# Westminster At Worship A Celebration of Worship Till

April 21, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary. *Those who feel comfortable to stand may do so.* 

# **GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD**

Prelude

SETH CUNNINGHAM

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT** 

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING PRAYER** 

INTROIT

"Be Thou My Vision" Junior Bells

INGRAM

# **<sup>+</sup>CALL TO WORSHIP**

LEADER: Who made this beautiful day?

**PEOPLE: We believe that God the Creator made this day.** 

LEADER: God made this day so we can rest, and reflect, and delight;

PEOPLE: God made this day so we can open our eyes and see beauty,

LEADER: and see pain, and see opportunity,

**PEOPLE: and see hope.** 

LEADER: So let us go into this day with our eyes and hearts wide open,

**PEOPLE: and let us worship God.** 

### †**H**YMN

#### "Let All Things Now Living"

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration, a song let us raise, till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

# CALL TO CONFESSION

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, Gracious Creator, forgive us for not seeing the beauty that surrounds us. Forgive us when we look at screens rather than sunsets; forgive us when we read about a crisis and do not respond. Forgive us for thinking that we are the source of power and beauty and life. Turn us around, and give us new eyes to see; eyes to see hope in the clouds, eyes to see life in the blade of grass, to see power in the water and stone. This we pray in the name of Jesus, the beautiful Savior. Amen.

# **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. **Thanks be to God!** 

# **\*RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE**

*"Gloria Patri"* GREATOREX Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

# **\*SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** 

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" Chime Choir

# TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Following the message, children fourth grade and younger are welcome to return to their seats or proceed to the PRAYground at the rear of the church where there are quiet activities to help them participate in the worship service.

# PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

# **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

### **R**EADINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Psalter Lesson Psalm 8

Hebrew Lesson Genesis 2:4b-25

#### SERMON

# *"Till"* Rev. Jamie Milton

#### <sup>†</sup>Hymn

"God of the Sparrow" (Verses 1, 3-5)

Roeder

God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise

God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace

#### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD WITH THANKSGIVING**

#### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH OF FAITH**

A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (EXCERPTS)

In life and in death we belong to God. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments, we...exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

- We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
- The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.
- With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**PEOPLE:** 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 OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

~Please record your presence on the "Friendship Pad"

# OFFERTORY

"Without Love it Will All Pass Away" Chancel Choir

Beall & Larson

# **†DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# **<sup>+</sup>UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of love, source of all goodness, you hear our cries and you answer.

With grateful hearts, we bring our gifts to you.

We bring our offerings, as a gift of thanksgiving for your presence in our lives.

We are your servants, and we offer ourselves with joy. Amen.

# **BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD**

# **†HYMN**

"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets" Нумм то Joy

God, you spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain, mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind, and rain. We, created in your image, would a true reflection be of your justice, grace, and mercy, and the truth that makes us free.

You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry. We respond in grateful worship joined in one community. When we blur your gracious image, focus us and make us whole, healed and strengthened as your people, we move onward toward your goal.

God, your will is still creating, calling us to life made new, now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all distortion, fashion us with loving care, thus, new creatures in your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

# **\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

#### *†***POSTLUDE**

Liturgical texts used with permission from: Follow Me: Care for Creation. *2023 Growing Faith Resources*. PC(USA) Book of Common Worship. WJK Press. 2018 Abingdon Worship Annual 2023.

MINISTERS PASTOR PARISH ASSOCIATE LITURGIST NURSERY SUPERVISOR CHOIR DIRECTOR PIANIST ORGANIST BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR JR. BELLS & CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR TREASURER/SECRETARY FACILITIES MANAGER CCLI License #2328090 ONE LICENSE A-741016 All the People Rev. Jamie Milton Rev. Linda Williams Mary Rose Davis Elaine Edwards Dawn Auger Rachel Webb Seth Cunningham Margaret Hanson Judy Harrelson Heather Heidtman Harold Miller

# **Giving to Westminster**

There are many ways to share your gifts with Westminster.

Cash and checks are welcome. Please use your offering envelopes or the envelopes found in pew backs and place your gift in the offering plate when it is passed.

Visit our website <u>www.wpcbc.org</u> and click on the "Give Now" button at the top of the page. This will direct you to our Online Giving Portal or simply scan the QR Code below.

Contributions can also be sent through the mail to the attention of the Church Treasurer.

We're grateful for your gifts, however you choose to give. THANK YOU!



Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street Bay City, MI 48706 989-686-1360 email: <u>office@wpcbc.org</u> website: <u>wpcbc.org</u>

# **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR APRIL 21, 2024

**FLOWER DEDICATIONS:** If/when you receive an invoice from Keits Greenhouse for Sunday flowers, **the payment will need to be set to 609 Washington Ave,** not the Euclid address. The Euclid site is now closed.

**NURSERY CARE** is available for infants and toddlers during the worship service. Our nursery is equipped with a paging system. Quality childcare is provided by Elaine Edwards who is infant/CPR trained.

**PER CAPITA 2024** Per capita for 2024 is \$29.50. Remember that Per Capita goes to fund the greater church including our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, which in turn, provides great support to Westminster. Look for the blue envelopes in the pew backs or in your box of envelopes.

**STAR GAZERS AND SOUL SEARCHERS:** We're finding new ways to explore our faith. We will hear stories, discuss modern situations, and write our own impressions of the Beatitudes for today's world. Join us next Tuesday, April 23rd at 1:00 p.m. in the Narthex as we reflect, write and share (only if you wish). Check out the April Log for more details. This group will meet 2 Tuesdays a month in April, May and June. See Judy Hudson or Rev. Linda for more details.

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK:** Westminster Presbyterian Church-Bay City.

**BULLETIN BOARDS:** Check out the Church bulletin board just outside the sanctuary for upcoming church events and happenings and the Community bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for events in the area.

**BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES:** We have 2 different Bible Study sessions. One on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. here at the church and one via Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. See below for more information and please stop by the office after worship today if you have any questions and/or need a copy of the study materials. Everyone is welcome, even you haven't attended earlier sessions.

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** We'll use our time together on Sunday mornings to focus on another book of the Bible. This session will focus on the book of Ephesians, using the book "Practice Resurrection" by Eugene Peterson as our guide. Books are available in the church office. We'll meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.

**THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** Our Thursday evening bible study is held via Zoom. This unit will focus on the Follow Me unit "Care for Creation". The Bible invites us to be good stewards of the Earth. God created and called that creation good. We'll begin by noticing the good all around us and how individually and together we can care for it. The April Log has more details. Books are available in the office. If you would like to be added to the Zoom invitation list, please call Rev. Linda or the church office.

**HOSPITAL STAYS:** Please remember to contact the church office if you are in the hospital. Pastor Jamie and Rev. Linda are available for visits or a phone call; prayers and comforting words during this time.

### MATTHEW 25 CAFE AT THE SALVATION

**ARMY:** Westminster serves lunch at the Matthew 25 Cafe on the second Tuesday of each month. Crews work from 9-11 a.m. with with meal prep, or 11-1:00 p.m. serving and cleaning up. Join us on May 14th or June 11th. Scan the QR code or call the Church office to sign up.

**VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN:** Bay Shore's Day Camp on the Road is coming to Westminster August 5-8 from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m for fun week of VBS! The

cost is \$99.00/child but full and partial scholarships are available. Click on the QR code to register.

