

MORNING WORSHIP
On the Road Again

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“How often insight occurs indirectly, slipping in sideways from the unconscious, or, while your eyes, blurry in daydreaming, lose their focus. How often a problem solves itself in twilight sleep, in the shower or garden, while you’ve ceased to concentrate on the puzzle. Living in the post-resurrection world means cultivating some kind of extra sense—and being open to surprise.” —Suzanne Guthrie

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

“Easter Hymn”

setting, John Ferguson
(1941-2025)

++Call to Worship

Elder Ellen Shupe

Jesus Christ has freed us from death and brought us into new life.

Through Christ, we have faith and hope in God.

In genuine, mutual love, let us worship with one heart and one voice.

In reverence and joy, we praise God’s holy name!

++Hymn 267

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Madrid

Prayer of Confession

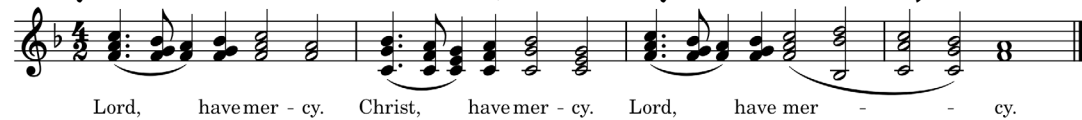
Eternally patient God, we ask again and again, “What should we do?” And again and again, you tell us, “Repent and return to me.” Yet we have not changed our ways. We fall into old habits, cling to our own ways, and take for granted the grace you have given us. Once again, we ask you for forgiveness. Show us the way forward and help us return, once again, to you.

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Kyrie Eleison



Assurance of God's Grace

In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has given us a new birth into a living hope. Rejoice in the good news:

In the name of 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.

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Ministry of Music "He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands" arr. Moses Hogan

Cheri Reid, Mezzo-soprano (1957-2003)

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

Luke 24:13-35

New Testament p. 90

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"On the Road Again"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 231 "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers"

Suo Gan

++Affirmation of Faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

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 Mission: Creation Care

Jonathan Hand

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 "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth" from Messiah G. F. Handel

Viviana Kloostra, Soprano (1685-1759)

++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.

Great God, we give thanks to you for your steadfast love endures forever. With gratitude we bring our gifts to you. Transform our lives and our resources into a source of healing, hope, joy, and justice in our world. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 248 "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" Hymn to Joy

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Jubilate"

Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

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.

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Liturgies adapted from Call to Worship Journal.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Sunday, April 26

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Doing Life Together

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Acts 2:42-47

Sanctuary Choir, Cherub Choir, Carol Choir, & Bell Choir

Sunday, May 3

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Jeff Chu, Guest Preacher

Sanctuary Choir, Chapel Choir, Westminster Winds

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

Creation Care: Sunday, April 19, Chapel following worship

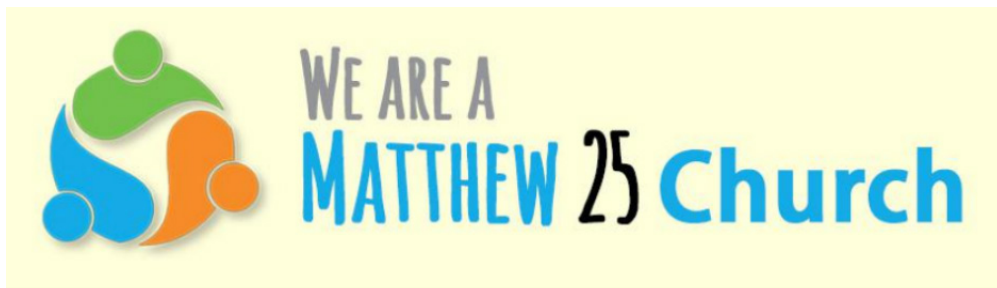
A group representing WPC attended a Creation Justice Ministries retreat in March to learn about Christian leadership in a climate changed world. In faith formation, Jonathan Hand will be recapping this retreat and facilitating a discussion about creation care work at Westminster. Whether you are very passionate about climate action or know little about it, please feel welcomed to attend!

Together West Michigan: Sunday, April 19, Parlor following worship

Together West Michigan is offering one more presentations of our slide show "Show Me The Public Money" after worship today. The presentation will be followed by a small group discussion about things we are concerned about in our lives or the lives of our friends and families. Our concerns will be put into a platform that we will ask local and state candidates to commit to supporting.

Resource Center Launch Party: Sunday, April 26, Parlor following worship

Join us in the Parlor for an open house celebration of our new Westminster Resource Center. The shelves in the Parlor now hold a curated list of books which align with Westminster's beliefs and can be used by the congregation to deepen our lives of faith. Join us in gratitude for all who donated books to the resource center. Let's grow seeds of faith in our lives to share with the world.



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

- PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
- LiturgistsSusan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission
..... Ellen Shupe, Elder for Adult Faith Formation
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
.....Jonathan Hand
- Musicians..... Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate
..... Cheri Reid, Mezzo-soprano
..... Viviana Kloostra, Soprano
- Acolytes..... Easton Fergus & Vedant More
- Ushers.....Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, Bill Baguley
..... Todd Helle, Heather Lermont-Pape, Bob & Betty Jo Norby
- AV TeamJoe Putt, Marcos Calderon, Nate Masterson, 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 recommend you sit in front of the balcony for the best sound quality.

We have accessible, all-gender, companion bathrooms 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

On most Sundays after worship, we have youth group and choir for middle and high schoolers. We begin with lunch in the Dining Room. All middle and high schoolers are welcome. Please join us; we'd be happy answer any questions!



Supper at Emmaus, Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn

On the Road Again

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 19, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Announcements

CHAPEL CLUB: April 19 One Sunday each month, 3rd-5th graders may join their peers in the Chapel after the exchange of blessings.

ELISABETH CIRCLE: April 21, 1:00 p.m., Library We will discuss Chapters 6 and 7 in *Appreciate These Things*. For more information, please contact Sandy Topliffe at stopliffe@comcast.net.

YOUNG ADULT PUB(LISHER) NIGHT: April 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Schuler Books For an icebreaker, we invite you to bring a quote from your favorite novel, but don't tell anyone what you brought, or what book it is from! See you there!

TRIVIA PARTY FOR FAMILIES: April 26 After church until noon, families are invited to head to the Dining Room for a trivia party. We'll play trivia in teams to review our Bible concepts from this year and then have party treats and prizes.

5TH GRADE RECOGNITION: April 26 Our 5th graders are approaching the culmination of their experiences in our children's program. We will celebrate this milestone with them by recognizing them in our April 26 service and by giving them a gift.

YOUTH UPDATE: Youth group and choir resume today and will continue on May 3, May 17, and on May 31 with our year-end picnic.

LET'S HANG OUT AND GRILL! May 4, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Millennium Park, Open Shelter A You're invited to celebrate the warm weather with a community picnic potluck! Hotdogs and drinks will be provided, and you are welcome to bring a side or dessert to pass. Reach out to Deanna with any questions at deannac@wpcgr.org.

OPEN DOOR MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS: This program provides a place for our neighbors to go from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday. Volunteers offer a warm welcome and monitor the area for a two and a half hour shift. We are most in need of regular volunteers on Tuesday and substitutes for all shifts. Please contact briank@wpcgr.org if you are interested.

MARK BILLY AND ROBERT RAGOONANAN CONCERT: May 8, 7:00 p.m. Nationally-performing Choctaw baritone and cedar flautist will perform with longtime collaborator Robert Ragoonanan on our new piano in the Chapel. Mark Billy is the leading Indigenous baritone of his generation. He is at the forefront of the current musical movement which combines the sacred cultural music of the Indigenous peoples and Western concert music.

MUSIC CELEBRATION SUNDAY: May 10 During the service on May 10, the Sanctuary Choir will present Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo's (b. 1978) *Song of the Universal*, for choir and chamber orchestra. The choir will then be joined by baritone Mark Billy in a presentation of Ralph Vaughan Williams' (1872-1958) *Five Mystical Songs*. Mark is also a Choctaw cedar flautist and will share music on the cedar flute during the service. It will be a powerful morning of music making centered on the ideas of grace and the goodness of creation!

WPA SPRING BUS TRIP: May 13 Our bus trip to the Governor's Mansion Museum, Honolulu House Museum, & Postal Museum in Marshall, Michigan is filling up fast! Visit the website to register to join!

DROP-IN CHOIR: May 17 Guests are invited to drop in and sing with the choir during worship! We have two optional rehearsals May 7 and 14 at 7:00 p.m., and a required rehearsal May 17 at 9:15 a.m., singing *We Walk By Faith* arr. Kenneth T. Kosche and *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around* arr. Rollo Dilworth. Please RSVP to robertr@wpcgr.org so we can have enough music and robes available.



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. APRIL 19

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Chapel Club..... Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Together West Michigan Presentation Parlor
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Church School & Choirs Various Locations
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Meet-Up..... Parlor, Library

MON. APRIL 20

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby
- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group Multipurpose Room
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnership Committee..... Library
- 7:00 p.m. West Michigan Opera Project Chapel

TUES. APRIL 21

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. Elisabeth Circle Library
- 6:30 p.m. Camp Henry Board Meeting..... Parlor

WED. APRIL 22

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast..... Wolfgang's
- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby
- 6:00 p.m. Young Adult Night..... Schuler Books

THURS. APRIL 23

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Westminster Men's Group Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 3rd Floor Music Room
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

SUN. APRIL 26

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Family Trivia Party..... Dining Room
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group Various Locations
- 11:15 a.m. Resource Center Launch Party..... Parlor
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Meet-Up..... Parlor, Library