

MORNING WORSHIP

Letting Go

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Please come home.

Find the place where your feet know where to walk and follow your own trail home"

—Jane Hooper

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 "Songs Without Words, Op. 62" Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47) IV. Morning Song

++Call to Worship

Elder Ted Duncan

To one and to all, Jesus said, "Come."

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden,

And I will give you rest."

Come with your doubts. Come with your hopes.

Come with your inadequacies. Come with your strengths.

Trust the call. Trust the invitation:

Come, All You People!

++Hymn 388

"Come All You People"

Uyai Mose

Prayer of Confession

Kat Hand

Holy God, we are reluctant to say 'yes' to you.

You call us sometimes to difficult paths, and we think of every reason we cannot follow:

We are too weak. We do not have the right gifts.

We are afraid. We can't see far enough ahead.

Holy God, remind us of what you can do with a human life.

O Lord, hear our prayer...

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.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Ministry of Music "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around" Freedom Song arr. Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around.

I'm gonna keep on walkin', keep on talkin', marchin' up to Freedom Land.

There are words like Freedom, sweet and wonderful to say.

On my heartstrings freedom sings all day everyday.

There are words like Liberty that almost make me cry.

If you had known what I know, you would know why.

Sanctuary Choir

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 1:1-14

New Testament p. 118

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Letting Go"

Rev. Jen Porter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 543

"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"

Green Tyler

Reception of Confirmands into Membership

Finn Baker, Elise Gerville-Réache, Robin Gregg, Gabe Larson, Mallory Larson, Pluto Molitor, Xiyuan "Cassey" Shen, & Coen Venema

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

"We Walk by Faith"

Samuel McFarland (1830-97) arr. Kenneth T. Kosche (b. 1947)

We walk by faith and not by sight; no gracious words we hear From Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke; but we believe Him near.

We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod;

But in his promise we rejoice, and cry "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our faith abound to seek where you are found:

That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light

We may behold you with endless sight.

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.

Almighty God, from whom comes each good gift of life, we raise our voices in gratitude for your boundless generosity. We offer ourselves and our resources to the work of your kin-dom, that through them you may heal your church, your people, the whole of your creation. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 853

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

Siyahamba

(We are marching... We are dancing... We are singing...)

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Triptych" (1974)

Dan Locklair (b. 1949)

III. Very Fast with Fire

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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AHEAD IN WORSHIP

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

Sunday, May 31
Trinity Sunday
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Kirk Singers

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

Walk for Mental Health: May 17 Reminder that we will be walking 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! If you'd like to contribute to the fund, you can designate a donation in the offering or scan the QR code in the announcements!



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

Preacher.....Jen Porter, Associate Pastor

LiturgistsSusan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission
.....Ted Duncan, Elder for Youth
..... Kat Hand, Minister with Youth & Young Adults
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister with Children & Families

Musicians..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate
..... Sanctuary Choir & Guests

Acolyte.....Phoebe Lowry

AV Team Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Marcos Calderon
.....Nate Masterson, Dan Cisler

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!



Letting Go

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MAY 17, 2026
10:00 A.M.

This Week's Calendar

SUN. MAY 17

- 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

MON. MAY 18

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnership Committee..... Library

TUES. MAY 19

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. Elisabeth Circle Library
- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Camp Henry Board Meeting..... Parlor

WED. MAY 20

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast.....Wolfgang's
- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 10:30 a.m. Book Group Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee Library
- 6:30 p.m. Music Committee..... Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Women's Fellowship Group Conference Room

THURS. MAY 21

- 9:30 a.m. Evergreen Circle Parlor
- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Westminster Men's Group Chapel

SUN. MAY 24

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

Announcements

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH! If you or someone you know is looking for a therapist, our Mental Health Referral Panel reference guide will help! Along with the panel, the Barbara Molhoek-Callum McPheeters Fund is available to help with financial assistance as needed. We are grateful for the generosity of the Molhoek family, the McPheeters family, and so many others that have made this fund possible. To date, Westminster has dispersed \$192,243.71 from the fund! If you'd like to donate, you can do so by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the page. Questions? Contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org. (A reminder of the suicide and crisis hotline for immediate help. Dial 9-8-8 or text GO to 9-8-8 for confidential support and conversation with a counselor.)



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.

Announcements

YOUTH UPDATE: This Sunday is confirmation Sunday! Following worship, the youth group will join the Walk for Mental Health. Once we arrive at Cherry Park, we will have sandwiches and play games. High schoolers will join after their rehearsal. Parents, you may pick up from Cherry Park between 1-1:30 p.m.

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

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP: **May 20, 6:30 p.m., Conference Room** A place for women to form connections, share, and learn together. Led by Katie Kenyon and Ellen Shupe. Our May 20 meeting will be a potluck!

TOGETHER WEST MICHIGAN: **May 21, 6:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church** Together West Michigan has been working for months meeting with members of our 26 member organizations to determine what our biggest collective concerns are that we would like to see addressed by our local government. Join us for an issues assembly to develop ownership for the identified issues of Childcare, Infrastructure (low income housing and transportation), Immigration policy change, and Policing.

REFLECTIONS: **May 22** Submissions to the Summer 2026 edition of Reflections are due May 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.

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.

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.

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU: Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated in the Stamp Out Hunger Drive, which brought in over 4000 pounds of food items for the Food Pantry! We are very grateful for all of the help we received to bring in this tremendous amount of food as well as the work done to sort and organize it for distribution. The Food Pantry continues to see high attendance as we are averaging over 100 people a week served this year.

STOCK/MUTUAL FUND DONORS: If you have recently donated stock or mutual funds and have not yet notified the church, please contact Angie Kelley at angiek@wpcgr.org or (616)717-5533 to let her know the number of shares and how to allocate your gift. Thank you!