

MORNING WORSHIP  
Living Abundance

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"It is too easy these days to individualize our faith confessions, as if they did not make a difference for how we move about in the world and how we view the other. Resurrection, fundamentally, is a communal affair, a promise that directs a way of living now and determines a community in our future." — Karoline M. Lewis

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.

Introit

"This Little Light of Mine" Spiritual  
Cherub Choir arr. John R. Paradowski

"The Lord Is My Shepherd" Folk melody  
Carol Choir arr. Charlotte Larsen (1936-2022)

++Call to Worship

Elder Ron Toering

God is always with us, so we find peace and give thanks.

**The Lord is our shepherd; we have everything we need.**

Through shadow and light, through death and birth,  
through grief and joy, we have never been alone. We rest in that truth.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,  
and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

++Hymn 761

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service" Beecher

Prayer of Confession

**God of community, you call us to a world radically different from what we are used to. You ask us to lay aside our ideas of "mine" and "yours." You show us a life where goods are shared, where all are loved, and faithfulness is shown through generosity. But we cling to our possessions, trusting them more than we trust you. Forgive us, merciful God. Help us to truly believe in your just and peaceful realm, and to work to make it so.**

Silent Confession

Kyrie "Lord, Have Mercy" Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - - cy.

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

"A Song of Celebration" Brenda Austin (b. 1972)  
Bell Choir

Sacrament of Baptism

Kat Hand & Elder Ted Duncan

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today is Cassey Xiyuan Shen.

Presentation

Waters of Baptism

Reception into the People of God

Cassey is 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!

**Child 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!**

Response Hymn 482 "Baptized in Water"

Bunessan

(Stanza 1)

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;  
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,  
faithfully now God's praises we sing.**

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

Acts 2:42-47 New Testament p. 120

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Living Abundance" Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 316

"Where Charity and Love Prevail" Twenty-Fourth

Commissioning of Cuba Travelers

Susan Jennings

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

"When We Are Singing" Mexican hymn  
arr. Kevin T. Padworski (b. 1987) & Lee Copenhaver (b. 1952)

When we are singing, we are bound together, when we are sharing, we are free to be. Both in our singing and in our sharing, we are bringing change, we are making peace.

Through times of trouble, through times of pain, we offer healing, like a gentle rain. Both in our healing and in our caring, we are bringing change, we are making peace.

When we are helping, we can be our best, when we are loving, hurt is put to rest. Both in our helping and in our loving, we are bringing change, we are making peace.

Sanctuary Choir

++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.**

**God of abundance, we give back to you what has come from your hand. Bless these gifts, and multiply them in the life of your church, so that all your beloved community may know the love and peace that is ours in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 692

"Spirit, Open My Heart" Wild Mountain Thyme

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Suite Argentina" Carlos Guastavino (1912-2000)  
IV. Malambo

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, Aaron Shepherd, and the Presbyterian Outlook.  
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**AHEAD IN WORSHIP**

**Sunday, May 3**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Rev. Jeff Chu, Guest Preacher  
Psalm 31 & John 14:1-11  
Sanctuary Choir, Chapel Choir, Westminster Winds

**Sunday, May 10**

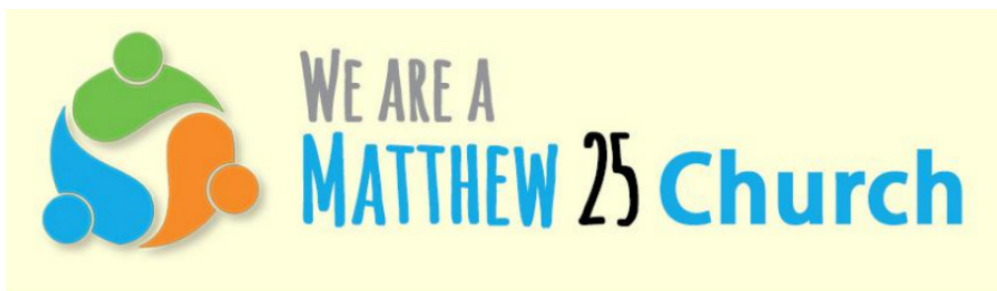
**Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Music Celebration Sunday**

**Love Bade Me Welcome**  
Rev. Lynette Sparks  
Luke 15:11-31  
Mark Billy, Baritone & Cedar Flautist  
Sanctuary Choir & Westminster Festival Orchestra

**Ahead in Adult Faith Formation**

**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.

**Digital Security: Sunday, May 3, Chapel following worship** Do you have questions about digital security? Join us on May 3 for an adult faith formation conversation centered around digital literacy and security. Learn about some simple ways that you can keep yourself safe online, and bring questions so that we can all learn together. If you have any specific questions, you can send them to Deanna at [deannac@wpcgr.org](mailto:deannac@wpcgr.org), and our presenter will answer as many as possible during the class!



**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Preacher.....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
Liturgists.....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
.....Ron Toering, Elder for Music  
.....Ted Duncan, Elder for Youth  
.....Kat Hand, Minister with Youth & Young Adults  
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families  
.....Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission  
Musicians..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music  
..... Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate  
..... Lindsey Hoekstra, Children's Choirs Director  
..... Sonja Fryer & Sarah Faasse, Bell Choir Co-Directors  
..... Bell Choir  
..... Cherub Choir  
..... Carol Choir  
.....Sanctuary Choir  
Ushers.....Mary Dirkse, Lou VanderHave, Bill Baguley  
..... Todd Helle, Heather Lermont-Pape, Bob & Betty Jo Norby  
AV Team.....Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Joe Putt  
.....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](mailto:crystalh@wpcgr.org). More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at [westminstergr.org](http://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!



Saying Grace, Cornelis Pietersz Bega

**Living Abundance**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 26, 2026**

**10:00 A.M.**

# Announcements

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**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 lunch and treats.

**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](mailto:deannac@wpcgr.org).

**FOR SUCH A TIME SMALL GROUP EXTENSION: May 6, 10:30 a.m., Parlor** In his new book, *The Soulwork of Justice: Four Movements for Contemplative Action*, Wes Granberg-Michaelson writes about four critical movements that we must traverse. Together we will talk about this journey in these troubled times and provide each other with mutual support. In a continuation of the Lenten small group, we will be meeting in person on every other Wednesday morning starting May 6 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and continue through the summer (in the Parlor with Karen Meyers and other leaders). New members are welcome. You are encouraged to bring a lunch to eat together after. Sign up on the website.

**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](mailto: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!

**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](mailto:robertr@wpcgr.org) so we can have enough music and robes available.

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION:** Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member at Westminster? We are hosting our next two-session new member orientation on Wednesday, June 3 and June 10, 6:00-8:30 p.m. with dinner included. New members will be received into membership on Sunday, June 14. Please contact Susan Jennings at [susanj@wpcgr.org](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org) to sign up or for more information.



**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](mailto:angiek@wpcgr.org) or call (616)717-5533 with questions.

# This Week's Calendar

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## SUN. APRIL 26

- 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. Resource Center Launch Party.....Parlor
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Group ..... Various Locations
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Meet-Up.....Parlor, Library

## MON. APRIL 27

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry .....Front Lobby
- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group .....Multipurpose Room
- 12:00 p.m. Justice Committee ..... Library
- 6:00 p.m. UCCF Meeting..... Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. West Michigan Opera Project ..... Chapel

## TUES. APRIL 28

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry .....Front Lobby
- 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting..... Online
- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee ..... Library
- 6:00 p.m. Memorial Trust ..... Conference Room

## WED. APRIL 29

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

## THURS. APRIL 30

- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry.....Front Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal .....Choir Room

## FRI. MAY 1

- 3:00 p.m. Art & Creativity Group ..... Library

## SUN. MAY 3

- 8:45 a.m. Westminster Winds Breakfast..... Dining Room
- 9:00 a.m. Westminster Winds Rehearsal .....Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal .....Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service .....Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour ..... Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel
- 5:30 p.m. High School Night..... Dining Room