

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship

Practice Spiritual Disciplines: Embrace Simplicity

March 27, 2022

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

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE

Wendy Tally

THE LENTEN CANDLES *"Saying Goodbye"*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Draw near to God,

PEOPLE: and God *(raise both arms to the sky)*

will draw near to us. *(bring hands toward heart, crossing them over your heart)*

LEADER: When we embrace simplicity, we untangle our lives so we can focus on loving and serving God.

PEOPLE: Let us *(extend arms forward, palms facing upward)*

keep company *(bend elbows and bring together hands in prayer)*

with Jesus. *(sign "Jesus" using right middle finger touching the middle of left palm, repeat with left middle finger touching the middle of right palm)*

“I Surrender All”

SURRENDER

*All to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give; I will ever love
and trust him, in his presence daily live.*

*All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at his feet I bow, worldly
pleasures all forsaken: take me, Jesus, take me now.*

*All to Jesus I surrender, make me, Savior, wholly thine; may thy
Holy Spirit fill me, may I know thy power divine.*

*All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to thee; fill me with
thy love and power, let thy blessing fall on me.*

Refrain: *I surrender all, I surrender all, all to thee, my blessed
Savior, I surrender all.*

CALL TO CONFESSION**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Abundant God, so much of our harmful behavior is rooted in
our envy. You have given us our manna — our daily bread —
but we want more. We have allowed ourselves to be seduced
by commercialism, telling ourselves that we are not complete
until we have the nicest things.**

**Forgive us when our actions convey that you are not enough for
us. Help us to live our lives simply and faithfully, trusting in
your steadfast love to provide all that we need.**

— A Time of Silent Confession —

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

I announce to you this day, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen

†SHARING GOD'S PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

FANNING THE FLAME

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 4:11-13

¹¹ I'm not saying this because I need anything, for I have learned how to be content in any circumstance. ¹² I know the experience of being in need and of having more than enough; I have learned the secret to being content in any and every circumstance, whether full or hungry or whether having plenty or being poor. ¹³ I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:19-21; 25-33

Earthly and heavenly treasures

¹⁹ "Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. ²⁰ Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. ²¹ Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Worry about necessities

²⁵ "Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather

crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? ²⁷ Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don't wear themselves out with work, and they don't spin cloth. ²⁹ But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn't dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it's alive today and tomorrow it's thrown into the furnace, won't God do much more for you, you people of weak faith? ³¹ Therefore, don't worry and say, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' ³² Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Gospel Lesson **Matthew 10:5-11**

Commissioning of the Twelve

⁵ Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them, "Don't go among the Gentiles or into a Samaritan city. ⁶ Go instead to the lost sheep, the people of Israel. ⁷ As you go, make this announcement: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, and throw out demons. You received without having to pay. Therefore, give without demanding payment. ⁹ Workers deserve to be fed, so don't gather gold or silver or copper coins for your money belts to take on your trips. ¹⁰ Don't take a backpack for the road or two shirts or sandals or a walking stick. ¹¹ Whatever city or village you go into, find somebody in it who is worthy and stay there until you go on your way.

SERMON

“Embrace Simplicity”

Rev. Jamie Milton

Reflect on Richard Foster’s three inner attitudes of simplicity:

- What we have we receive as a gift from God
- What we have is to be cared for by God
- What we have is available to others

You might try some of these practices to “embrace simplicity”:

- Think about what is real treasure to you and how you might pursue it more fully
- Pick one area of life to simplify for a specific period of time and see how it feels
- Pick one item in your home each day for a week that you can give to someone else
- Simplify your eating for a week to see if that connects you in any way to real treasure
- Observe friends and mentors who seem to have a strong life focus. What in their lives is simpler than in yours?
- Watch for times you judge others for their lifestyle decisions

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From “A Brief Statement of Faith”

In life and in death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

"Simple Gifts"
Chancel Choir

ARR. JOHN COATES, JR.

†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.*

†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator God, you are our provider. We offer all that we have and all that we are to you, because we belong to you. Bless these gifts, and empower us, your church, that through the work of your Spirit we may be a refuge for the needy in their

distress, a shelter from the storm, and a shade from the heat.
Through Christ, our shield and our stronghold. Amen.

BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

†HYMN

God Is So Good

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1 God is so good; God is so good;
2 God cares for me; God cares for me;
3 God loves me so; God loves me so;
4 God is so good; God is so good;

God is so good; God's so good to me.
God cares for me; God's so good to me.
God loves me so; God's so good to me.
God is so good; God's so good to me.

The exact origins of this chorus celebrating God's providential care are not clear, but it seems to have arisen during the 1970s. Because the text changes so little, the slowly rising four-note pattern of the tune provides the primary source of energy within its five-note range.

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Wendy Tally



Liturgical texts used with permission from:

Call to Worship — Follow Me Curriculum - *Practice Spiritual Disciplines* Young Children and Multiage Children Leader Guides

Confession and Assurance - Stephen M. Fearing (www.stephenmfearing.com)

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Volume 2 (Westminster John Knox Press, 2014)

Abingdon Worship Annual 2019. Copyright 2018 by Abingdon Press.

MINISTERS

PASTOR

PARISH ASSOCIATE

LITURGIST

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

CHOIR DIRECTOR

HANDBELL DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

TREASURER

CUSTODIAN

SECRETARY

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All the People

Rev. Jamie Milton

Rev. Linda Williams

Judy Randall

Brandi Higgins

Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Brandi Higgins

Wendy Tally

Heather Heidtman

Harold Miller

Judy Harrelson

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 27, 2022

FLOWERS today are given by Penny and Phil Reagh in honor of Chad's and Colleen's birthdays.

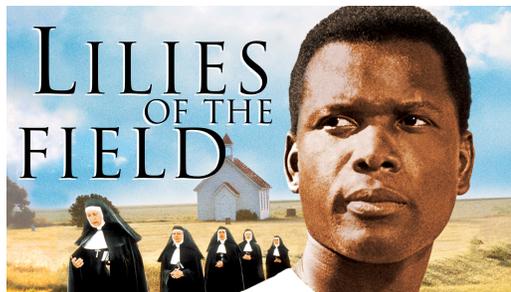
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is scheduled for Monday, June 13 – Friday, June 17 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. If you are interested in registering your child(ren) or volunteering, please sign up at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/wpcbc>.

WEEKLY SERVICE OF MORNING

PRAYER: This Lent we will practice "spiritual disciplines" that strengthen our walk with Jesus and with one another. To help cultivate our spiritual discipline of *prayer*, Pastor Jamie will hold a weekly service of morning prayer online during Lent. The next service will take place on Wednesday, March 30 at 9:00 a.m. The service will be streamed on the church's Facebook and YouTube pages. This brief (8-12 minute) service will help us start our Wednesdays together in prayer for one another, for our communities, and for the world. Online participants will be able to share their prayer concerns utilizing the comment box on Facebook.

RUMMAGE SALE: The Presbyterian Women of Westminster will organize a rummage sale for the first week of May! It will open Wednesday, May 4 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for members only. It will be open to the public on Thursday, May 5 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Friday, May 6 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. You

may drop off items for the rummage sale beginning Sunday, May 1 after the worship service through Tuesday, May 3.



JOIN US FOR A MOVIE: Join us for an intergenerational movie event on Thursday, March 31 at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will watch "Lillies of the Field," a 1963 American comedy drama about a warm, sensitive handy man (Sidney Poitier) who, while stranded in an Arizona desert town, builds a chapel for a lively group of nuns (including Lilia Skala). The title comes from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:27-33 and its parallel scripture from Luke 12:27-31. In 2020, the film was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant". Popcorn and refreshments will be served!

EASTER BREAKFAST: The Fellowship & Outreach Committee will host Easter breakfast on Sunday, April 17 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Tickets purchased in advance are \$3 per individual, \$5 per couple, and \$7 per household. Tickets can be purchased at the Wenona Street lobby on Sundays before and after the worship service, and at the church office during the week. The last date to purchase tickets in advance is Sunday, April 3. Tickets can be purchased at the door on Easter Sunday, but the price will increase to \$5 per individual, \$7 per couple, and \$10 per household.

KISSING A COW: Join us as Pastor Jamie, Pastor Linda, and Brandi kiss a cow following worship on Sunday, April 24. Westminster celebrated Children's Sabbath this past October, and with the help of our generous congregation and an anonymous giver, the children and youth ministry have received a total of \$5,000 to purchase a community farm bundle through Presbyterian Gifts. This gift includes enough livestock, tools, and training to support a larger farm that can serve an entire community. This bundle reflects families of chickens, multiple goats, piglets and cows, a pair of oxen with a plow, and a collection of

equipment — enough to help communities raise both healthy food and their standard of living. Making this financial challenge more interesting, those donating were able to choose which silo — Pastor Jamie's, Pastor Linda's, or Brandi's — to place their donation; the winner with the most donations having the good fortune to kiss a cow. In the end, the donations were tied between the three. Join us on Sunday, April 24!

EMAIL CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS: April's Westminster Log has been emailed to those who requested to receive church communications via email. If you requested to receive the Log via email and did not receive it, remember to check your "Junk" or "Spam" email folder. Any questions or problems, please call the church office at 989-686-1360.

DEBORAH CIRCLE: Ladies, you are invited! The Deborah Circle will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Karen Schoepach at 989-684-1322 or kaysue@chartermi.net for Zoom information.

THE WIRED WORD, “Where current events and faith intersect,” takes place on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. News is inevitable — whether good or bad, but what better way to extract hope from this input than to juxtapose scriptures as tools to persevere and navigate our daily walk in Christian faith. Our weekly Wired Word gatherings allow us to reflect on the week’s happenings with others who may not share our same thoughts and opinions, but are equally dedicated to thinking about and talking about how current events intersect with our faith questions and convictions. Any questions, or to receive study material and Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 686-1360 or parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

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 are offered at two different times to accommodate various schedules. Join us on Sundays at 9:00

a.m. in the small conference 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.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD: If you are looking for grief support groups, health clinics, or volunteer opportunities that take place within our community, please check out the community bulletin board located in Fellowship Hall.

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

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

PER CAPITA: Per capita for 2022 is \$29.00.

This Week at Westminster

Today, Sunday, March 27, 2022

- 9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School)
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (small conference room)
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Handbell Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 4:30 p.m. Junior Bell Practice
- 5:00 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)

Tuesday, March 29

- 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands Knitting
- 10:00 a.m. The Wired Word via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150
- 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle via Zoom

Wednesday, March 30

- 9:00 a.m. Online Service of Morning Prayer
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, March 31

- 8:30 a.m. TOPS
- 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Next Sunday, April 3

- 9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School)
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (small conference room)
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Handbell Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 4:30 p.m. Junior Bell Practice
- 5:00 p.m. Ignite (Youth Group)

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.

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