

Westminster At Worship

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

10:30 a.m.



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

Lent is a time to take the time to let the power of our faith story take hold of us;

A time to let the events get up and walk around us;

A time to intensify our living unto Christ;

A time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts;

A time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and listen to his word;

A time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us;

A time to ponder and a time to wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

— Kneeling in Jerusalem, Ann Weems

INVOCATION

As we gather this Ash Wednesday evening, we do so in the Name of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: With what shall we come before God in a season of repentance, a season of turning?

People: What does God seek of us in this journey toward Jerusalem?

Leader: God calls us to make this our priority in repentance and renewal:

People: To do justice, to live kindness, to walk humbly with our God.

Leader: So come, let us enter the Lenten journey through worship and service that respond to God's call.

All: We come as those who would follow Jesus — save us, O God!

MUSICAL MEDITATION

"Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"

Trio

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgression. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit.

The sacrifice acceptable to you, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

— Silent Prayer —

Amen

DECLARATION OF PARDON

MUSICAL MEDITATION

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of all Wisdom, we desire to be reconciled to your will in our world. Remove any obstacles before us that would keep us from understanding your Word. On this Lenten journey, guide our footsteps that we might follow the path of Christ to the cross. Amen

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

**Hebrew Scriptures
Isaiah 58:1-12**

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to lose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator^[a] shall go before you,

the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:1-6

Concerning Almsgiving

6 “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. **2** “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. **3** But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Prayer

5 “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. **6** But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:16-21

Concerning Fasting

16 “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their

reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Treasures

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust^[c] consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Lamb of God”
Trio

MEDITATION

Rev. Jamie Milton

MUSIC MEDITATION

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”
Trio

BLESSING & CHARGE

MINISTERS
PASTOR
PARISH ASSOCIATE
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR
NURSERY SUPERVISOR
CHOIR DIRECTOR
HAND BELL DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
TREASURER
CUSTODIAN
SECRETARY
CCLI License #2328090

All the People
Rev. Jamie Milton
Rev. Linda Williams
Nikelle Johnson
Elaine Edwards
Dawn Auger
Peggy Hanson
Wendy Tally
Heather Heidtman
Harold Miller
Judy Harrelson

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2021

DEBORAH CIRCLE: Ladies, you are invited! Join us Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For the foreseeable future, Deborah Circle plans to meet the 4th Tuesday of the month via Zoom. Contact the church office or the Log for Zoom login information.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: Join us on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. During the Lenten season, we will explore the book, *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill J. Duffield. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at [**parishassoc@wpcbc.org**](mailto:parishassoc@wpcbc.org).

THE WIRED WORD ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Join us on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Enjoy lively conversations about current events in the news and the Bible passages that relate to those events. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom

information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

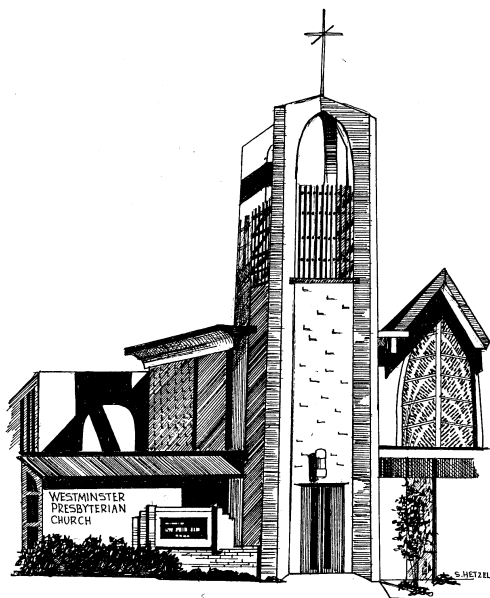
THE BOOK CLUB will meet Tuesday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss the book *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. Books are available at church this month. They are available in the church office for check-out and can be picked up during regular business hours. Contact Nikelle at cedirector@wpcbc.org to receive Zoom login information.

HOLY COMMUNION: In an effort to help our Westminster family and friends experience a greater connection to the church on Holy Communion Sunday, we have begun delivering the small Communion cups with juice and wafer for you to use when you watch the live-streamed worship service. If you would like to have the Communion elements delivered to your home (socially distanced of course), please call the church office at 686-1360.

SPIRITUALITY OF AGING: Our Spirituality of Aging groups have begun gathering in groups of twos over the phone. We realize this is not the way we would have all hoped to have gathered this Fall, but for the ten to twelve who have signed up, it has become a way to remain connected during these coronavirus days. For these “two-by-two” conversations, we are using “*On the Brink of Everything*,” a beautiful book of reflections on what we can learn as we move closer to “the brink of everything.” This book is written by beloved and bestselling author Parker J. Palmer. It’s never too late to join in! If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our “two-by-two” discussion format, please give Rev. Linda a call.

PER CAPITA & OFFERING ENVELOPES: Per capita for 2021 is \$28.76. This is per active, confirmed member. Offering envelopes for 2021 are available for pick-up at the church during regular office hours.

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



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-1360

email: office@wpcbc.org

website: wpcbc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

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

lunch 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Friday

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

