Rev. Kyle Kooyers  
Josh Leckrone, Baritone  
Sanctuary Choir

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

Liturgists .....Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission  
..... Brian Kamstra, Community Resource Coordinator  
.....Kat Hand, Minister with Youth & Young Adults  
.....Kara Heslinga, Connecting Deacon

Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music  
..... Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate  
..... Sanctuary Choir

Ushers.....Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, Bill Baguley, Todd Helle  
.....Heather Lermont-Pape, Bob & Betty Jo Norby

AV Team .....Dan Cisler, Deanna Clark, Karsten Kotchenruther

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).

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

Join us in the Chapel 15 minutes following worship.

**April 13, Conversation Space** In response to our conversation on March 23, we gather to continue to reflect about how we navigate the current social climate. Rev. Lynette Sparks and Rev. Kyle Kooyers will facilitate this conversation space to listen to and support one another.



*Actively Engaged in the World*

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The Cross-Bearing Way

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13, 2025  
10:00 A.M.