

MORNING WORSHIP
With All Your Heart, Soul, and Might

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.”
—Colossians 3:16

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

"Petite Suite"
III. Menuet

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

++Call to Worship (based on Psalm 150)

Elder Chuck Hekman

Praise the Lord!
Praise God in heaven!
For God's mighty deeds and surpassing greatness,
Praise God!
With trumpet sound, lute, and harp,
Praise God!
With the tambourine and dance, strings and pipe,
even loud clashing cymbals,
Praise God!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

++Hymn 26

"Earth and All Stars!"

Earth and All Stars

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. Heal and forgive us, O Lord, and set us free to serve you.

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Kyrie Eleison



Assurance of God's Grace

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the power of sin has been defeated. God's love is stronger still.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

++Response Hymn 246

"Christ Is Alive!"

Truro

(stanza 5)

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Ministry of Music

Three Romances for Violin and Piano, Op. 22 Clara Schumann (1819-96)
I. Andante molto

Sacrament of Baptism

Elder Ben Boerkoel

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today are Beatrice Mae Elsen, child of Alec and Leslie Elsen; Charles Christopher James Richert, Elliot Taft Richert, Stellan Theodore Richert, and Oliver Jacob Richert, children of Catherine and Stephen Richert; and Jules Nathaniel Walma, child of Samantha and Joshua Walma.

Waters of Baptism

Response Hymn 487 "These Treasured Children"

Puer Nobis Nascitur

(stanzas 1, 2, 4, & 5)

Reception into the People of God

These children are 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!
Children 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

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

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Old Testament p. 163

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Meditation

"With All Your Heart, Soul, and Might"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Special Music

"Weaver of Eternities"

Dominick DiOrio (b. 1984)

See bulletin insert for text and program notes.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith ("Our Song of Hope," Reformed Church in America)

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.

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

"You Do Not Walk Alone"

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

See bulletin insert for text and program notes.

++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.
Bless these gifts, O Lord, from your unfailing care for your people.
Let them be a sign of our gladness for all that you have given us and all that we may offer to others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 853

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

Siyahamba

We are marching...
We are singing...
We are dancing...

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Petite Suite"
IV. Ballet

Claude Debussy

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

May 18

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Sunday
The Same Gift**

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Acts 11:1-18

Sanctuary Choir & Guests, Bell Choir, Youth Strings

May 25

**Sixth Sunday of Easter
For the Healing of the Nations**

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5
Robert Ragoonanan

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN: May 18, 11:15 a.m., Parlor Are you curious about Together West Michigan, a local group that WPC is part of, supporting issues that affect our local communities? You will have opportunities following worship on May 18 to learn more and ask all your questions. We will have a “house meeting” in the Parlor discussing issues you care about! If you want to learn more about what issues have been addressed in the past and are ongoing, you can also stop by the table outside the Parlor to ask your questions. See you then!



**WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church**

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.

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.

Liturgies adapted from The Book of Common Worship and Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. Bulletin Cover Art from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. Music used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Chuck Hekman, Elder for Nominating
..... Ben Boerkoel, Elder for Children's Ministries
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children & Families

Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate
.....Diane Helle & Eric Tanner, Violins
..... Andrew Pool, Viola
..... Stacey Tanner, Cello
..... Mark Buchner, Bass
..... David Hall, Marimba
.....Dan Graser, Alto Saxophone
..... Sanctuary Choir

Ushers.....Bernie Smith, Kathy Smith, John Boerman
..... Stephen Marshall, Sherrill Vore, Marian Vanderwall
..... Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel

AV Team Dan Cisler, Marcos Calderon, Rachel Kamstra

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.

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



Festival of Lights, John August Swanson

**With All Your Heart,
Soul, and Might**

MUSIC CELEBRATION SUNDAY

**MAY 11, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

Music Celebration Sunday

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

You Do Not Walk Alone (2019)

May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.

May you always hear even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.

When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone.

May you always remember when the shadows fall – You do not walk alone.

–Traditional Irish Blessing

Elaine Hagenberg's music "soars with eloquence and ingenuity" (ACDA Choral Journal). Renowned for her ability to seamlessly weave lush harmonic landscapes, captivating melodies, and evocative piano and orchestral accompaniments, she offers a unique blend of artistic sophistication and universal appeal—creating music that resonates with conductors, performers, and audiences alike. Her music has been heard across the Americas, Europe, Australia, and Asia. About *You Do Not Walk Alone* she writes: "In the Irish tradition, blessings are heartfelt wishes for well-being, often shared at weddings, family gatherings, before a journey, and during other special occasions...Drawing inspiration from Celtic musical elements, I crafted a simple melody that rises and falls like the rolling Irish hills, while delicate folk rhythms gently grace the scene."

Dominick DiOrio (b. 1984)

Weaver of Eternities (2023)

On their first day of days, the newborn at mother's breast listens close, father whispers:

"You shall love the Lord our God with all your heart and soul and might;

in teaching and in binding, in lying down and in rising up,

in Jerusalem's perpetual light."

Wails from tender lips curl through time to worlds both vanished and to come.

Today she is consecrated, the summoner. Receiver of wisdom. Measure of our hearts.

Tomorrow, gone, a weaver of eternities, a hymn to generations.

–"Consecration" by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Recognized with The American Prizes in both Choral Composition (2014) and Choral Performance (2019), Dominick DiOrio has won widespread acclaim for his contributions to American music. He is professor of music and chair of the department in choral conducting at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he joined the faculty in 2012, and where he serves as director of NOTUS, Indiana University's storied contemporary vocal ensemble. DiOrio also serves as the fourteenth artistic director and conductor of the Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia, one of the most historic choral organizations in the United States. About *Weaver of Eternities*, he writes: "Weaver of Eternities is...dedicated to saxophonist Otis Murphy, Professor of Music (Saxophone) at the IU Jacobs School of Music. The work is a positive and joyous musical expression of poet Jacqueline Goldfinger's evocation of family: a value centered and most dear to Otis, Jackie, and myself...Its propulsive outer sections are matched by the intensity of feeling in the contrasting middle section, where the saxophone is featured as a concerto soloist, complete with a cadenza flourish of warmth and virtuosity." The Westminster Sanctuary Choir is the second ensemble to present this work, after its premiere by NOTUS in 2023.

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