



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Stormy Inbetween

THE TENTH
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 9, 2020

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

The Stormy Inbetween

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

“The power of a fully lived life or a truly learned mind is not a power to be sought or contrived.

It comes only as we let go of what we possess and find ourselves possessed by a truth greater than our own.”

— Parker Palmer

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

“Allemande” from *Cello Suite No. 5 in C minor*

J. S. Bach

Jake Westerbeke, Viola

Welcome and Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jeremy Bork and Bob Barnes

++Call to Worship *(adapted from Psalm 18:16-19 in “The Message”)*

One: God reaches all the way from sky to sea.

All: God pulls us out of that ocean of hate, that enemy chaos,

One: And we stand here saved—surprised by love!

All: Come let us worship our God who loves us and saves us.

++Opening Hymn 463

“How Firm a Foundation”

Foundation

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God’s excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”**

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

Faithful God, we confess that a mixture of faith and doubt are woven into our lives and into our dreams for ourselves and the world. As we sift through our dreams, guide us to the only Dream that brings peace—knowing we belong to you. Give us wisdom and courage to release all that binds us; for, to let go of what is built on illusion is to find new life. Hear our prayers of confession...

Silent Confession

The Assurance of God's Grace

++Response Hymn 63

"The Lord is God"

Azmon

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

(A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

One: Jesus embodied God's message of peace on earth, blessing all creation.

All: To live in such a way takes practice.

One: So we practice now.

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"II: Andante un poco Adagio" from *Sonata in F minor*

J. Brahms

Jake Westerbeke, Viola

Janlee Richter, Piano

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

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

Scripture

Matthew 14:22-33

New Testament

(previously recorded by Nancy and Elise Greidanus)

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Stormy Inbetween

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

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

"III: Allegretto grazioso" from *Sonata in F minor*

J. Brahms

Jake Westerbeke, Viola

Janlee Richter, Piano

++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

Gracious God, You call us to let go of the things we cling to and step out in faith, trusting in Your love and provision. Give us courage to step out boldly and sufficient faith to follow without fear. Take our lives and our gifts. Use them to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine, so that, through us, Your kingdom might come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Christ’s name, Amen.

++Closing Hymn 547

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Ar hyd y nos

**“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

**“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

“Lord God, Now Be Glorified” from *Orgelbüchlein*
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

J. S. Bach

DEVOTION FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 9

“We pray because we yearn...We pray because God asks us to cry out our deepest longings. We pray because we trust that somewhere within these yearnings is the Holy Spirit, stirring up deep desires for life and truth and freedom and celebration and healing and relationship...We pray our desires to God so they might be guided, empowered, comforted, and accompanied even in the midst of the ache and longing of being human.”

— Mark Yaconelli, in *Wonder, Fear, and Longing: A Book of Prayers*

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Executive Pastor
Liturgists Rev. Jeremy Bork, Minister for Youth and Their Families
..... Bob Barnes, Elder

Minister of Music Helen Hofmeister

Technology Team Rachel Kamstra, Avery Jennings, Stella Sheckler
Peter Larson, and Dan Cisler

Worship Musicians Jake Westerbeke, Viola, Janlee Richter, Piano
Kathy Vander Velde and John Schlafley, Singers

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Livestreaming from the Westminster Sanctuary

August 16 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Jeremy Bork preaching

For All People

Scripture: Isaiah 56:1-8

Music: Mary Geurink, Eric Richter, Singers
Janlee Richter, Piano

August 23 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Jen Porter preaching

A Sizeable Query

Scripture: Isaiah 51:1-8 and Matthew 16:13-20

Music: Cheri Reid, Soprano and
Lambert Zuidervaart, Bass

We're glad you worshiped 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.

Join us for a Zoom - After Worship Coffee Time

Time: August 9, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time

Susan Jennings is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 9

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84582042106?pwd=bkI3NE4rRThxMHRRWU43TXp4c3hiUT09>

Meeting ID: 845 8204 2106

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.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION! We are planning our next new member orientation via Zoom for Thursday, **September 10 and 24, 7:00-8:30 p.m.** We will use this time to introduce ourselves to one another and present a general overview of Westminster. Our staff has put together short individual ministry videos that you may view at your convenience between the 2 meetings. We'll spend our second gathering reviewing the information from the staff videos and answering questions. New members will be received into membership on Sunday, September 27. If you are interested in attending the new member orientation, please contact Erin VandenBroek at erin@wpcgr.org.

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS: Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Kathy Cisler had been working on expanding ways for people to make donations digitally. We recognize that many are facing new and unforeseen financial implications in the wake of this pandemic and this message is not meant to put any pressure on people. However, we are also aware that many are able to continue, or increase, their offerings to help us pay our bills, our staff, and continue our ministry that brings justice, peace, and hope into a world God loves. Please [click here](#) for a document that provides information on new ways you can give digitally to the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathy through her phone number at the church, (616) 717-5533.



Using Engage Giving by Scanning the QR Code: Scan the code using a QR code reader app or the camera on your phone or mobile device. It will take you to the Engage Giving log-in window where you can follow the directions above for giving using the website.

WAY FORWARD UPDATE: Your Way Forward Committee continues to meet to discern our path forward in these COVID days. You can find ongoing updates on the church website.

WCDC IS OPEN AND HAVING FUN! BUT THEY NEED YOUR HELP! Much like most of you, our routine and world as we knew it was turned upside down by COVID-19. During a typical summer our school-age classroom is out of our building four days a week exploring our beautiful city through park picnics, trips to the Grand Rapids Public Library, and behind the scenes tours of local businesses. This year we opted to err on the side of caution and stick close to WCDC. While originally this seemed like we wouldn't be having nearly as much fun this summer, we were pleasantly surprised to see how our more low key approach has built a love for good old fashioned board games among our students. In addition to having fun while playing the children are learning about teamwork, patience, and how to win and lose gracefully, board games can actually benefit kids' brains and language development as well. With all this new excitement surrounding board games we would like to add to our collection. If you have any gently used games that you no longer need, please email amberm@wpcgr.org about donating your unused items. And, this week our school-age group was excited to use the third floor art room for a virtual painting class. They absolutely LOVED the experience. We had 15 children of varying ages, and all of them were engaged and excited for this fun, interactive and COVID safe activity.



ONLINE WORSHIP: LOVE TO OUR TECH TEAM: **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. **Finally**, you may be interested to know that we have some additional new equipment which should improve the quality of our livestream. If you do have struggles during the service, please email livestream@wpcgr.org for assistance. That email address is actively monitored during each worship service. Since restarting livestreaming, we've also been encouraging those who are interested to join us in the chat feature during worship. Each week a staff member or elder will host that chat. If you are distracted by the chat, you can hide it by clicking on "Hide Chat Replay" in the bottom of the chat.

ALL CHURCH SUMMER EVENT: Start building your bank in order to build our FOOD PANTRY bank with Fitness and Fun activities! The Children and Families Ministries Committee invites everyone to start either collecting money or pledging money for our BUILD THE BANK CAMPAIGN. At the end of the bulletin, you can find the instructional poster to help you get started today! If you have questions or would like to pledge to one of our children who is participating, contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org.

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, AUGUST 9 IS—*The Colors of Us* by Karen Katz, read by Jessica Herceg. A positive and affirming look at skin color, from an artist's perspective. Seven-year-old Lena is going to paint a picture of herself. She wants to use brown paint for her skin. But when she and her mother take a walk through the neighborhood, Lena learns that brown comes in many different shades. Through the eyes of a little girl who begins to see her familiar world in a new way, this book celebrates the differences and similarities that connect all people. **Main Focus:** God makes skin to be many shades of colors. **Activity:** Experiment with paint and crayons to create a variety of skin shades.

GARDEN AT WPC AND PANTRY NEEDS: 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 is just about ready to be harvested for our pantry patrons. **Please note** 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.

CAMP HENRY SUMMER CAMP 2021

Camp Henry has had the privilege of serving campers, families, and guests since 1937. We believe that a camping experience at Camp Henry has the capacity to transform lives in many ways. With such a concentrated amount of time, a beautiful natural environment, intentional camp programs and activities, opportunities to try something new, and campers being surrounded by positive Christian role models - the combination is perfect for enhancing and positively changing the lives of campers and guests who come to Camp Henry. Camp Henry welcomes campers of all faiths as well as no faith at all. We don't require, assume, or expect that all campers are Christians or come from Christian families. Our hope is to simply be Christian toward everyone who comes to camp. Our staff members are truly awesome – energetic, encouraging, compassionate, fun-loving, dedicated, hard-working, and full of joy. Summer Camp 2021 registrations are already open. Go to the Camp Henry website to register for Summer Camp 2021 at info@CAMPHENRY.ORG or call 616-459-2267 for more information.

SUPPORT FOR BEIRUT: The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program offers prompt, respectful and important relief in areas of the world where disaster strikes. If you wish to support the relief efforts in Beirut, you can find more information at <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/beirut-explosion/>.

BUILD THE BANK CAMPAIGN

Fitness and Fun = \$\$ for our Food Pantry

MAKE YOUR OWN BANK

Decorate or use a food box, jar, or any container to use as your bank. We hope to have a collection parade later.

GET PLEDGES - Tell grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors, and friends about our church Food Pantry. Maybe you have visited the Food Pantry and can describe it or tell them how the pantry helps people. Ask them to pledge a specified amount of money for you to fulfill an activity or contribute for each minute or hour that you participate in activities.

DECIDE ON FUN ACTIVITIES - Possible ideas: Walking, biking, rollerblading, scootering, yoga, hopscotch, jump rope, swimming, running or any sport or game that involves lots of movement or even mowing the lawn.

Do something you love and remember to have FUN!

Checks can be made payable to Westminster Food Pantry



Please take photos and post on the WPC Parents Facebook page AND send photos and notes to Nancy so they can be shared with our church family.



ANOTHER FUN ACTIVITY to Grow your Bank: Fill in the contribution blanks before you start counting! Items that many people don't have, that we often take for granted.

<u>Contribution Per Item</u>	<u>Number of Items counted</u>		<u>Total Collected</u>
_____	_____	For every beverage in your fridge	_____
_____	_____	For every piece of fresh fruit in the house	_____
_____	_____	For every fresh vegetable	_____
_____	_____	For every frozen food item in freezer	_____
_____	_____	For every canned food	_____
_____	_____	For every boxed food	_____
_____	_____	For every snack food	_____
_____	_____	Each time you eat take-out food	_____
_____	_____	Each time you use the dishwasher in a month	_____
_____	_____	For every mug or drinking glass you own	_____
_____	_____		_____
_____	_____		_____
_____	_____		_____

Calendar of Events

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

SUN. AUG 9

10:00 am Worship Online
11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour

TUES. AUG 11

4:30 pm Way Forward Group

WED. AUG 12

4:00 pm Personnel Committee

FRI. AUG 14

4:00 pm Camp Henry Executive Committee

SUN. AUG 16

10:00 am Worship Online
11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour

MON. AUG 17

6:30 pm Trustees

FRI. AUG 21

4:00 pm Camp Henry Executive Committee

SUN. AUG 23

10:00 am Worship 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 laurieh@wpcgr.org or to someone from our Social Justice or Mission Partnerships committees.