

MORNING WORSHIP
Love Bade Me Welcome

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“Return”
let this be the welcoming place
the place of return
and let it be built by a love
that bends towards those who return here
for it is a love that has been waiting
like a candle in the window
ever lighting the way back
and never willing to let go
the hope that each child
will return home

let it be the place where
the only appropriate response
to love that has come to the end of
its longing
is to kill the fatted calf,
feast and celebrate
send up balloons
and prepare the party
for that which has been lost
has returned to be among us
once more

—Roddy Hamilton

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.

Opening Voluntary

“Cedar Flute Concerto”
I. Andante

Kiegan Ryan (b. 2002)

++Call to Worship

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.
**For once we were lost and felt so far away;
now we have been found and welcomed home.**
Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.
We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

++Hymn 26

"Earth and All Stars!"

Earth and All Stars

Prayer of Confession

Whenever self obscures the needs of others,
forgive us.
Whenever we forget who is our neighbor,
forgive us.
Whenever we pass by on the other side,
forgive us.
Whenever we forget to say ‘Well done!’
forgive us.
Whenever we forget to simply give thanks,
forgive us.
Whenever we forget the path that we tread,
forgive us.
**For all those times we bring a tear to your eye, loving God,
bring us back into your forgiving arms,
and teach us once again, your way.**

Silent Confession



++ Stand in body or in spirit
Bold text is spoken by the congregation

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!"
(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

"Song of the Universal"
See bulletin insert for text.

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

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 15:1-3, 11-32

New Testament p. 78

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Meditation

"Love Bade Me Welcome"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Special Music

"Five Mystical Songs"

I. Easter Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
II. I got me flowers
III. Love bade me welcome
IV. The Call
V. Antiphon
See bulletin insert for texts.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith (Our Song of Hope, Reformed Church in America)

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure hope:
**Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true hope.**
Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
**We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.**

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

"Cedar Flute Concerto"
II. Romance

Kiegan Ryan

++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.
Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. We dedicate these gifts as signs of our hope in the future that you are making real in our lives and in the world. We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 700

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'm Gonna Live

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Cedar Flute Concerto"
III. Cadenza
IV. Allegro non troppo

Kiegan Ryan

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 Nancy Townley, John Birch, Nathan Williams, re:Worship, and LiturgyLink.
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AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Sunday, May 17
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Sunday
Rev. Jen Porter
Sanctuary Choir & Guests


Sunday, May 24
Day of Pentecost
Rev. Kyle Kooyers
Robert Ragoonanan

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

Lecture Recital with Mark Billy: May 10, Chapel following worship

Join us after worship to hear Mark discuss his work as a nationally-performing artist at the forefront of the current musical movement which combines the sacred cultural music of the Indigenous peoples and Western concert music.

Walk for Mental Health: May 17 Join us after church on May 17 to walk together to Cherry Park for fellowship, play, and lunch. We will be walking to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health and to financially support the Barbara Molhoek-Callum McPheeters Mental Health Fund. This year, we will also be celebrating our confirmands! RSVP to Nancy at nancyg@wpcgr.org so that she knows how much Jimmy Johns to order!



WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 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.**

This initiative and vision unite churches across the PC(USA), energizing our common mission to serve and embody the radical love of Jesus.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children & Families

Musicians..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate
.....Mark Billy, Baritone and Cedar Flutes
..... Violins: Eric Tanner, Clara Schubilske, Christopher Martin, Louisa Blood
..... Violas: Andrew Pool, Kristen Shoup
..... Cellos: Lee Copenhaver, Stacey Tanner
..... Bass: Mark Buchner
..... Harp: Beth Colpean
.....Sanctuary Choir

AV Team Dan Cisler, Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Sam Putt, Rachel Kamstra

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

Welcome to Westminster

MEMBERSHIP

If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Susan Jennings at susanj@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!



Hallelujah, Mike Moyers

Love Bade Me Welcome

MUSIC CELEBRATION SUNDAY

MAY 10, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Announcements

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT: In anticipation of Angie Kelley's retirement in early June, we are pleased to announce that after a thorough search process, we have hired Matt Russell as Westminster's new business manager. Matt brings extensive experience in financial planning/analysis and business leadership, as well as nonprofit board roles. He is also a member of Westminster. Matt's sense of missional call and professional experience align in a unique way to serve the church and all of our core missions. Matt will begin in mid-May, allowing for transition time. More information on recognizing Angie will be shared soon.

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE SORTING: May 11 The Downtown Food Pantry was a beneficiary of the Stamp Out Hunger Drive! We have two opportunities to help organize the donations on May 11, from 10:30 a.m. to noon or from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Contact briank@wpcgr.org to sign up!

DROP-IN CHOIR: May 17 Guests are invited to drop in and sing with the choir during worship! We have an optional rehearsal on May 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.

ELISABETH CIRCLE: May 19, 1:00 p.m., Library We will discuss the last chapter in *Appreciate These Things*.

HONORING OUR GRADUATES: On May 31, we will list the names of graduates (high school, college, and post-college) from our community in our bulletin. If you are a member, frequent attender, or alumni of Westminster's programs, we want to honor you! Visit the website to find a form to submit your information, or email christined@wpcgr.org. You may also submit this form on behalf of someone else.

REFLECTIONS: Submissions to the Summer 2026 edition of Reflections are due May 22! Email submission 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.

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 to sign up or for more information.

WESTMINSTER CAMP: September 3-6, Camp Henry Put Westminster Camp 2026 on your calendars! Enjoy some late summer days at exciting and beautiful Camp Henry by joining your church family at Camp 2026. Absolutely everyone is welcome! 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. MAY 10

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

MON. MAY 11

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 6:30 p.m. Connecting Deacons.....Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Supporting Deacons Pastoral Suite
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee..... Library

TUES. MAY 12

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee..... Library
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting..... Parlor

WED. MAY 13

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast..... Wolfgang's
- 7:30 a.m. WPA Bus Trip Report TimeFront Lobby
- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 6:00 p.m. Communications Committee Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Pub Night..... Offsite

THURS. MAY 14

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

SUN. MAY 17

- 9:15 a.m. Choir RehearsalChoir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Walk for Mental Health & Picnic Parking Lot
- 1:00 p.m. Abby DeVries Visitation..... Porter Hills
- 2:00 p.m. Funeral for Abby DeVries..... Porter Hills

One of the great English composers of the last century, **Ralph Vaughan Williams** composed an enormous amount of music for both secular and sacred settings. His sacred music in particular has become some of the most popular and often-heard music in the church, from major works like Fantasia on Christmas Carols, Hodie, and O Clap Your Hands to popular hymns such as For All the Saints, Come Down O Love Divine, and At the Name of Jesus. The Mystical Songs are sensitive, resplendent settings of the George Herbert texts which touch on themes of renewal, grace, and the totality of God - from intimate and loving to glorious and all-encompassing.

Kiegan Ryan is a citizen of the Cherokee nation, a cellist, and a composer of contemporary classical music. He composes chamber music, art song, opera, orchestral music, and film scores. Notable performances of his music have been given by Opera Montana and the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, along with ensembles at Juilliard and Lincoln Center. This concerto makes use of four different types of cedar flutes, and was commissioned and premiered by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in February 2026. This morning we will hear the Michigan premiere and the second presentation of this work.

Song of the Universal (2014)

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Come, said the Muse,
Sing me a song no poet yet has chanted,
Sing me the Universal.

In this broad Earth of ours,
Amid the measureless grossness and the slag,
Enclosed and safe within its central heart,
Nestles the seed Perfection.

By every life a share, or more or less,
None born but it is born—conceal'd or unconceal'd, the seed is waiting.

Give me, O God, to sing that thought!
Give me—give him or her I love, this quenchless faith
In Thy ensemble. Whatever else withheld, withhold not from us,
Belief in plan of Thee enclosed in Time and Space;
Health, peace, salvation universal.

All, all for Immortality!
Love, like the light, silently wrapping all!
Nature's amelioration blessing all!
The blossoms, fruits of ages—orchards divine and certain;
Forms, objects, growths, humanities, to spiritual Images ripening.
—Walt Whitman (1819-92)

Norwegian composer **Ola Gjeilo** is one of the most popular composers of choral music in the USA and Europe today. His albums include *Ola Gjeilo*, a collection of choral and piano works featuring *Tenebrae* and *Voces8*, as well as *Stone Rose* and *Piano Improvisations*. Other notable works include *Ubi caritas*, the *Sunrise Mass*, and *Luminous Night of the Soul*.

Five Mystical Songs (1911)

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

I. Easter

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
With him may'st rise;
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more, Just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part
With all thy art.
The cross taught all wood to resound his name
Who bore the same.
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key
Is best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song
Pleasant and long:
Or since all music is but three parts vied,
And multiplied;
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

II. I got me flowers

I got me flowers to strew thy way;
I got me boughs off many a tree:
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.

The Sun arising in the East,
Though he give light, and the East perfume;
If they should offer to contest
With thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this,
Though many suns to shine endeavour?
We count three hundred, but we miss:
There is but one, and that one ever.

III. Love bade me welcome

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lack'd anything.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.

IV. The call

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

V. Antiphon

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly:
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

The church with Psalms must shout.
No door can keep them out:
But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King

—Poetry by George Herbert (1593-1633)