

MORNING WORSHIP
For the Healing of the Nations

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.” — Ezekiel 47:12

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

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

Opening Voluntary

"Flötenuhr Musik" Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
(Music for Flute Clocks)
IV. Der Dudelsack (The Bagpipes)

++Call to Worship (from Psalm 67)

Elder Deb Kammer

Be gracious to us and bless us, O God.
Make your face shine upon us.
Make your way known upon the earth;
make your deliverance known among the nations.
**Let the people praise you, O God;
let all the people praise you.**
Let the nations exult and shout for joy,
for you rule the people with equity;
you guide the nations of the earth.
**Let the people praise you, O God;
let all the people praise you.**

++Hymn 265 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

Duke Street

Prayer of Confession

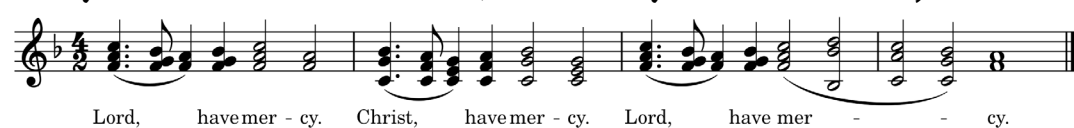
God of the city, you call us to follow you, but we hold back. We choose power and profit over acts of love. We are content to work within systems that oppress instead of working for change. We seek out mountain tops instead of being among your people. Forgive us, Lord, for the times that we forget to follow your example in the world. Embolden us to live fully in your call to love our neighbor.

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

Sonata No. 1 in E minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 38 Johannes Brahms
I. Allegro non troppo (1833-97)

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Rev. Jen Porter

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

Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5

New Testament p. 259

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"For the Healing of the Nations"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 796

"We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

Land of Rest

++Affirmation of Faith (adapted from the Confession of Belhar)

We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit have conquered the powers of sin and death,
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity,
that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience
which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

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

24 Pieces in Free Styles, Op. 31 Louis Vierne (1870-1937)
IX. Madrigal

++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.
Almighty God, from whom comes each good gift of life, we raise our voices in gratitude for your boundless generosity. We offer ourselves and our resources to the work of your kin-dom, that through them you may heal your church, your people, the whole of your creation. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 373

"O Day of Peace"

Jerusalem

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Festal March"

Florence Price (1887-1953)

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.

Liturgies adapted from Julia Burkley and the Presbyterian Outlook. 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.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

June 1

**Seventh Sunday of Easter
Shaken Foundations**

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Acts 16:16-34

Stacey Tanner, Cello & Janlee Richter

June 8

Day of Pentecost

Rev. Jen Porter
Kirk Singers

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

Liturgists Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Deb Kammer, WPA Elder

Musicians..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Stacey Tanner, Cello

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

AV Team Brad Sparks, Karsten Kotchenruther, Stella Sheckler

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:

CIVIL RIGHTS ROAD TRIP RECAP: June 8, Chapel following worship

Profound, life-changing, eye opening, overwhelming. These are some of the responses from our Civil Rights Road Trip travelers who journeyed to Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, and Memphis over Holy Week. If you'd like to know more about the experience or have interest in a future trip, please join us in the Chapel after worship on Sunday, June 8. We'll be sharing stories of personal impact and general information about museums and sites we visited.

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.



Apples, Worthington Whittredge

**For the Healing
of the Nations**

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 25, 2025

10:00 A.M.



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 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.