

MORNING WORSHIP
The Costly Way

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man [sic] must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ.”
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

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 "7 Pieces in E-flat Major and minor"

César Franck (1822-90)
VI. Andantino

++Call to Worship (based on Psalm 126)

Paul Karsten

God has done wonderful things for us.

Let us rejoice and be glad.

The day before us is uncertain,

And we do not know what we will encounter on our way.

Wherever we go, we go forth as people of the living God.

Let us touch the lives of all with Christ's healing touch.

Let us begin this day with rejoicing!

++Hymn 761

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Beecher

Prayer of Confession

God of New Life, you promise to set us free from paths of fear, doubt, and denial. Yet we resist your invitation; we only see what we must give up if we are to follow the path of Jesus. You call us to trust your sustaining presence and power, but your call takes us beyond anything we can see or touch. Forgive us when we turn away from your promise of abundant life. Heal us and lead us home...

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!

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++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 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

English hymn
arr. Jay Dawson

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

John 12:1-8

New Testament p. 106

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Costly Way"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 630

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Crusaders' Hymn

++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.

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

"Abide with Me"

William Henry Monk (1823-89)
arr. Jay Dawson and John Martin

The text of this piece can be found in the hymnal, hymn 836.

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!**

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

"Selections from The Deep River Collection"
"Deep River"

Moses Hogan
(1957-2003)

Deep river, my home is over Jordan. Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground. Oh don't you want to go, to that gospel feast, that promised land where all is peace?

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

The text of this song can be found in the hymnal, hymn 525.
Sarah Faasse, Soprano

Communion of the People

Prayer of Response

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Send us into the world in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves for others in Christ's name. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 816 "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee" *Wer nur den lieben Gott*

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

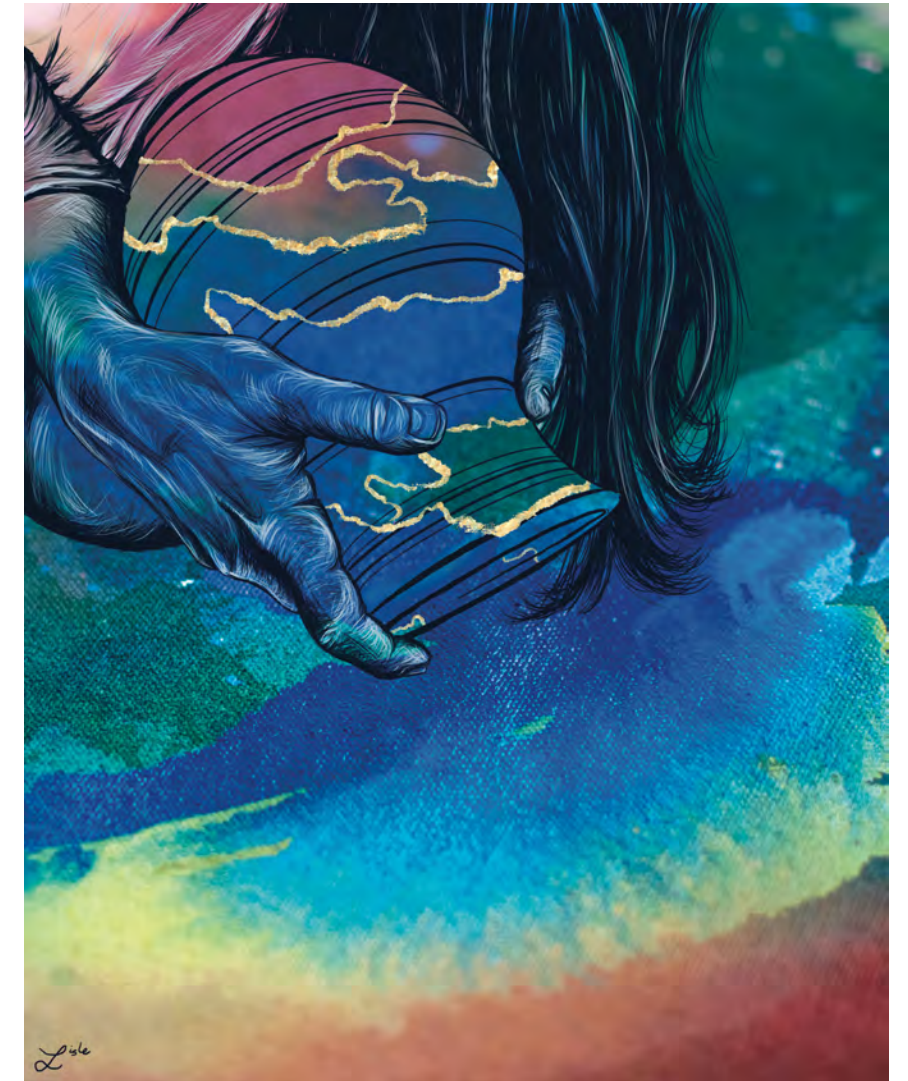
"Toccatina in D minor"

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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



Brazen Beauty, Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

The Costly Way

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

APRIL 6, 2025
10:00 A.M.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
 LiturgistsSusan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission
 Paul Karsten
 Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
John Martin, Westminster Winds Director
 Sarah Faasse, Soprano
Westminster Winds
 Sanctuary Choir
 Ushers.....Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, Bill Baguley
Heather Lermont-Pape, Bob & Betty Jo Norby
 AV Team Dan Cisler, Ricky Rivard, Stella Sheckler

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 & 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.

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.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

April 13

Palm Sunday

The Cross-Bearing Way

Rev. Lynette Sparks
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Sanctuary Choir

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

Scripture, Music, and Prayers
 Park Congregational Church
 Ecumenical Choir

April 20

Easter Sunday

The Way of Resurrection

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

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:

Life 360: In Community & For Community

Join us in the Chapel 15 minutes following worship.

April 6, Discerning Spiritual Identity and Call: Connecting Our Stories and the Biblical Story Where does the biblical story end and our story begin? Or, where does our story end and the biblical story begin? We will explore which biblical characters and motifs resonate with our story and consider how the biblical perspective informs our spiritual identities. Facilitated by Mike Reynolds.

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.

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