



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



En Route

THE SEVENTH
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 19, 2020

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

En Route

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

Our experiences with God do not happen in a vacuum. They are not restricted to special places, since God is not restricted to any place. But they do occur in specific places, and when we acknowledge this fact, we can welcome such places as having meaning for our spiritual lives, our lives with God.

— David Rensberger, *Reflections on a Spirituality of Place*

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

“Come, O Come, Lord of Life”

Hans Klotz

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

++Call to Worship

Nathaniel Fryer

One: Surely, God is in this place,

All: and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

One: Surely, Christ is in this place,

All: reconciling us to God.

One: Surely, the Spirit is in this place,

All: leading us to worship with body, mind, and soul.

++Opening Hymn 49

“The God of Abraham Praise”

Leoni

**The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.**

**Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.
In prophet’s word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.**

**Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.**

**You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!**

Call to Confession

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

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we confess that we run away from the demands of being your disciple. We are impatient with your way and with your timing. We fail to trust your promises. Fearful of scarcity, we neglect our neighbors, rather than trust in your abundance. Forgive us and restore us. Bring us back to you. Loving God, hear us as we pray...

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

"How Can I Keep from Singing"

arr. Ginger Littleton

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.)

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Scripture

Genesis 28:10-19a

Old 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

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

"A Clare Benediction"
 Maria Schoon, Soprano
 Michael Furman, Baritone

John Rutter

++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

God of mystery and grace, you have met us and blessed us with abundance. In thanksgiving we offer these gifts and our lives back to you, that you might use them to bless all who long to feel your presence. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

++Closing Hymn 65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Cwm Rhondda

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.

Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,

be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.

Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises

I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Toccata in C Minor"
 Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Johann Pachelbel

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Liturgists Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Pastoral Care
..... Nathaniel Fryer, Seminarian-Princeton Theological Seminary
Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister

Music in Worship
Maria Schoon, Soprano
Michael Furman, Baritone

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

July 26 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Jen Porter preaching
Music: Viviana Kloostra, Soprano
and Josh Leckrone, Baritone

August 2 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching
An Impossible Assignment
Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21
Music: Kathy VanderVelde and John Schlafley, Singers
Helen Hofmeister, Harpsichord

Join us for a Zoom - After Worship Coffee Time

Time: July 19, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time
Rev. Jen Porter is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Coffee Hour on Sunday, July 19

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85422009454?pwd=T2hPdENvZoQ3WXp4a1BJdm5ReWZRdz09>

Meeting ID: 854 2200 9454
Password: 237719

The call-in number is (1)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 19

Prayer for the week: The grace of God means something like: "Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are, because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you."

There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too. — by Frederick Buechner

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. LYNETTE SPARKS - INTRODUCTIONS: As Rev. Lynette Sparks has begun her ministry with us we would like to introduce ourselves to her in a new way. Please 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, if you prefer, 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 and her husband, Brad Sparks will 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.



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.

CAMP HENRY UPDATE: Camp Henry is a the midway point of their summer camp season. Due to COVID-19, camp looks a little different this summer. Summer staff members have been working hard to continue to provide awesome life changing experiences while camp implements some safety practices and protocols. Campers are participating in cabin activities such as the Big Banana, Archery, the Giant Swing, and Arts & Crafts along with times to enjoy the Waterfront each day, spending time with the horses during their stay, and cooking a meal over a fire. Here's a few other fun things we've been doing!



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.

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.

WCDC IS OPEN AND HAVING FUN! Here is a picture of our busy little dinosaur room. They are hard at work building and painting birdhouses. We are so thankful to be able to spread out throughout the church and use new and exciting spaces for these fun projects.



WAY FORWARD UPDATE - JULY 15: The Way Forward Committee continues to meet every other week to discern a path forward in these COVID-19 days. As always, the health and safety of our Westminster family are our top priority. We are also aware that we are all longing to be with each other in person again. While our region is still in Phase 4 of Governor Whitmer's Reopening Plan, we are seeing significant increases in cases in Kent County this past month. [Click here to read the full update.](#)

FAITHWORKS GROUP DISCUSSION

The prophet Micah asks this question in verse 8 of the 6th chapter, "What does the Lord require of you?" The answer recorded is "Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God." In these days when the racial wounds in our nation are open again and we are discerning how to act meaningfully, our Social Justice and Faith Formation Committees have been meeting together for times of prayer and discussion. The goal is to open space where we hear God in prayer leading our action and our action can in turn lead us to prayer. The group is calling itself "Faithworks." The group is meeting again on **Wednesday, July 22 at 7 p.m.** If you would like to receive a link to join this meeting via Zoom, email faithworks@wpcgr.org and a link will be sent to you.

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. The Pantry continues to participate in the *SpartanNash Direct Your Dollars* program. Please save your **complete** SpartanNash sales receipts and send them in to the Pantry.

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. 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.

Children's Worship Summer Book for this week is *Bear Came Along* by Richard Morris and is read by Scott Jennings - A cheerful and action-packed adventure about the importance of friendship and community. Once there was a river flowing through a forest. A large variety of animals take off downstream, but they didn't know they needed one another until thankfully, the river came along. This hilarious picture book and heartfelt message celebrates the joy and fun that's in store when you embark together on a ride of a lifetime. **Main Focus:** Life is a great adventure when you share it with all kinds of different people. **Activity:** Play games with those with whom you are quarantining.

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

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

SUN. JULY 19

10:00 amWorship Online

11:00 amZoom Coffee Hour

MON. JULY 20

6:00 pmMission Partnership Committee

7:00 pmTrustees

TUES. JULY 21

4:00 pmWay Forward Group

7:00 pmNominating Committee

WED. JULY 22

6:00 pmTechnology Committee

7:00 pmSJC/Faith Formation
Faithworks Group Meeting

FRI. JULY 24

4:00 pmCamp Henry Executive Committee

SUN. JULY 26

10:00 amWorship Online

11:00 amParking Lot Meet & Greet with
Rev. Lynette and Brad Sparks

FRI. JULY 31

4:00 pmCamp Henry Executive Committee

SUN. AUG 2

10:00 amWorship Online

11:00 amZoom 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 laurieh@wpcgr.org or to someone from our Social Justice or Mission Partnerships committees.