



Westminster PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 21, 2024 AT 11AM | 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

An open and welcoming Christian community in service to God and neighbor

We Come Into God's Presence with Joy

Gathering Music

Life of the Church

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Suzanne Lange, liturgist

(congregation please read bold type)

Jesus has invited us to this place.

May we welcome those around us as Jesus welcomes us.

Jesus calls us to follow him.

May we answer the call with readiness.

Jesus calls us to faith.

May our faith, large or small, be strengthened today.

Jesus says, "Come and see."

May our eyes be opened to the presence of the Lord.

Jesus meets us wherever we are.

May we be open to encounter grace and mercy.

Jesus invites us to worship.

Let us worship the Lord together!

* *You are invited to stand as you are able.*

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord, our shortcomings and failings are many. We have neglected the poor and the lonely. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not even loved ourselves very well. We bear burdens of sin, some that we are all too aware of, and others we do not even know we carry. Grant us the freedom that comes with your forgiveness. Grant us the boldness of spirit to ask for and to receive your mercy.

Silent prayers of confession.

Assurance of God's Presence and Promise

*Hear and receive the good news: Hope abounds again! Mercy is new again!
Carry your sins no more, for in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.*

* Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

* Song of Response #609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

† **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

† *You are welcome to sign as you are comfortable and able.
We continue this practice as a way to engage our whole selves in worship.*

We Hear God's Word

First Reading of The Word

Psalm 32:1-7

Anthem

Grace

arr. Mark Hayes

Westminster Choir

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch, a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found;
I once was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And that same grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour when I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already safely come.
This grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And surely, surely grace will lead me home;
I shall go home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun, the glorious sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than since the day we first begun,
Than since the day we first began.

Second Reading of the Word

Mark 1:14-20

Sermon

Invitation and Grace

Nate Veldhoff

We Respond to God's Word

* Preparation for Prayer

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

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 and Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Offering

* Song of Response #711

Lord of All Good

TOULON

Father, whose bounty all creation shows;

Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;

Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:

to you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn #761

*Called as Partners
in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

We Go Forth to Serve

* Benediction

. . . and let all God's people say, "**Alleluia! Amen!**"

Postlude

Preaching this morning is our very own Communications and Media Director, Nate Veldhoff. Nate attended the University of Michigan where he received a degree in Architecture. He completed his Master of Divinity degree from Moody Theological Seminary in the Spring of 2021. In addition to his work at Westminster, he also regularly leads worship and preaches at The Greenroom Church in Ann Arbor on Monday nights as well as with several other area churches on Sunday mornings. When not in church-world, you can find Nate pouring coffee at Vertex Coffee Roasters in Ann Arbor or playing gigs with several local musicians.

We pray for our Westminster family

Current needs: Richard LeSueur

Ongoing needs: Fran Bolhouse, Cara & Conn Doane, Anne Gensheimer

Condolences: **Condolences** to the family of Jacqueline Hale on the January 4 death of Jacqueline.

Please email prayer requests to Gail Arnold (garnold@umich.edu) for listing here and in the *Friday Good Things Are Happening* email; or contact Jill Fairchild, prayer chain coordinator (jill@thefairchilds.net or 734-417-0816). You can join our email prayer chain by contacting Jill. To keep us current, please share updates on those for whom we are praying.

This Week's News

Shopping bags of nonperishable food and personal and household items dedicated with our offering today will be given to Hope Clinic's food pantry.

Meals at Riverside: We are looking for some help covering volunteer needs for Riverside Community Wednesday evening meals at First Pres in Ypsilanti. Preparing to serve starts around 3:45pm which involves filling meal trays assembly-line style. Trays continue to be assembled as guests are served from 4:30-5:30pm, with cleanup after. Come in the beginning to help prepare meal trays and stay as long as you like! Or come a little later to relieve other volunteers, visit with the guests, and help clean up. Please contact Elizabeth Tidd (lizabeth0405@yahoo.com) if you're able to help on any of the following dates: Feb 7, 14, 28, March 6, 13, 27. Anyone interested is also welcome to join on Jan 24 when Elizabeth will also be on-site to show you around.

Save the date for a Westminster retreat on Saturday, February 17 from 9am to 3pm. This retreat is for all interested congregation members and church leadership. Reverend Jan Nolting Carter and Reverend Paul Rhebergen, co-founders of Transitional Ministry Pathways, will join in person to lead us in a variety of activities to launch this discernment time. Lunch will be provided! Please sign up on the bulletin board to let us know you're coming.

A2 Warming Center: The Westminster Mathew 25 small group together with the Westminster Mission Ministry Team has committed to provide food, volunteer, and laundry support to the Ann Arbor Daytime Warming Center on Monday February 5th at First Baptist Church in Ann Arbor. The warming center will be open 8am to 4pm and will provide breakfast foods in the morning followed by a warm lunch from 11:30 to noon. Lots of ways to be involved! Check your Friday email for a signup link or contact Ron Fairchild (ron@thefairchilds.net) for more information.

Grow in Faith and Friendship

Reading Through the Bible Group meets Sundays at 9:30am. Please contact Marcia Anderson (hilden.anderson@gmail.com; 734-757-4305) for more info.

Sunday Morning Adult Ed meets in the fellowship hall at 9:30am. We are currently using a study called “Discipleship: The Way of Jesus” from the PCUSA Being Reformed series.

Sunday Children’s Worship Center meets in room 43 on the lower level at 9:30 am. Children and grandchildren ages four through 5th grade are welcome!

Monday Conversations are weekly at 1pm online. The Zoom invitation is in the Friday *Good Things* and Sunday podcast emails.

Mary Martha Group meets the first and third Mondays at 7pm via Zoom. Please contact Margaret Klammer (mklammer@comcast.net) for more information.

Matthew 25 Study Group meets at 7pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. For meeting information please contact Elizabeth Tidd (lizbeth0405@yahoo.com) or Carol Hufnagel (carol.hufnagel@tetrattech.com).

Thursday Book Club meets weekly at 1pm at Westminster and over Zoom. The current book is *Reading with Patrick* by Michelle Kuo. Please contact Sue Flynn for more information. (cafelapeninsula@comcast.net).

Welcome to Westminster

Our Values: Love, Compassion, Connection, Inclusion, Earth-Care, Service

Our Mission: Show the love of Jesus Christ by welcoming everyone, without exception, into the full life of the church; participating in the joyful worship of God; engaging in regular study, reflection, prayer and sharing of our faith; committing ourselves and our resources to the spiritual and physical needs of our church family and neighbors near and far; seeking to be a good neighbor in our neighborhood.

Sunday worship podcasts are at bit.ly/westpres_online.

For deacon care, please contact Gail Arnold (garnold@umich.edu).

Thank you for continuing to fulfill your pledges and financial commitments in support of the mission and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

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