

MORNING WORSHIP

A Time for Joy

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*"Birds don't wait for the dawn to break to begin their song; they sing in the dark,
as if by doing so they can bring forth the new day."* —Amy Starr Redwine

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

"The Women at the Tomb"

Dorothy Papadakos (b. 1960)

++Call to Worship

Through God's miracle of grace,
we have come through the night
and arrived at this glorious dawn.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All doors are open, all creation sings,
all that was broken is made whole,
and we have new life.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Let all that has life and breath praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

++Hymn 232

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Easter Hymn

++Prayer of Adoration

**Risen Lord, we turn from the night's vigil toward the first rays of your
new dawn warming all creation. We praise you that you are alive
here with us and that no power can stop your love. Teach us what it
means for Death to relinquish its hold on us, that with renewed hearts
we might know resurrection hope in our bodies and cry, Alleluia!
Amen.**

++Response Hymn 246

"Christ Is Alive!"

(stanza 5)

Truro

**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

"I Believe This Is Jesus"

Spiritual

arr. Undine Smith Moore (1904-89)

I believe this is Jesus; come and see.

The light of God shines in his face,

he offers all his pard'ning grace; come and see.

Sanctuary Choir

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Nancy Greidanus

Children (9:00 a.m., three years through second grade; 11:00 a.m., three and four-year-olds) 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

John 20:1-18

New Testament p. 114

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"A Time for Joy"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 239

"Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!"

Gelobt sei Gott

++Affirmation of Faith *(from Book of Common Worship)*

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

This is the good news
which we have received,
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved,
if we hold it fast:

that Christ died for our sins

according to the scriptures,

that he was buried,

that he was raised on the third day,

and that he appeared first to the women,

then to Peter, and to the Twelve,

and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ,

the Son of the living God.

Jesus Christ is the first and the last,

the beginning and the end;

he is our Lord and our God.

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

In addition to our regular offering, we invite you to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing, which provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Presbyterian Self-Development of People. Envelopes are in the pews. Please take a moment to sign and pass the red friendship pad located in the pew, and take note of those worshipping next to you.

Offertory

"O sing to the Lord"

Lucy Walker (b. 1998)

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

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 the empty tomb, your grace astounds, your generosity fills to

overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude, and

bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May

we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by

Christ's spirit. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 485

"We Know That Christ Is Raised"

Engelberg

Stanzas 1-2: all

Stanza 3: choir

Stanza 4: all

*If you would like to sing the Hallelujah Chorus with the choir, walk up during the
hymn and join! Sheet music is located next to each staircase leading up to the choir.*

++Response

"Hallelujah!" from Messiah

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth,

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord,

And of His Christ. And he shall reign forever and ever.

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

Sanctuary Choir

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Festival Toccata"

Percy E. Fletcher (1879-1932)

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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adapted from Teri McDowell Ott, Presbyterian Outlook, and Call to Worship Journal.*

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

April 12, 10:00 a.m.

**Second Sunday of Easter
Sacrament of Communion**

Hope In Spite Of

Rev. Lynette Sparks

1 Peter 1:3-9

Carol Choir & Sanctuary Choir

Diane Helle, Violin

April 19, 10:00 a.m.

**Third Sunday of Easter
On the Road Again**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Luke 24:13-35

Viviana Kloostra, Soprano & Cheri Reid, Mezzo-Soprano

Sanctuary Choir

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:

Sunday, April 12, Chapel following worship

Is our congregation being called to a new Matthew 25 ministry? The Justice Committee has been exploring ways to serve immigration detainees at the Baldwin Detention Center—providing backpacks, clothing, phones, transportation, and visits to people who often arrive with nothing. We've been inspired by the witness of Westminster member Delight Lester and others from several churches who have been pioneering this work. Join us after worship on April 12 to hear Delight's testimony, and to pray and discern together what faithful response might look like for our 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.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

LiturgistsSusan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission
.....Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate
.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children & Families

Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
.....Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate
.....Morgan Hare & Alejandro Zorrilla, Trumpets
.....Kia Weeldreyer, Timpani
.....Sanctuary Choir

Acolytes.....Vedant More & Sammy Herrick (11:00 a.m.)

AV TeamNate Masterson, Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Deanna Clark

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.

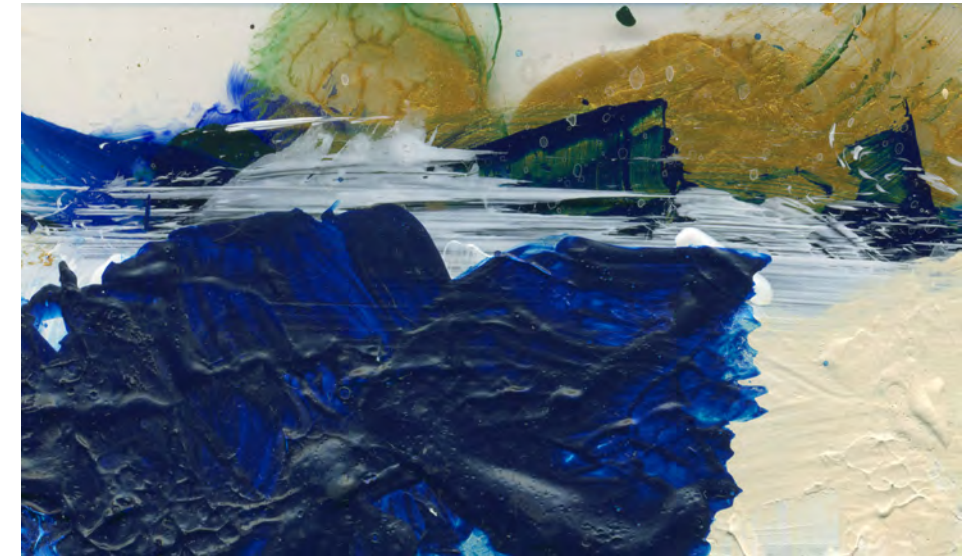
We have accessible, all-gender, companion bathrooms available off of the Dining Room.

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 (9:00 a.m., three years through second grade; 11:00 a.m., three and four-year-olds) 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.



Rock of Refuge © Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com

A Time for Joy

EASTER SUNDAY

**APRIL 5, 2026
9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**

This Week's Calendar

SUN. APRIL 5

- 9:00 a.m. Easter WorshipSanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Enhanced Coffee Hour..... Gathering Place
- 11:00 a.m. Easter WorshipSanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place

MON. APRIL 6

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room

TUES. APRIL 7

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby

WED. APRIL 8

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 11:30 a.m. WPA Punchbowl & Registration..... Dining Room
- 12:00 p.m. WPA Luncheon & Presentation Dining Room
- 6:00 p.m. Communications Committee..... Conference Room

THURS. APRIL 9

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Westminster Men's Group Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir3rd Floor Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir RehearsalChoir Room

FRI. APRIL 10

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

SUN. APRIL 12

- 9:15 a.m. Choir RehearsalsChoir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel

Announcements

FIRST HAND AID MEDICINE COLLECTION: April 5 & 12 On April 29, a group of folks from Westminster will be traveling to Cuba with Marc Bohland and First Hand Aid. They will deliver much needed medicine, food, and other supplies to Havana and other areas of Cuba. We will have a collection table available in the Gathering Place on Sunday, April 5 and 12. Visit the table to see the full collection list! Thank you for helping our friends in Cuba!

SING HANDEL'S HALLELUJAH CHORUS WITH THE CHOIR ON EASTER! April 5, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Join the choir in singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus to conclude our Easter service!

CHILDREN'S SPRING CALENDAR: Church School Break, April 5 and April 12 No church school or choirs after the service. Church school will resume on April 19. **Easter Sunday, April 5** The 9:00 a.m. service has nursery and full worship centers during the service, and the 11:00 a.m. service has nursery and worship centers for 3-4 year olds only. **Trivia Party, April 26** We will celebrate our church school year with a Trivia Party after the service.

YOUTH UPDATE: There will be no youth group on April 5 or 12. Have a great Spring Break!

DINE WITH NINE: Register for Dine with Nine in the Gathering Place following worship! Dine with Nine is a relaxed supper gathering that serves as a way to get to know other members of the Westminster community. It is a one-time gathering for groups of nine (or so) at someone's home or a local restaurant. Please reach out to Deanna at deannac@wpcgr.org with any questions.

ART & CREATIVITY GROUP: April 10, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Library A space for artistic souls to "byo" art projects. Spend a Friday afternoon in shared collaborative creativity. Led by Arya Jadhav.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: Today we receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Presbyterian Self Development of People. Donate using the envelopes in the pews or at pcusa.org/special-offerings



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.

The flowers in our Sanctuary are provided:

In Loving Memory of

Shirley Verspoor

Kelvin Keefer

Elsie Haines Johnson

My parents, Clifton & Barbara
Orlebeke

Floyd "Bud" Parks

Jim Prince

George & Dena Deemter
Jake & Nellie VanderWal

Their Parents:
Joan & Leonard Bartoszewicz
Marley & Doug Pearson

Charles Duerksen, Greg Duerksen,
Frank & Carol Sparks

Their Parents

Tom Worthington

John W. Kaye

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Meyers
Mr. & Mrs. Harold DeVreugd

Stephen Baron

Given by

Lori DeVries

Maxine Keefer

Perry Krumpolz

Kathy Orlebeke

Bradley Parks

Dan & Katie Prince

Nick & Deanna VanderWal

Lenny & Diane Bartoszewicz

Lynette & Brad Sparks

Cal & Cheryl Bremer

Doris Worthington

Lindsay, Jonathan, & Marcia Kaye

John & Karen Meyers

Cynthia Baron



The flowers in our Sanctuary are provided:

In Loving Memory of

Ken Pastoor & Bernard Houseward

My beloved Ron

Paul & Elizabeth Hardin,
Grandparents

My husband, Laurin
My sister, Katherine

Our parents: Martha & Daryl Morse
Milton & Emily Harmening

Jeanette Groot, Joanie's Mom
Virginia Dowling, Doug's Mom

In Honor of

Our families of birth and our
families of choice

Elizabeth's Parents:
Mark & Judy Bergsma
Adam's parents:
Bob & Sara Dickerson

Caring family

Our grandsons Jacob, Drake,
Callum, Jackson, Gavin, & Easton

Given by

Bernie Houseward

Judy Schmitt

Debra Mellentine

Lois Waldecker

Jim & Carolyn Morse

Doug & Joanie Dowling

Given by

Ben Boerkoel & Rick Rivard

Elizabeth & Adam Dickerson

Judy Schmitt

Jim & Carolyn Morse

