

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship *Cross the Divide*

January 16, 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

PRAYER

PRELUDE

Wendy Tally

†CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: We have been claimed by the God who calls us children.

PEOPLE: We, the redeemed, have been called by name.

LEADER: As with the Israelites, God promises to pass with us through the water.

PEOPLE: We will not fear, for God is with us!

LEADER: The rivers shall not overwhelm us for God is our guide and our protector.

PEOPLE: Through God's saving grace, the waters that tested us are now the waters that wash us and nourish us.

LEADER: Great is the Fount of Every Blessing,

PEOPLE: Ever flowing, ever redeeming, ever claiming us as God's children.

LEADER: Come, let us worship the God who washes us in grace.

OPENING HYMN

"O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Trio Recording

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of deliverance, you once parted the sea so that your people could cross from bondage and oppression to freedom, and yet we often doubt you are at work and believe that miracles don't exist in the world anymore.

We act as though we have forgotten that you gave us Jesus who knows our suffering, the Holy Spirit who empowers us, and one another as companions on the journey. We act as if we are all on the same boat, but we are not. Our boats are very different, and some are sinking, and some are drowning.

Forgive us, we pray.

— A Time of Silent Confession —

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved children of God, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

†SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

FANNING THE FLAME

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Hebrew Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-7

Hebrew Lesson

Exodus 14:5-31

SERMON

“Cross the Divide”
Rev. Jamie Milton

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *“A Brief Statement of Faith”*)

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 violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted in our care. We deserve God’s condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

“How Great Thou Art”
Trio Recording

†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we thank you for your call and claim upon our lives. Because there is so much more we can become, and so much more we can do, we pray that our faith will increase; that our practice of generosity will be enlarged; and that our joy in believing will encourage others as we share with them the good news of Jesus Christ; in whose name we pray. 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.

BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"
Trio Recording

CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE



Liturgical texts used with permission from:
Book of Common Worship (2018)
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Year A, Volume 2. 2014

MINISTERS
PASTOR
PARISH ASSOCIATE
LITURGIST
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
NURSERY SUPERVISOR
CHOIR DIRECTOR
HANDBELL DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
TREASURER
CUSTODIAN
SECRETARY
CCLI License #2328090

All the People
Rev. Jamie Milton
Rev. Linda Williams
John Hegenauer
Brandi Higgins
Elaine Edwards
Dawn Auger
Brandi Higgins
Wendy Tally
Heather Heidtman
Harold Miller
Judy Harrelson

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 16, 2022

PRAYERS are extended to the family and friends of Jerry Bechtel. Jerry passed away on Monday, January 10, 2022. A private funeral service has taken place at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION will take place in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 13, 2022 immediately following the worship service. Afterwards, the Youth Group will host a soup luncheon and bake sale in Fellowship Hall. Donations will benefit the youth who will attend Triennium this summer. Please plan to stay for this fun and tasty luncheon! Volunteers are needed. If you would like to donate chili or soup, please contact Sandy Graves at sandra.graves@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS: Westminster celebrated Children's Sabbath this past October, and

with the help of our generous congregation and an anonymous giver, the children and youth department 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. In the end, the donations were tied between the three. Plans are currently being made for them to "kiss a cow" sometime in March! Stay tuned for more details!

GOOD NEWS FROM THE DEACONS.

Thank you to WPC for generously giving to the Food Pantry. Despite monthly food distributions to local families, and the delivery of 70 Thanksgiving baskets in November, Food Pantry funds are, yet, *beyond* adequate for the year! However, the Deacon's other work and programs are always in need of funds. Westminster's Board of Deacons expenses also include: communion supplies, devotional booklets, Stephen Ministry, Fifty Year Members dinners, Bibles for funerals, special concerns, and more, to support WPC members and our community. These funds come from undesignated donations to the Deacons Fund. If you wish to give to the Deacons Fund this year, we will be thankful for a "*general donation to Deacons Fund.*" Thank you for your support to help the Lord's work through WPC and the Board of Deacons.

2022 FLOWER CHART: The 2022 Flower Chart has been posted on the easel next to the Wenona Street entrance. This is an opportunity for you to honor or memorialize an occasion of a special loved one. Please print your name on the Sunday date you would like. Marie Capp will get in touch with you for floral arrangements and what you wish to have printed in the bulletin.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet in-person on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Session room. The next meeting is January 20. We are using the *Horizons Bible Study, What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus.*

DEBORAH CIRCLE: Ladies, you are invited! The Deborah Circle will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Karen Schoeppach at 989-684-1322 or kaysue@chartermi.net for Zoom information.

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 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.

THE WIRED WORD, "*where current events and faith intersect,*" takes place on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom (note the time change). 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.

This Week at Westminster

Today, Sunday, January 16, 2022

9:00 a.m.	First Light (Sunday School)
9:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
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, January 18

9:00 a.m.	Bay ISD
10:00 a.m.	Hearts & Hands Knitting
10:00 a.m.	The Wired Word via Zoom
10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 150
7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting

Wednesday, January 19

7:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study
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Thursday, January 20

8:30 a.m.	TOPS
9:00 a.m.	Bay ISD
1:00 p.m.	Lydia Circle
5:00 p.m.	Combustion Council
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Next Sunday, January 23

9:00 a.m.	First Light (Sunday School)
9:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
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)

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

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street
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.

