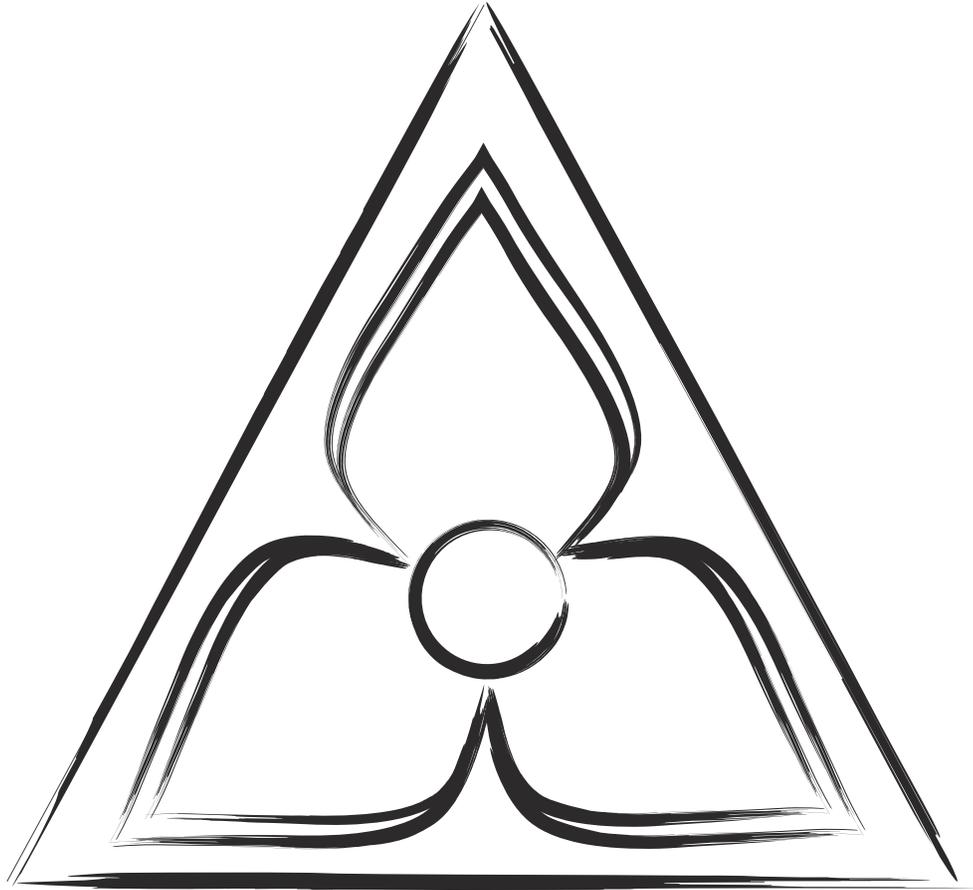




WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Give It Up

THE FIFTH
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 5, 2020

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

Give It Up

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*I abandon all that I think I am, all that I hope to be, all that I believe I possess. I let go of the past,
I withdraw my grasping hand from the future, and in the great silence of this moment, I alertly rest my soul.
— Howard Thurman in “Deep Is the Hunger”*

Opening Voluntary *(A musical prayer offered on behalf of the people of God.)*

“Overture” from *Royal Fireworks Suite*
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

G. F. Handel

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

++Call to Worship

Susan Jennings

One: God calls us out of our busy lives

All: to lay down our burdens and rest awhile.

One: God calls us out of our busy lives

All: to notice what God is doing.

One: God calls us out of our busy lives

All: to worship and adore the One who gives us all we need.

++Opening Hymn 393

“O Day of Rest and Gladness”

Es flog ein kleins waldvögelein

**O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
on you, the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing “Holy, holy, holy” to the great God triune.**

**On you, at earth’s creation the light first had its birth;
on you, for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious sent Spirit forth from heaven.
And thus on you, most glorious, a triple light was given.**

**On you, God’s people, meeting, the Holy Scripture hear,
Christ’s living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.
New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.**

Call to Confession

(Trusting that God is love, we express our lament, our brokenness, and our failings to God.)

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, you know us completely. You see that we carry burdens of brokenness, pain, and sorrow. You see the wrongs we have hidden and tried to cover up—our prejudice, our desire for power, our indifference to the ways we support oppressive systems. Forgive us, God of mercy, and free us from all that weighs us down. Free us to live in the power of your Holy Spirit and in the light of Christ’s love. Hear us as we pour our hearts out to you...

Silent Confession

++stand as you are able

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us,
Christ, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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The Assurance of God's Grace

One: The Good News is stronger than we could imagine.

All: Nothing, indeed, nothing, in all creation can separate us from God's love.

One: The Good News is more expansive than we could hope for.

All: The grace and love of Christ are for each and for all!

One: The Good News is more transformational than we thought possible.

All: The Spirit is always breathing new life in us and among us!

One: Alleluia!

All: Amen.

++Response Hymn 366

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Hyfrydol

**Love divine, all loves excelling. Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.**

++The Summary of the Law and the Passing of the Peace

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

One: We are called to love our God, with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

All: Thanks be to God for the grace we need to live into that calling.

One: Thanks be to Christ for the love we need to live into that calling.

**All: Thanks be to the Spirit for the power and wisdom we need to live
into that calling.**

One: We have what we need and it is enough. So, let us live in peace.

All: Yes, may we live in peace.

One: And let us pass on that peace to each other,
May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Hymn of Promise"

Natalie Sleeth

Maria Schoon, Soprano
Michael Furman, Baritone

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

(We pray that the words of Scripture may be encountered as God's Word.)

Scripture

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

New Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Give It Up"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: 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.

Offering Our Lives

Offertory Music

"Kyrie"

Andrea Klouse

Maria Schoon, Soprano

Michael Furman, Baritone

++Doxology (*means "words of glory"—they are a traditional expression of praise to God.*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Prayer of Dedication

Burden carrying God, as we leave this hour of worship, mindful of the music and the mourning that surrounds us in the world, we offer ourselves to you again and ask for grace and courage to be fully present to the joys and sorrows that surround us. As we lean into the spiritual rest that only you can provide, keep teaching us to do justice, love kindness, and walk with you all our days. In Christ's name. Amen.

++Closing Hymn 182

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Kingsfold

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.**

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"The Rejoicing" from *Royal Fireworks Suite*
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

G. F. Handel

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preachers Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Liturgists Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership
..... Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Executive Pastor
Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister

Music in Worship
Maria Schoon, Soprano
Michael Furman, Baritone

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

July 12—Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

The Great Connector

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching
Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19—Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

En Route

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching
Scripture: Genesis 28:10-19a

Join us for a Zoom - After Worship Coffee Time

Time: July 5, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time
Jeremy Bork is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Coffee Time
Join Zoom Meeting
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83134099021>
Meeting ID: 831 3409 9021

The call-in number is 929-205-6099. If people dial that on their phone as if they're calling someone, it will bring them into our Zoom meeting.

DEVOTION FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 5

Prayer for the week: God of the covenant, in our baptism you called us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us courage like you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. *Presbyterian Church (USA). Book of Common Worship p. 365.*

(Announcements following on page 5-6 — calendar on page 7)

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. LYNETTE SPARKS - INTRODUCTIONS: As our new senior pastor and head of staff, Rev. Lynette Sparks begins her ministry with us we would like to introduce ourselves to her in a new way. Families and individuals are invited to record a short video clip and email it to danc@wpcgr.org. Please keep videos around one minute in length. You may share what is important for her to know about your family or our congregation and perhaps your favorite restaurant or things to do in the Grand Rapids area. Or, you may choose to mail a card to the church office with a picture and introduction. As she joins us in ministry, we will continue to find new ways for her get to know our congregation. Rev. Sparks will again be in the parking lot off Jefferson ready to greet you safely following the worship service on **Sunday, July 26 from 11:15a until 12:15p**. Enter from Jefferson, wave from your car and call out a greeting and then please exit onto Oakes.



ZOOM COMMUNION: On **Wednesday, July 8** we are offering a live Zoom communion service **at 7:00 p.m.** The one who says “I am the bread of life...” invites us to gather around his table. We gather in community among signs of promise and hope where strength and grace abound. [Click here to sign up](#) to participate. Please have bread and juice or wine ready and a candle if you have one. Sign ups will be open until Tuesday, July 7, at 12:00 p.m. You will receive an email with your Zoom link and instructions on Wednesday morning. All are welcome.

NEW GARDEN AT WPC: The food pantry has planted a garden to harvest and give to our clients. We are starting small with peppers and tomatoes and hope to expand to a community garden next year!

WCDC IS OPEN AND HAVING FUN! This week we are bringing creativity to a new level. The school age group will be having a slime making workshop. They will get to explore different textures and color combinations. Bring on the messy fun!!

YOUTH GROUP IN THE PARK: **The good news:** we’re canceling Zoom youth group on Sunday, July 12. **The better news:** We’re having Youth Group in the Park on **Thursday, July 9 at 7pm at Riverside Park!** We’ll play some physically distanced no-contact games and spend some time catching up with one another IN PERSON! This event is for middle school and high school youth, and we will divide into separate groups as necessary. If you are a youth or know a youth who may be interested in joining, please email Jeremy at jeremyb@wpcgr.org for more information. Refer to the weekly youth email for guidelines and details.

VISITORS: Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you’d like to know about the life and ministry of Westminster, visit our website at westminstergr.org, or contact Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org.

WAY FORWARD UPDATE - JULY 1: In these COVID days, The Way Forward Group continues their biweekly meetings discerning our path forward. Currently, the group has created some guidelines for small groups that may wish to worship together or meet together during the summer. They have also received some guidelines for safe funeral services from the Pastoral Care Team. When these guidelines are approved by the Session, we will make them available to you. While we have restarted livestream worship from our sanctuary on Sunday mornings, our building will stay closed for weekly activities and Sunday worship at least through the summer. STAY SAFE everyone!

TECHNOLOGY TEAM UPDATE: Your technology team is working tirelessly to enhance our online worship experience. It would be most helpful to the tech volunteers if we would refrain from pointing out problems or sharing constructive criticism in the chat window during worship. By the time any one of us notices a problem the team is already working on it, and fielding commentary about it in real time only adds pressure and slows down the process. If you are experiencing tech problems, please send an email to livestream@wpcgr.org. That email address is actively monitored during each worship service.

ENGAGING WITH RACIAL JUSTICE: Purchase a Black Lives Matter yard sign! 2-sided, 18” x 24” Black Lives Matter signs with metal feet are available for a suggested donation of \$10. Cost per sign is \$3.46 and proceeds over that amount will be donated to Black Lives Matter Greater Grand Rapids. Please send orders to Dan Van Meurs at danvm56@live.com and pay [through this link](#). You may pick up your signs in the church parking lot on July 6, 2:00-4:00p and July 8, 6:00-8:00p. If you need a delivery, let Dan know when you order.

FOOD PANTRY STILL SERVING: Thank you to First UMC for hosting a weekly food drive for our pantry collecting fresh produce and canned goods. We continue to serve clients on Thursdays with a grab and go style format. We served over 350 households last month. We are still collecting Spartan receipts so keep sending them in!

OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY has been going strong since March with Bible stories, lessons, story and song videos, crafts, games, and activities all online. If you haven't had the privilege of receiving these, please let Nancy Greidanus know at nancyg@wpcgr.org and we'll put you on the list.

During the summer months, we vary our worship center curriculum to provide a time for children to apply biblical concepts to daily life situations by reading excellent children's illustrated books. Children will think and talk about how we should treat God's creation, each other, and people who have lives that are unfamiliar to us; and what we can do to share God's love and beauty with others. We conclude our time together by lighting the Christ Candle and praying. This summer we will enjoy the illustrated books again, only it will be online with our many fabulous WPC teachers reading the stories. The link for these videos will be included on our website each week so that everyone, young and old can enjoy a good book!

Children's Worship summer book for July 5 is *A Friend for Henry* – by Jenn Bailey, read by Erin Molhoek. Find out who Mrs. Molhoek has listening to her story at her house!

Henry has been on the lookout for a friend. A friend who shares. A friend who listens. Maybe even a friend who likes things to stay the same and all in order, as Henry does. But on a day full of too close, and too loud, when nothing seems to go right, will Henry ever find a friend—or will a friend find him? With insight and warmth, this heartfelt story from the perspective of a boy on the autism spectrum celebrates the everyday magic of friendship.

Main Focus: We are all different in many ways, and we like to have a friend. **Activities:** “Be a Friend” activities (send cards, pictures, or gifts to friends who are grieving.) Contact nancyg@wpcgr.org if you didn't receive the email with the names of our grieving families.

THANK YOU TEACHERS: We are so grateful for YOU, our Nurturing Center, Worship Center, and Church School teachers at Westminster. Messages from your students. Thank you for being so much fun when we learn stories and play games. I like it because we get to learn about God. I like to hear stories about the desert and eat snacks on feast day. I like to do the coloring and art responses. The teachers are nice. I liked when teachers give me the choice to make art that I like to create. Thank you for teaching me how to live and how to love other people. We like visiting the Food Pantry, doing drama, and making prayer pretzels. I like that you make me feel welcome. I love you and can't wait to see you again.

Photographs taken earlier this year



- We like it when you are funny when we do our drama.
- We liked learning about Passover and about the Lord's Supper so that now we can understand communion better.
- Thank you for asking us good questions and letting us do a lot of things.

Calendar of Events

**– WESTMINSTER'S BUILDING IS STILL CLOSED –
ALL MEETINGS TAKE PLACE VIRTUALLY
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOOD PANTRY**

- SUN. JULY 5** 10:00 amWorship Online
11:00 amZoom Coffee Hour
- TUES. JULY 7** 7:00 pmSocial Justice Comm. discussion on BLM
- WED. JULY 8** 4:00 pm Way Forward Committee
7:00 pmZoom Communion
- THUR. JULY 9** 7:00 pm Youth Group in Riverside Park
- FRI. JULY 10** 4:00 pm Camp Henry Executive Committee
- SUN. JULY 12** 10:00 amWorship Online
11:00 amZoom Coffee Hour
4:00 pm Middle School Youth Check-in
5:00 pmHigh School Youth Check-in
- MON. JULY 13** 6:30 pm Session
- WED. JULY 15** 4:00 pm Personnel Committee
6:00 pm Technology Committee
- THUR. JULY 16** 7:30 am Core Missions Council
- FRI. JULY 17** 4:00 pm Camp Henry Executive Committee
- SUN. JULY 19** 10:00 amWorship Online
11:00 am ZOOM Coffee Hour

ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES: As we seek to be active in response to the racism and struggles that continue to grip our nation and community, we must not underestimate the power of educating ourselves. We must learn to face the ways racism has been bred into us as white people and how we benefit from racist systems. This is necessary if we are going to be part of real, systemic change. Educating ourselves, facing our white privilege, and praying for healing are, in fact, meaningful actions as we learn to be allies in this anti-racism work. Throughout the past few days, people from our Social Justice and Mission Partnerships committees have been gathering resources. An abbreviated list of those resources [is attached here](#). It is also important that we work in partnership in our community. We have many community partners and will continue in those relationships. Another email later this week will share information about our partnerships. If you would like more resources, please reach out to [Rev. Laurie Hartzell](#) or to someone from our Social Justice or Mission Partnerships committees.