

MORNING WORSHIP

Wide-Open Places and Generous Spaces

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"I can scroll and worry indoors, or I can step outside and remember how it feels to be part of something larger, something timeless, a world that reaches beyond me and includes me too. The spring ephemerals have only the smallest window for blooming, and so they bloom when the sunlight reaches them. Once the forest becomes enveloped in green and the sunlight closes off again, they will wait for another year. Sunlight always returns the next year." — Margaret Renkl

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

As we prepare for worship, we are invited to be attentive to God's presence in our midst.

Introit

"Morning Has Broken"

Scottish hymn

arr. Beverly A. Howard (b. 1951)

The text of this anthem can be found in the hymnal, hymn 664.

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Paul M. Vasile

The text of this anthem can be found in the hymnal, hymn 582.

(b. 1976)

Chapel Choir

++Call to Worship (based on 1 Peter 2)

Elder Jennifer Jordan

Christ is a living stone, precious in God's sight, and on him we build our lives.

We are God's people, and we proclaim God's mighty acts, for we have been called out of darkness and into the light.

Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people.

Once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.

With hearts lifted in praise, we come to worship.

++Hymn 321

"The Church's One Foundation"

Aurelia

(Stanzas 1, 2, 4, & 5)

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, your grace and love extend to all people. We are called to forgive others, as you forgive us. Too often however, we call out the sins of the powerful but fail to notice our own misuse of power. Our field of vision narrows, and we ignore others crying out for your justice. Restore us to your way, O God. Connect us with one another, and guide us to share power and grace as we follow 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!

++ Stand in body or in spirit

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Response Hymn 246

"Christ Is Alive!"

(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.

Truro

++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!

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements and partake of them immediately as you receive them. You may either dip your bread in the cup of grape juice, or take an individual cup from the trays provided. Please take your used cups with you as you return to your seats and place them in the cupholders in the back of your pew. If you would like the elements brought to you, please raise your hand and a server will bring them to you. All bread is gluten-free. Children are welcome to participate in this sacrament.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

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.

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion Music "Selections from Lyric Pieces" Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Prayer of Response

Gracious God, thank you for this feast. You feed us with the bread of life and quench our thirst with the wine of gladness. You nourish us with your presence and renew our hope in your future. All thanks and praise to you, giver of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 394

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Westminster Abbey

(Stanzas 1 & 4)

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Two Variations on Westminster Abbey"

Setting, David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

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.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Beautiful Savior"

Silesian hymn

arr. James Swearingen (b. 1947) and John Martin

The text of this anthem can be found in the hymnal, hymn 630.

Sanctuary Choir & Westminster Winds

Blessings with Younger Disciples

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

John 14:1-11

New Testament p. 108

Psalms 131

Old Testament p. 574

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Wide-Open Places and Generous Spaces"

Rev. Jeff Chu

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 318

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

St. Peter

++Affirmation of Faith (from A New Creed, United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

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 "Hymnsong: Fantasia on Nearer, Still Nearer"

Westminster Winds

Andrew David Perkins (b. 1978)

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

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

Sunday, May 17

**Seventh Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Sunday**

Rev. Jen Porter
Sanctuary Choir & Guests

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

Digital Security: May 3, Chapel following worship

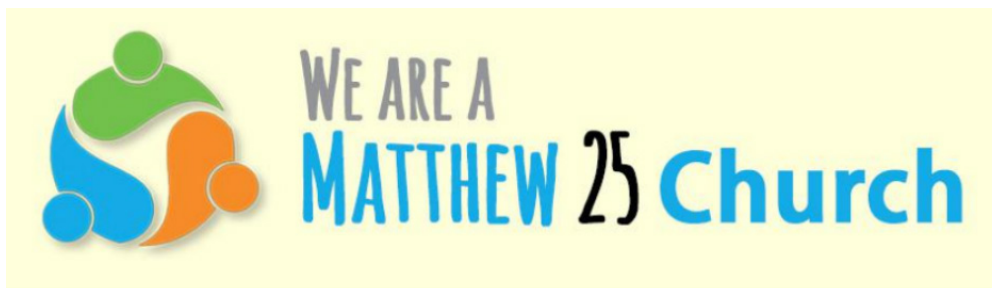
Do you have questions about digital security? Join us on May 3 for an adult faith formation conversation centered around digital literacy and security. Learn about some simple ways that you can keep yourself safe online, and bring questions so that we can all learn together.

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.

All Church Walk for Mental Health: May 17 following worship

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 know's how much Jimmy Johns to order!



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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher.....Rev. Jeff Chu, Guest Preacher
Liturgists.....Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
.....Jennifer Jordan, Elder for Personnel
Musicians..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
.....Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate
.....Westminster Winds, Directed by John Martin
.....Chapel Singers
.....Sanctuary Choir
Acolyte.....William Huntington
AV Team.....Joe Putt, Nate Masterson, Sam Putt, Dan Cisler
Ushers.....Bernie Smith, Kathy Smith, John Boerman, Sherrill Vore
.....Marian Vanderwall, Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel

About Today's Guest Preacher

Ordained in the Reformed Church in America, Rev. Jeff Chu is a self-described storyteller, editor, writer, reporter, pilgrim, author of "Does Jesus Really Love Me?" (2013) and "Good Soil" (2025), and co-author of "Wholehearted Faith" (2021) with the late Rachel Held Evans. Jeff is also a Ph.D. student in theology at the University of Stellenbosch. We are delighted to welcome Jeff to the pulpit today.

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!

616-456-1456 / westminstergr.org / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Sun, Edvard Munch

**Wide-Open Places and
Generous Spaces**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Announcements

LET'S HANG OUT AND GRILL! May 4, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Millennium Park, Open Shelter A 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.

YOUTH UPDATE: We are heading into May, and we want to meet you! Middle school youth group will be after church, with takeout lunch, and 5th graders are invited. Please join us in welcoming them. High school night will be at 5:30 p.m. Remember, no matter how often you join us, there is a place for you at WPCYG.

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.

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 so we can have enough music and robes available.

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.



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 3

- 10:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Middle School Youth Group..... Youth Room
- 5:30 p.m. High School Night..... Dining Room

MON. MAY 4

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

TUES. MAY 5

- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Session Dinner Dining Room
- 7:30 p.m. Session Meeting..... Dining Room

WED. MAY 6

- 6:30 a.m. High School Prayer Breakfast..... Wolfgang's
- 9:30 a.m. Open Door MinistryFront Lobby
- 10:30 a.m. Book GroupParlor

THURS. MAY 7

- 10:30 a.m. Food PantryFront Lobby
- 5:00 p.m. Tech Team Meeting Online
- 5:00 p.m. Westminster Men's Group Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. FASD Support GroupMultipurpose Room

FRI. MAY 8

- 7:00 p.m. Mark Billy & Robert Ragoonanan Recital Chapel

SAT. MAY 9

- 9:30 a.m. Music Celebration Sunday Rehearsal.....Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Stamp Out Hunger DriveFront Lobby

SUN. MAY 10

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