

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship
12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 15, 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: Come, children of God. Come and find refuge and strength.

PEOPLE: Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

LEADER: Come, heirs with Christ. Come and find forgiveness and joy.

PEOPLE: Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

LEADER: Come, people of faith. Come to the one who is attentive to our pleas.

PEOPLE: Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

OPENING HYMN

MADRID

"Come, Christians Join to Sing"
see insert

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Out of the depth we cry to you, O God, with eyes streaked with tears. For we cannot always save the ones we love, and are left alone to taste the bitter dregs of our sorrow. In the lonely watches of the night, we yearn to set aside our anger and resentment, and embrace the paths of healing and wholeness. In the dark night of the soul, we long to forsake our anguish, and embrace your mercy and compassion. Open our hearts anew to your kindness and love, your mercy and compassion, that we may know in our bones how much we are your beloved children.

— *Silent Prayer* —

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news; in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

†RESPONSE

GREATOREX

“Gloria Patri”

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 our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Psalter Lesson

Psalm 130

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! 3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; 6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. 8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Hebrew Lesson

2 Samuel 18:5-17, 31-33

5 The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. 6 So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. 7 The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. 8 The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword. 9 Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. 10 A man saw it, and

told Joab, "I saw Absalom hanging in an oak." **11** Joab said to the man who told him, "What, you saw him! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have been glad to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt." **12** But the man said to Joab, "Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a thousand pieces of silver, I would not raise my hand against the king's son; for in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying: For my sake protect the young man Absalom! **13** On the other hand, if I had dealt treacherously against his life (and there is nothing hidden from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof." **14** Joab said, "I will not waste time like this with you." He took three spears in his hand, and thrust them into the heart of Absalom, while he was still alive in the oak. **15** And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him. **16** Then Joab sounded the trumpet, and the troops came back from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained the troops. **17** They took Absalom, threw him into a great pit in the forest, and raised over him a very great heap of stones. Meanwhile all the Israelites fled to their homes. **31** Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you." **32** The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man." **33** The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

SERMON

"Rebellion, Remorse, and Radical Love"

Rev. Jamie Milton

HYMN

ST. DENIO

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
see insert

†PROFESSION OF FAITH

adapted from Ephesians 4

By conducting ourselves with humility, gentleness, and patience; by making every effort to preserve our unity, accepting one another with love, and by celebrating our various gifts, that we may grow in every way into Christ.

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

MUSICAL REFLECTION

ARR. INGRAM

“To God Be the Glory”
Handbell Ensemble

†DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”
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

Generous, transforming God, thank you for the blessing of honest labor, through which you have provided these gifts for our hands to share with those in need. We dedicate them now as an expression of your love for the world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

NEAR THE CROSS

"Near the Cross"
see insert

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

LEADER: Go forth from this place and imitate the Holy One in all you do.

PEOPLE: **We will live with love, speak with kindness, touch with gentleness, walk with humbleness, and build up the kingdom of God.**

POSTLUDE

INGRAM

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"
Handbell Ensemble

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST 15, 2021

FLOWERS today are given in memory of Virg Brown, with love from all of her children.

GREAT LAKE LOONS BASEBALL: Join your church friends for an evening of fun and fellowship at a ball game Thursday, August 19! We have a few tickets left — check with the church office. Tickets are \$12.50 each, and the game begins at 7:05 p.m.

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.

BRUNCH & BIBLE STUDY: AKA Chew... Chat...Consider... We will wrap up our “Civility” gatherings — “Chew, Chat, Consider” — TODAY following the worship service. So often when we think about having “civil conversations” we think about “what or how we will say what we want to or need to say.” What we have focused on, though, is that civil conversations have more to do with being a good listener than a good talker. Today we will explore “what kinds of commitments, behaviors, and practices civility actually require.” Come join us over a light brunch and great conversation as we listen and learn together; as we practice having “civil dialogue” even in the face of differences of opinions.

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Because of the Loons game on August 19, we will meet instead on August 26 via Zoom. We are exploring the book, *First and Second Samuel* by David C. Hester. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

THE WIRED WORD ADULT FAITH FORMATION: During the summer months, join us on the second and fourth 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.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION: Join us on the first and third Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom for a time of fellowship. All are invited! For Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

SUMMER MOVIE SERIES: Join us on August 26 as we view *Just Mercy*. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m., and a time for discussion will follow the movie. All ages are welcome! Popcorn and soda will be served.

This Week at Westminster

Today, Sunday, August 15, 2021

- 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Chew...Chat...Consider

Tuesday, August 17

- 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. Joint Session Meeting

Wednesday, August 18

- 1:00 p.m. Coffee & Conversation via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Sweaty Sheep / Walking Wellness Group

Thursday, August 19

- 8:30 p.m. TOPS
- 5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran
- 7:00 p.m. Great Lakes Loons Game

Next Sunday, August 22

- 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship Service
- 1:00 p.m. Westminster Without Walls Worship Service

Join us for a
**Westminster Without Walls
Outdoor Worship Service on
Sunday, August 22 at 1:00 p.m.**



This month's theme is FIRE.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Summer Office Hours

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

Closed Friday

