

MORNING WORSHIP

And the Nominees Are...

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?”

—Constitutional Question for Ordination/Installation, PC(USA) Book of Order

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

"Gratitude"

Brandon Lake (b. 1990)

Wendell Remy, Tenor

++Call to Worship

God is calling. Are we listening?

We are here, and we are ready.

God is our rock and our redeemer, the one in whom we trust.

Our hearts, minds, and souls belong to God who created us, named us, and calls us. We give thanks for God’s steadfast love!

++Hymn 410

"God Is Calling through the Whisper"

W żłobie leży

Prayer of Confession

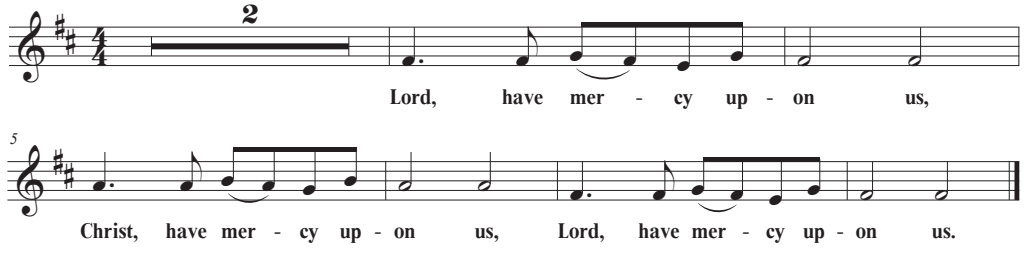
Almighty God, when faced with overwhelming earthly powers, we too often crumble. We fear this world. We fear losing our status, our stability, our station more than we fear you. Forgive our shortcomings, and teach us to trust in you when we take a risk for what we know is right.

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee Afdahl



Assurance of God's Grace

In a world that demands we be more, do more, and have more, we pause to center our hearts in this good news:

God is love. And there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

This is the pure grace of God:

We are beloved children of God, free to make our home in God's new creation.

++Response Hymn 42

"Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure"

Winchester New

(Stanza 1)

Your faithfulness, O Lord, is sure in all your words, your gracious deeds; you gently lift all burdened souls and well provide for all our needs.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Meditation: Going Back to the Source"

Roelof Bijkerk

Roelof Bijkerk, Piano

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Children three years through fourth 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

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Old Testament p. 49

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"And the Nominees Are..."

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith (from a Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA)

Susan Jennings

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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

"Reflets dans l'eau"

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Reflections in the Water

Roelof Bijkerk, Piano

++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.

Merciful and gracious God, you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you. Bless them, and bless our lives, that together we may share your mercy and grace for the world. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 69

"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

Here I Am

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Basse de Trompette"

Jean-Adam Guilan (1680-1739)

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

Worship Services are at 10:00 a.m.
on Sunday Mornings.

Sunday, August 30

Afraid to Look

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Exodus 3:1-15

Kat Hand & Emma Kloostra, violins

Sunday, September 6

Worship in the Sanctuary

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

Psalms 23

Worship at Camp Henry

Rev. Jen Porter

Sanctuary Choir

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor

.....Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission

.....Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families

MusicJanlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate

.....Wendell Remy, Tenor

.....Roelof Bijkerk, Piano

AV TeamIan Dengerink-Van Til, Marcos Calderon

.....Ricky Rivard, Dan Cisler

Ushers.....Bernie & 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 through fourth grade, 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 those finished with third 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

The middle & high school youth groups gather in the summer! To see our upcoming events and sign up for our newsletter, visit westminstergr.org/youth-ministries/



Mother of Moses, Simeon Solomon

And the Nominees Are...

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

AUGUST 23, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Summer Books for Children's Worship

Next Week: *Nile Crossing* by Beebe

This Week: *Frederick* by Leo Lionni

Leo Lionni's story is about a little mouse who gathers something unusual for the long winter. Winter is coming, and all the mice are gathering food... except for Frederick. But when the days grow short and the snow begins to fall, it's Frederick's poems that warm the hearts and spirits of his fellow field mice.



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.

This Week's Calendar

SUN. AUGUST 23

10:00 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.....Gathering Place

MON. AUGUST 24

9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby

12:00 p.m. Justice CommitteeLibrary

6:00 p.m. UCCF MeetingConference Room

TUES. AUGUST 25

9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby

WED. AUGUST 26

9:30 a.m. Open Door Ministry Front Lobby

THURS. AUGUST 27

9:00 a.m. Presbyterian Foundation Meeting.....Chapel

10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Front Lobby

SUN. AUGUST 30

10:00 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.....Gathering Place

Announcements

YOUTH NIGHT: August 23, 5:30 p.m., Mulick Park All middle and high school youth are welcome at our Youth Night this evening at Mulick Park. There will be a cookout and organized games & activities. Please RSVP in our newsletter. All parents and youth are asked to join for this important year kickoff event. Childcare will be provided.

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 3 The fall is a great time to join the sanctuary choir, as we all start fresh with new repertoire for the 2026-27 program year! Our first Thursday rehearsal is September 3 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This semester we will sing a range of music from around the world from the Renaissance to the 21st century. All are welcome!

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 3 New members are welcome, and fall is a great time to join the Bell Choir! Our first Thursday rehearsal is September 3 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please reach out to Minister of Music Robert Ragoonanan at robertr@wpcgr.org with any questions or if you plan on joining as a new member. The Bell Choir is directed by Sarah Faasse.

WPA LUNCHEON: September 9, 1:00 p.m. For our next Westminster Presbyterian Adults luncheon, we will learn about the pipe organ! Janlee Richter and Robert Ragoonanan will give a demonstration on the organ, and Carolyn Morse will share its history. Register on the website or by calling Erika at 616-717-5529 by September 3 at noon.

REFLECTIONS: August 28 Interested in submitting an article to the Fall 2026 edition of Reflections? We are still accepting submissions through Friday, August 28! Submit your articles, poems, artwork, or photographs to reflections@wpcgr.org.

THANK YOU! Thanks to everyone who donated to the Food Pantry this past week for our first double match day with Meijer's Simply Give fundraiser. We raised over \$6,000 for the Food Pantry last week! This will be a huge help to the Pantry going into the fall. Our final double match day is September 12, so if you missed out last week and still hope to participate, there will be one more opportunity to do so soon.



DONATIONS can be made by scanning the QR code, through our secure online giving site, or by check sent to the church office. Email mattr@wpcgr.org or call (616)717-5533 with questions.