



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Sower*, by artist Tissot, James Jacques Joseph, 1836-1902

## *The Great Connector*

THE SIXTH  
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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JULY 12, 2020

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

*The Great Connector*

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.*

— Wendell Berry, “The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture”

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

“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

arr. Robert Powell

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

**++Call to Worship** (*based on Psalm 65*)

One: Together we praise you, God of creation!

**All: You are the hope of all the earth.**

One: You surround us with beauty, and give us all we need.

**All: We stand in awe of all you’ve made.**

One: Let us worship you with joy!

**All: Let us break out in song!**

**++Opening Hymn 309**

“Come, Great God of All the Ages”

*Abbot’s Leigh*

**Come, great God of all the ages; make your earthly mission known;  
speak through every deed and person; let your way and will be shown.  
Guide the church to true commitment; give direction now, we ask;  
fit us for the work of building; dedicate us to the task.**

**Come, Christ Jesus, flesh and spirit, sure foundation, cornerstone;  
help us form the church eternal; may your vision be our own.  
Send a message to each follower; lead all people to your way;  
urge us to strong faith and action as we build the church today.**

**Come, great Spirit, in and with us, tune our ears to hear your call;  
through the moving of your presence, let redeeming love recall  
ministry in dedication, love embodied in our deeds;  
challenge us to do your bidding, see your purpose, fill all needs.**

**Come, O come, in celebration, household of the one true God;  
in commitment and rejoicing let us go where Christ has trod;  
as we act in faith and reverence, let us, Lord, the future see;  
place us in the church triumphant, now and for eternity.**

Call to Confession

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

**Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we confess that we fail to heed your word. We offer token attempts to follow you, but when your gospel asks more of us, we quickly wilt. We neglect to plant seeds of justice and mercy. Still, you patiently wait for us to listen once again. Forgive us, Holy One. Nurture the soil of our hearts. Grow in us a passionate faith that bears the fruit of your eternal realm. Hear us as we pray..**

*Silent Confession*

++Stand as you are able

## Kyrie

### Lord, Have Mercy

Lee J. Afdahl

Musical notation for the hymn "Lord, Have Mercy" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a fermata over a whole note G, followed by a second measure with a fermata over a whole note G. The lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us," are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics "Christ, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." The music consists of a simple, melodic line with some ties and slurs.

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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

Variations on "Beach Spring"

Lee Burswold

Lee Copenhaver, Cello

Helen Hofmeister, Piano

## THE WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

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

Rev. Lynette Sparks

### Scripture

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

New Testament

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

Kyle Kooyers

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

Fantasia on "Sojourner"  
Lee Copenhaver, Cello  
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Lee Burswold

**++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**

**The seeds of your kingdom are forever being sown into our lives and into our world, faithful God. We offer our resources and ourselves to you, once again, that our lives may be fertile soil for love, justice, peace, and hope to take root and flourish. Yes, may your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. In Christ's name. Amen.**

**++Closing Hymn 459****"O Word of God Incarnate"**

Munich

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

**The church from you, dear Savior, received this gift divine;  
and still that light is lifted on all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,  
amid the rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.**

**O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold  
to bear before the nations your true light, as of old;  
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this our path to trace,  
till, clouds and storms thus ended, we see you face to face.**

**++Charge and Benediction**

## Closing Voluntary

"Prelude in F Major"  
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Dietrich Buxtehude

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Liturgists ..... Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Executive Pastor

..... Kyle Kooyers, Associate Director of the Kaufman Institute

Minister of Music ..... Helen Hofmeister

Music in Worship  
Lee Copenhaver, Cello  
Janet Carter, Soprano

### AHEAD IN WORSHIP

#### **July 19—Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

##### ***En Route***

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-19a

Music: Maria Schoon, Soprano

Michael Furman, Baritone

#### **July 26—Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Jen Porter preaching

Music: Cheri Reid, Soprano

Josh Leckrone, Baritone

### **Join us for a Zoom - After Worship Coffee Time**

Time: July 12, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time

Laurie Hartzell is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Coffee Hour on Sunday, July 12

Join Zoom Meeting

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84979923494?pwd=ajkzKoRTTWVKYtdabjZocFJ2Q25Hdz09>

Meeting ID: 849 7992 3494

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 12

Prayer for the week: Mother Teresa once said, "Our vocation is to belong to Jesus so completely that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. What you and I must do is nothing less than putting our love for Christ into practice. The important thing is not how much we accomplish, but how much love we put to our deeds every day. Do small things with great love. That is the measure of our love for God."

(taken from *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals* by Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove and Enuma Okoro, pg. 351.)

(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](mailto: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.



**MUSIC IN TODAY'S WORSHIP:** Lee Burswold (1941-2017), the composer of the cello music heard today, was published through the Lorenz Music Corporation. His bio on their website includes the following information: He held a Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Northwestern University, and a Ph.D in music from the University of Rochester (Eastman School of Music). His publications include two books on Jazz and a wide variety of church, brass, and string literature.

**COVID-19 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND UPDATE:** As of July 1, the fund has accrued \$36,417 in contributions! Thank you, Westminster, for your generous response in offering financial assistance to our marginalized community that has been hard hit by the pandemic. Our most recent contributions have gone to the La Lucha Fund, which was developed as an emergency response to COVID-19 for undocumented and mixed status families, the Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation, and a second round of donations to Dégagé Ministries and Heartside Ministires. While our church building is closed, many of our neighbors that are a part of our Open Door Ministry are being provided respite through Dégagé and Heartside Ministries. In total, we have made contributions to 11 different agencies or organizations, including Cherry Health Services, Grand Rapids Area Mutual Aid Network (GRAMAN was created in response to the pandemic. It is a collection of GR area neighbors offering mutual aid to each other), NAACP, ACCESS, Grand Rapids Urban League, Family Promise, and Hispanic Center of Western MI, along with the agencies listed previously. Once again, thank you for being a source of hope and light in these challenging times.

**NEW GARDEN AT WPC:** The food pantry has planted a garden to harvest and give to our clients. We started small this year with only peppers and tomatoes and hope to expand to a community garden next year! Everything is growing well and should be ready to harvest soon for our pantry patrons.

**WCDC IS OPEN AND HAVING FUN!** This summer WCDC children have been having a blast with water day on Fridays, and picnics on Wednesdays. Coming up this month we will have a painting class in the art room, and chalk painting in the parking lot. "Here is a cute picture of Sarah's daughter, Zoey, on the slip and slide. Sarah is WCDC's cook."



**VISITORS:** Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you'd like to know about the life and ministry of Westminster, visit our website at [westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org), or contact Susan Jennings at [susanj@wpcgr.org](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org).

**WAY FORWARD UPDATE - JULY 7:** 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!

**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!

**PRAYER and ACTION:** The Social Justice and Faith Formation committees will continue their prayerful discussions exploring how we are being invited to pray and act in these days. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, July 22 at 7 p.m.** Email [faithworks@wpcgr.org](mailto:faithworks@wpcgr.org) if you would like to join us and need a Zoom link for this meeting.

**ONLINE WORSHIP: LOVE TO OUR TECH TEAM:** It was a joy to move back to livestreaming last Sunday. With new cameras, older equipment and some hiccups on Youtube, our fabulous tech team experienced difficulties, even though earlier practices went off without a hitch. Stuff happens! Here are some pointers on what to do on a Sunday if there seem to be technical difficulties. **First**, before worship, please be sure that your computer speakers are ON, with the volume turned up. Also confirm that the volume on YouTube is turned up (you can do this at the speaker icon that appears when you hover at the bottom of the view screen). You may also want to consider wearing earbuds or headphones. **Second**, please remember that 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. **Finally**, if you are experiencing tech problems, please send an email to [livestream@wpcgr.org](mailto:livestream@wpcgr.org). That email address is actively monitored during each worship service. We expect significant improvements in quality once our new equipment arrives and as we tweak our processes. Until then, thanks to all for patience and forbearance as we navigate this new territory together!

**CHILDREN AGES 1-99** will enjoy engaging with our children's summer worship program! You can find it by going to our Westminster YouTube channel each week. We are enjoying illustrated books read by our WPC teachers and their families, books that help us 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. Also, if you'd like to be on the list for children's special activities, songs, and lessons in addition to the YouTube channel, let Nancy Greidanus know at [nancyg@wpcgr.org](mailto:nancyg@wpcgr.org). Be on the lookout for more songs with Miss Elise!

**Our Children's Worship summer book for July 12** is *Nya's Long Walk - A Step at a Time* by Linda Park and read by Carla Fortuna. A young South Sudanese girl goes on a journey that requires determination, persistence, and compassion. Young Nya takes little sister Akeer along on the two-hour walk to fetch water for the family. But Akeer becomes too ill to walk, and Nya faces the impossible: her sister and the full water vessel together are too heavy to carry. As she struggles, she discovers that if she manages to take one step, then another, she can reach home and Mama's care. An afterword discusses the process of providing clean water in South Sudan to reduce waterborne illness. **Main Focus:** Showing love by being a good helper can be hard work. **Activity:** Brainstorm ways to conserve our water supply and to help those who have a hard time finding good water and follow-up with actions.

**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.

# Calendar of Events

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

- SUN. JULY 12** 10:00 am .....Worship Online  
11:00 am .....Zoom Coffee Hour
- 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 am .....Worship Online  
11:00 am ..... ZOOM Coffee Hour
- MON. JULY 20** 6:00 pm .....Mission Partnership Committee  
7:00 pm .....Trustees
- TUES. JULY 21** 4:00 pm ..... Way Forward Group  
7:00 pm .....Nominating Committee
- WED. JULY 22** 7:00 pm .....SJC/Faith Formation  
Faithworks Group Meeting
- FRI. JULY 24** 4:00 pm .....Camp Henry Executive Committee
- SUN. JULY 26** 10:00 am .....Worship Online  
11:00 am ..... Parking Lot Meet & Greet w/ Rev. Sparks

**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.