

MORNING WORSHIP
We Need More Huldahs

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"It is difficult to speak and impossible to be silent."

—Edmund Burke

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.

Introit

"Biblické písně (Biblical Songs), Op. 99" Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

V. Bože! Bože! Píseň novou (I will sing a new song)

The text of this song is from Psalm 144:9 and Psalm 145:1-3,5-6.

++Call to Worship

Rev. Riley Jensen

God calls us with a holy calling,

Seeking us where we are.

God calls us according to his purpose and grace

To respond to the outstretched hands of the poor.

God calls us to proclaim a Gospel of love and justice,

To speak truth to power and live lives of love.

We gather now to listen for God's call.

++Hymn 409

"God Is Here!"

Abbot's Leigh

Prayer of Confession

John Nienhuis

God of hope, we confess our blindness to signs of your love. We are afraid to risk our comforts to find new life; we separate ourselves from you and from others and foster divisions between those you love. Help us to amend our lives, and make us your faithful people who bear the good fruit of your Word. Lord, hear our prayer...

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Kyrie Eleison

Assurance of God's Grace (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

This is the impossibly good news.

Love is the beginning. Love is the end.

And nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Neither day, nor night, nor anything else in all creation.

Friends, believe this Good News of the Gospel:

In Christ's love, we are forgiven, we are accepted,

and everything is made new. Amen.

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Response Hymn 656 "We've Come This Far by Faith"

Sing through two times

**We've come this far by faith,
leaning on the Lord,
trusting in the holy Word;
God's never failed us yet.
O, can't turn around,
we've come this far by faith.
We've come this far by faith.**

This Far By Faith

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Adagio for String Quartet" James Whitbourn (1963-2024)

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Nancy Greidanus

Children three years through third 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

2 Chronicles 34:22-28

Old Testament p. 418

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"We Need More Huldahs"

Rev. Riley Jensen

Music

"Biblické písně, Op. 99"

Antonín Dvořák

IX. Pozdvihuji oči svých k horám (I will lift up my eyes)

The text of this song is from Psalm 121:1-4.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from the Confession of 1967)

Susan Jennings

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways.

It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest;

again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil.

These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind.

They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

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

"Biblické písně, Op. 99"

Antonín Dvořák

X. Zpívejte Hospodinu píseň novou (O sing unto the Lord a new song)

The text of this song is from Psalm 98:1,4-5,7-8 and Psalm 96:12-11

++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.

We trust, O God, in your loving kindness and in all the ways you provide life and breath and being. Use these gifts and our lives that we might bear your fruit with praise and thanksgiving. We ask this in the confidence of your mercy and love. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 410

"God Is Calling through the Whisper"

W żłobie leży

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "79 Chorales for the Organ, Op. 28" Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

LIII. Loué soit le Dieu Tout-Puissant (Praise the Lord God Almighty)

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 with permission from Feasting on the World. Kyrie used by permission of composer.

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AHEAD IN WORSHIP

August 24

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Robert Ragoonanan, Viviana Kloostra, & Rebecca Russcher

August 31

Worship at Westminster

Rev. Dr. Randal Jelks
Janlee Richter

Worship at Camp Henry

Wanted: For Life

Rev. Jen Porter
Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Robert Ragoonanan & Sanctuary Choir

Trillium String Quartet Following Worship

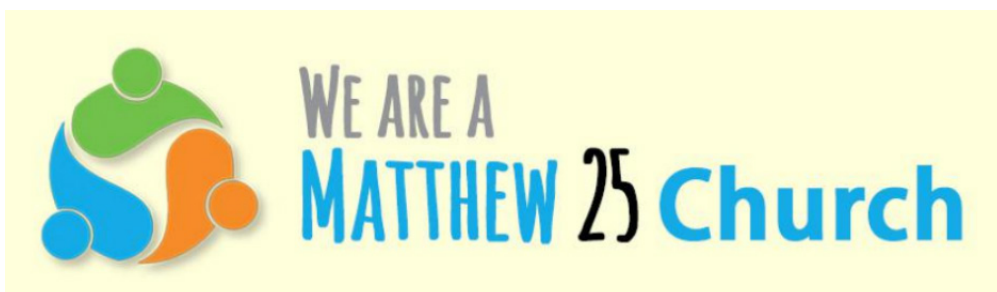
Has any composer expressed the breadth our human experience more profoundly than Beethoven? Generations have found in his music the noblest and purest revelations of love, joy, peace, and strength of character alongside expressions of despair and anger—but never hate, and not a cynical or bitter note. Even pain and suffering, which Beethoven knew better than most, are beautifully expressed as a necessary part of the synthesis of life. Join us in the Gathering Place after the service today to experience Beethoven's glorious String Quartet Op. 59 #1.

Summer Books for Children's Worship

This week: *Apple and Magnolia* by Gehl and Metola

Next week: *Just What to Do* by Lukoff

Britta visits her two favorite trees, Apple and Magnolia, every day. Though she can't explain it, she's sure they are best friends! Then one day, Magnolia's branches start to droop. Is there anything Britta—or Apple—can do to help? After all, unusual friendships can be the most powerful of all. With a lyrical story and vibrant art, *Apple and Magnolia* unveils the extraordinary connections between trees and the wondrous bonds between all living things. The book includes an author's note offering facts about how trees communicate with one another.



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Riley Jensen
Liturgists Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission
..... John Nienhuis, Worship Committee
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children & Families
Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
.....Sarah Faasse, Soprano
.....Diane Helle & Linda Nelson, Violins
..... Andrew Pool, Viola
..... Lee Copenhaver, Cello
Ushers.....Bernie & Kathy Smith, John Boerman
..... Stephen Marshall, Sherrill Vore, Marian Vanderwall
..... Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel
AV Team Rachel Kamstra, Sam Putt, 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.



We Need More Huldahs

SEASON OF THE SPIRIT

AUGUST 17, 2025

10:00 A.M.

Announcements

SUBMIT TO REFLECTIONS: Submissions to the Fall 2025 edition of Reflections are due August 22! Email submissions to reflections@wpcgr.org or drop them off at the church office. Your stories, photos, poems, and experiences are all welcome as we tell the story of Westminster's people.

CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN AUGUST 28: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Choir Room Choir rehearsals for the fall semester begin August 28! We welcome new members at all times of the year, but the beginning of the fall is a particularly good time to join! Please email Robert Ragoonanan with questions at robertr@wpcgr.org

GOOD SOIL HARVEST POTLUCK: August 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Gathering Place To conclude the *Good Soil* book discussion, we will gather for a summer harvest potluck and conversation with author Jeff Chu. Anyone who has read the book, or started to read the book, is welcome to join. Everyone is asked to bring an offering for our harvest feast, something with fresh in-season ingredients or a family recipe, as we celebrate what has grown from the land and in our lives. Visit the website to sign up.

MISSION PARTNERSHIP ACTION FAIR: September 14 Mark your calendars for our first Mission Partnership Action Fair! On Sunday, September 14 following worship, we will have several community organizations gathered in the Dining Room for an Action Fair. The purpose is to learn more from the various organizations about their work and mission and ways to get involved. Organizations such as Community Food Club, United Campus Christian Fellowship, AYA Youth Collective, New City Neighbors, Realism Is Loyalty and more will be present. Our goal, as a Matthew 25 church, is to connect folks with organizations in our mutual pursuit of justice, anti-racism, equality, and peace-making. This event is sponsored by the Mission Partnership Committee.

WPC COMMUNITY NIGHT: August 18, 7:00 p.m., Horrocks Join us for our last summer WPC Community Night on August 18 at Horrocks Market in Kentwood! We will gather on the patio (or in the inside seating area if it rains). Grab something from the deli or a drink, and join us for an evening of fellowship. Please email Deanna at deannac@wpcgr.org to let her know if you plan to attend.

SIMPLY GIVE: Thank you so much for your generous support this past week, especially with our double match day on August 16. We were able to have more than \$5,000 double matched, which will go a long ways towards meeting the needs of our Heartside neighbors. The Simply Give fundraiser for the pantry will continue through September 27, and September 13 will be another double match day.

YOUTH UPDATE: Read our newsletter for high school trip 2026 dates, fall retreat registration, back to youth group night, and an update about Kat's maternity leave.

WPA LUNCHEON: September 10, 11:30 a.m. appetizer, noon lunch Come meet Chief Tour Ambassador Caroline Cook and hear her presentation on "Churches in Grand Rapids." Visit the website to register or contact crystalh@wpcgr.org or 616-717-5529 by September 5.

TWM RAPID RESPONSE TRAINING: August 19, Fountain Street Church, 6:00 p.m. Together West Michigan is partnering with Rapid Response to offer training in both accompanying people as they navigate the complex immigration system as well as providing aid to those whose family members may be facing deportation. Visit the website to register.



DONATIONS can be made by scanning the QR code, through our secure online giving site, or by check sent to the church office. Email angiek@wpcgr.org or call (616)717-5533 with questions.

This Week's Calendar

SUN. AUGUST 17

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.....Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Trillium Quartet Recital.....Gathering Place

MON. AUGUST 18

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby
- 6:30 p.m. Good Soil Experiential Book Study.....Offsite

TUES. AUGUST 19

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby
- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee.....Library

WED. AUGUST 20

- 6:30 p.m. High School Prayer Breakfast..... Wolfgang's
- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby
- 5:30 p.m. MGD CommitteeOnline

THURS. AUGUST 21

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby

SUN. AUGUST 24

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.....Gathering Place

Stewardship Update

The stewardship team would like to thank the congregation for their generous giving so far this year. With your help, we are working together as a **Community of Hope**.

In her book *How We Learn to Be Brave*, Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde says, "I believe that God summons us to work together, in coalitions of the faithful, for the promise of a better day. Alone, we cannot accomplish anything worth doing. Still, it matters that we show up to do our part."

Thank you all for showing up to do your part in our coalition of the faithful here at Westminster.

Financial update as of 7/31/2025:
Pledges and other revenues: \$883,140
Expenses: \$1,027,017
Difference (\$143,878)