

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship
17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.
†Those who are able to stand may do so.



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTMINSTER AT WORK

PRELUDE

†CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: When I think of God's presence in the world, I am grateful:

PEOPLE: Grateful for the presence of hope; grateful for the gift of life.

LEADER: And when I think of God's presence in my life, I am humbled:

PEOPLE: Humbled by the gift of grace; humbled by the invitation to begin again.

LEADER: And when I think of God's presence in this community, I am glad:

PEOPLE: Glad to be surrounded by holy people worshipping our Holy God.

OPENING HYMN

HANKEY

"I Love to Tell the Story"
vocal recording

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You.

Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

— *Silent Prayer* —

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

†SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

FANNING THE FLAME

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-11

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already

been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. **9** As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 4:1-16

4 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. **7** But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. **8** Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." **9** (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? **10** He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) **11** The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists,

some pastors and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. **14** We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. **15** But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

SERMON *"Follow with the Community of Other Disciples"*
Rev. Jamie Milton

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

OFFERTORY

“Be Thou My Vision”
Handbell Recording

DOXOLOGY

Wendy Tally

†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Trinity, your love creates us, your passion saves us from sin, your power transfigures us into glory for you. Thank you for giving us a place in your good creation, for giving us the bread of heaven to free us from slavery to sin and death and for filling us with the holy light of the gospel for the building up of Christ’s body in love. We present offerings to praise you and to help in the service of the church. Accept them as outward signs of our joyful discipleship in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

BEING SENT WITH GOD’S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION

AURELIA

“We All Are One in Mission”
vocal recording

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Liturgical texts used with permission from: Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2 © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press. Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession from: www.holdfasttowhatisgood.com by Beth Merrill Neel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

FLOWERS today are given by all the children of Ross Brown in honor of his 97th birthday.

50-YEAR MEMBER CELEBRATION: Next Sunday, September 26, we will celebrate a new class of 50-year members here at Westminster. Following worship, all are welcome to join for a luncheon catered by Kryziak's. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there will only be a limited number of seats available inside Fellowship Hall. For those who are able, we encourage you to eat outdoors under one of the tents. We will have volunteers standing by to help carry plates and drinks or to assist anyone who may need it. A take-out option is also available.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: When we respond to Jesus' summons to "Follow me" and we choose to follow, we are committing to a lifelong apprenticeship journey — one in which we will continually be formed, reformed, and transformed. Discipleship is not a skill, it's a way of life. Bible Study classes will be offered at two different times to accommodate various schedules. Join us on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the

Session Room or Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The same study materials will be used at both gatherings, and are available for pick-up in the church office. See Rev. Linda or Pastor Jamie with any questions.

LUNCH & LEARN: In a quest to be life-long learners, Lunch & Learn will discuss topics that help us generate new ideas, banish boredom, and improve our brain health. We will meet most months on the last Tuesday at noon in Fellowship Hall. Bring a brown-bag lunch if you desire; we will supply the beverage. On, September 28, we will learn about Pastor Jamie's year of ministry in Peru.

SWEATY SHEEP/WESTMINSTER WELLNESS WALKING GROUP: Want to join your church friends for some exercise and fellowship? Each Wednesday we will meet at a different park in Bay City. For more information, contact Sandy at sandra.graves@gmail.com or Tami tami.sivy@gmail.com with questions, or to be added to our Facebook group.

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

CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE takes place on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. All choir members will wear a mask, and all singing will take place socially distanced in the sanctuary. All music will be pre-recorded and played during Sunday's worship services. If you wish to join us, contact Dawn at 989-894-0426.

DEBORAH CIRCLE: Ladies, you are invited! The Deborah Circle will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Karen Schoeppach at 989-684-1322 or kaysue@chartermi.net for Zoom information.

COLLECTING MAGAZINES: Westminster is collecting magazines to help support McLaren Bay Region's Partial Hospitalization Psychiatric program. If you have magazines around your house that you wish to give away, please drop them off at the church office through the month of September. Thank you!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY will be celebrated on October 3. For this special celebration of the Lord's Supper with Christians around the world, the Deacons are offering to prepare and deliver (if needed) pre-packaged communion elements to those who are unable to be with us in worship that Sunday. You may pick them up in the office the week of September 27, or let the office know if you would like to have them delivered to you.

SPECIAL REQUEST: This program year, children and youth opportunities will take place on Sunday and Thursday evenings. There will be a time for fellowship and food for the youth, so food and snack volunteers are needed for those two evenings.

On Sundays, if you would like to bring dinner for youth and volunteers, please review the dinner schedule by following the link below. Dinner will take place from 5:00 until 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, or outside, weather permitting. (We should know approximately how many children are attending each week after the first couple of sessions.) Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0849afaf2ca0ff2-ignite>

On Thursdays, if you would like to bring in a snack, please review the snack schedule by following the link below. Groups of students will snack from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, or outside, weather permitting. Volunteers may drop off Thursday's snacks anytime during the day. (We should know approximately how many children are attending each week after the first couple of sessions.) Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0849afaf2ca0ff2-combustion>

Any questions, please contact Sandy Graves at sandra.graves@gmail.com or phone/text at 989-225-7488. Thank you for your time and generosity!

This Week at Westminster

Today, Sunday, September 19, 2021

- 9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School)
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study (meet in the Session Room)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 5:00 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)

Tuesday, September 21

- 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Wednesday, September 22

- 6:00 p.m. Sweaty Sheep / Walking Wellness Group
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom

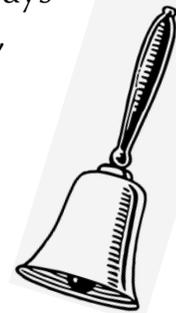
Thursday, September 23

- 8:30 p.m. TOPS
- 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah
- 5:00 p.m. Combustion Council (Youth Group)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Next Sunday, September 26

- 9:00 a.m. First Light Meeting (Sunday School)
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study (meet in the Session Room)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. 50-Year Member Celebration Luncheon
- 5:00 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)

When the handbell choir plays in-person in the near future, you will notice something different!



Deep appreciation goes out to Sharon Hignite and Penny Reagh. Sharon purchased new tables, table pads, and table covering material for the handbell choir. Penny Reagh designed and made the table coverings. These gifts are in remembrance of Robert Hanson.

Thank you Sharon and Penny for your generosity!

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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website: wpcbc.org

Office Hours

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

Friday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Now is the time to begin thinking about what we will be doing and where we will be going in 2022.

What changes were made in 2020 and 2021 that we wish to continue? What longtime programs need to be changed? How much additional funding will be required? What ministries need to grow?

