

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship Dance Between Lament and Hope

November 19, 2023

10:30 a.m.

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



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTMINSTER AT WORK

OPENING PRAYER

†CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: In a world where death seems to have the power,

PEOPLE: we come seeking life.

LEADER: As people of faith,

PEOPLE: we proclaim that life wins.

LEADER: We have been called together by God,

PEOPLE: who calls life from the tombs of our world, who unbinds us from our chains, who is the God of the living.

LEADER: In this time of worship,

PEOPLE: may the tombs of life be opened, may our hearts be unbound, may we be reminded that in the end life will always win!

†HYMN

“Now Thank We All Our God” NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be ever more.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new life, we confess it is easy to get stuck in our lament, to stay in our despair, to use the overwhelming need we see as an excuse for inaction. Forgive us for the times we have not worked toward change. Forgive us for our weak faith, for not believing that you are great enough to overcome the challenges that are too great for us alone. Transform us into your partners in this work, that we might spread your seeds of hope throughout this world.

— *A Time of Silent Confession* —

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

†RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE

“Gloria Patri”

GREATOREX

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 Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Second Reading

Lamentations 5:19-22

SERMON

“Dance Between Lament and Hope”

Rev. Linda Williams

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD WITH THANKSGIVING

†HYMN

"We Cannot Measure How You Heal" YE BANKS AND BRAES

*We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.*

*The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.*

*So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind, and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain,
and make your broken people whole.*

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Alone, we have doubts, and struggle to believe,
but in community we have all the faith God requires of us,
even if only the tiniest mustard seed.
So as one, let us affirm our faith:

**We believe in the God of Moses, God the Liberator, Who
revealed Their name from a burning bush, Who chooses self-
restraint in order to leave room for our free will.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who opens his arms to
our unbelief for he knew what it was to be human,
to experience fear, grief, and pain—
even the trauma of the cross.**

**Though God, he had no interest in exaltation, but
chose self-emptying:**

**In Jesus, Divinity stripped of omnipotence becoming utterly
dependent on a human womb; he grew, learned,
and leaned into interdependence within a human
community.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus sent to us after his
rising to be God in our midst:**

**Disrupter of authority, Upturner of the status quo, Kindler of
curiosity, and Breath of rebirth in times of Upheaval.**

**We believe that this Triune God, whose name evokes
Steadfastness, dwells in our midst yesterday, today, and for all
time, empowering our partnership and renewing all of
Creation. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

~Please record your presence on the "Friendship Pad"

CHORAL OFFERING

"I Thought by Now"

SORENSEN

Chancel Choir

soloists: Jeff Rogers and Lin Stuijbergen

†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

**Generous God,
with Thanksgiving quickly approaching, we are reminded to give
you thanks for the ministries of this congregation which you
have entrusted us with.
We are honored by the opportunity to be your holy body here.
Bless these offerings, however they are given that our efforts
may be ever more worthy of your name. Amen.**

BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

†HYMN

“Be Still, My Soul”

FINLANDIA

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now my mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

LEADER: As our time of worship draws to a close,

PEOPLE: we prepare to continue our ministry in the world.

LEADER: As people who believe in truth,

PEOPLE: we go out to tell and hear the hard truths of life.

LEADER: As people who have been forgiven,

PEOPLE: we go out to work at forgiving those with whom we live and work.

LEADER: As people who believe in healing,

PEOPLE: We go out to seek reconciliation that heals broken relationships.

LEADER: As people who trust that we are not alone,

PEOPLE: We go out trusting that God: Parent, Child and Spirit, is with us each step of life's road.

†POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



Liturgical texts used with permission from:

Follow Me: Lament- Worship Helps. Growing Faith Resources 2023.

Call to Worship—Gord Waldie, www.worshipofferings.blogspot.com

Prayer of Illumination and Invitation to Offering—Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett,
Presbyterian Outlook.

Affirmation of Faith—Avery Smith, www.blessedarethebinarybreakers.com

Charge and Benediction —Gord Waldie, www.worshipofferings.blogspot.com

Connections Worship Companion, Year C, Vol. 1. Westminster John Knox, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2023

The **FLOWERS** today are given by Janet Klopp in memory of her mother, June Roemer-Iler, her aunt, Eileen Roemer and her aunt, Helen Roemer.

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Sundays): Join Rev. Linda on **Sunday mornings, at 9:00 a.m.** in the Session Room, for a study on the Gospel of John. While consistent with the other Gospels, John has even more to tell us about Jesus' life and death—in a very different way. We'll continue the study on Sunday, November 26th and then take a pause during Advent and continue with John's Gospel in January. More details to follow. Even if you haven't participated yet, you are welcome to join. We'll meet in the Conference Room.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Thursday evenings): Thursday's Bible Study will use the Follow Me Curriculum, with our third unit "Lament". Lament, is not a word we use in our everyday speech, but we know it is related to sadness and grief; and we are familiar with the sentiments-crying, weeping, wailing, to mourn. We have all felt these times of sadness and despair. But with these feelings, there is hope. Knowing that God hears our sorrows and responds. There is healing in Lament. The Lament series will wrap up Thursday, November 30th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

BIBLE STUDY DURING ADVENT: On both Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings, we will look closely at the details in the opening chapter of the Gospel of Luke. Discover where joy is sprinkled throughout. Identify moments joys arrived, despite fear and grief. And consider how joy can be a companion. For joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. "How does a weary world rejoice?" we'll explore that question with a devotional Bible study during this time of Advent. The Sunday morning classes (starting Dec. 3rd) will be in-person in the Conference Room at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday's classes (starting Dec. 6th) will be held via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

PAGEANT REHEARSALS: Parents mark your calendars for upcoming rehearsals for the Children and Youth Christmas Pageant!
November 19th @ 1-2:30 p.m. Full Cast
November 26th @ 12-1:30 p.m. Acts 1-3
December 3th @ 12-1:30 p.m. Acts 4-5
December 9th @ 9-12:00 p.m. Full Cast
We'll perform during worship on Sunday, December 10th. Please be in costume by 9:00 a.m. that morning.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS: Thank you to everyone who has purchased turkeys and those who have donated food items. Remember, we'll be distributing 100 baskets next week. **We'll be packing baskets today after worship. Join us!**

PROMISE AND POSSIBILITY, THE MOVEMENT OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH GEN Z. Each new generation struggles to find their place in life and older generations struggle to understand the differences that emerge. In a joint study with First Presbyterian, we'll start having these important conversations about what our young adults are experiencing, how we can walk with them in their spiritual journey and learn from each other. All are invited! The second session of the four part series will be tomorrow, **Monday, November 20th at 6:00 p.m. here at Westminster.** More details are in the November Log or see Pastor Jamie if you have any questions. Even if you weren't able to make the first session, you are invited and welcome to attend these upcoming sessions. Materials from the first class are available, please stop by the church office.

GRIEF GROUP: Joyce Rupp writes in her book, Praying Our Goodbyes, that goodbyes are as much a part of life as the season of the year. The word goodbye-originally "God-be-with-ye" was recognition that God was a significant part of the going. Recognizing the many deaths we have experienced over these past six months, we are offering an opportunity to meet together and consider how it is that we have been experiencing grief and to find that "the human spirit is wonderfully resilient in recovering." We will gather **two Tuesday evenings-November 28th and December 12th at 6:30 p.m.** to provide support and find companionship in this journey. All are invited to attend, this is not just for spouses, or those experiencing recent loss, but anyone who is experiencing the pangs of loss, especially as the holiday season approaches. Feel free to bring friends and family. We hope you'll join us.

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Join us next Sunday in worship as we continue this new tradition. During Worship, we'll decorate our sanctuary for the coming season of Advent and learn about the decorations, customs and symbols that are so familiar to us during this time of year.

ADVENT DINNER AND WORKSHOP: We'll begin Advent with a festive start with a Potluck dinner and workshop **Sunday, December 3rd, starting at 5:00 p.m.** The main dish will be provided and we ask that you bring a side dish, salad or dessert. We'll have crafts for all ages!

THE ANGEL GIVING TREE: The Mission Partnerships Committee invites you to help make Christmas a little brighter for families in our community. **Starting Monday, November 20th** tags will be available to pick up during church office hours and on Sunday mornings. **Gifts must be returned by noon on December 11th.** Suggested spending limit between \$25-30. Monetary donations are accepted too (we'll do the shopping for you!); please write "Angel Tree" on the memo line of your check or envelope. Thank you!

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

MINISTERS
PASTOR
PARISH ASSOCIATE
LITURGIST
NURSERY SUPERVISOR
CHOIR DIRECTOR
PIANIST
ORGANIST
TREASURER/SECRETARY
FACILITIES MANAGER
CCLI License #2328090
ONE LICENSE A-741016

All the People
Rev. Jamie Milton
Rev. Linda Williams
Tim Rutzen
Elaine Edwards
Dawn Auger
Rachel Webb
Seth Cunningham
Heather Heidtman
Harold Miller

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.

Practicing Generosity

There are many ways to share your gifts with Westminster.

Cash and checks are welcome. Please use your offering envelopes or the envelopes found in pew backs and place your gift in the offering plate when it is passed.

Visit our website www.wpcbc.org and click on the "Give Now" button at the bottom of the page. This will direct you to our Online Giving Portal or simply scan the QR Code below.

Contributions can also be sent through the mail to the attention of the Church Treasurer.

We're grateful for your gifts,
however you choose to give.
THANK YOU!

