

Westminster At Worship

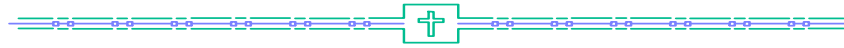
A Celebration of Worship *1st Sunday after Christmas*

December 26, 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

PRAYER

PRELUDE

Wendy Tally

†CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 148, adapted)

Please rise, in body or in spirit, wherever you may be worshipping with us today, and join in the Call to Worship.

LEADER: Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.

PEOPLE: Praise the Lord from the earth!

LEADER: Young and old alike,

PEOPLE: Men and women together. Praise the Lord.

LEADER: Come, let us worship God.

PEOPLE: Let us worship God together.

OPENING HYMN

IRBY

"Once in David's Royal City"
Chancel Choir Recording

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Please join together in our Unison Prayer of Confession:

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us.

Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witness to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love and hope.

Hear us now as we come to you in silent prayer...

— *Silent Confession* —

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

And we are freed to live in celebration of the hope given to us through Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

FANNING THE FLAME

Following the time with young disciples at the front of the sanctuary, children are invited to follow Ms. Brandi to the Campfire Meeting (Children's Church), and can be picked up following the service at the end of the Sunday School hallway.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God has come to us as a little child, making our weakness his strength, securing our salvation by becoming one of us, blessing us with a steadfast savior, filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.

We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world, giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts, making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority, declaring an everlasting reign of peace, defeating the power of pain and suffering.

We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love, inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table, transforming us as disciples to go out into the world, sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort, challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.

This we believe. This we preach. This we seek to embody in word and deed.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹ Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴² When he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't know it. ⁴⁴ Supposing that he was among their band of travelers, they journeyed on for a full day while looking for him among their family and friends. ⁴⁵ When they didn't find Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were shocked. His mother said, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We've been looking for you!" ⁴⁹ Jesus replied, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they didn't understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. ⁵²

Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans.²⁷ The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. ²⁸ We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified. ³¹ So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him? ³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. ³⁴ Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, *We are being put to death all day long for your sake. We are treated like sheep for slaughter.*

³⁷ But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. ³⁸ I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or

rulers, not present things or future things, not powers ³⁹ or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

SERMON

“Celebration of Hope”

Rev. Linda Williams

MUSIC

“All is Well”

Brandi Higgins

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

†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray together:

Loving God, we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ’s gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. Amen.

BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"
Children's Choir

CHARGE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Wendy Tally



MINISTERS

PASTOR

PARISH ASSOCIATE

LITURGIST

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

CHOIR DIRECTOR

HAND BELL DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

TREASURER

CUSTODIAN

SECRETARY

CCLI License #2328090

All the People

Rev. Jamie Milton

Rev. Linda Williams

Anne Remington

Brandi Higgins

Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Peggy Hanson

Wendy Tally

Heather Heidtman

Harold Miller

Judy Harrelson

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 26, 2021

FELLOWSHIP TIME: There will be no Fellowship Time today following the worship service.

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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin in early 2022. Students in eighth grade and above who have not yet completed the confirmation process are invited to be a part of this important journey of faith. We will discuss many different aspects of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, an active member of this congregation, and a part of the larger Christian Church. Our classes will take place on Sunday evenings from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. An informational meeting will be held for interested students and parents following worship on January 9.

BIBLE STUDY: There is no Adult Bible Study the weeks of December 26 and January 2. Sunday and Wednesday classes will resume the week of January 9.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL and Little Ringer practice will resume on Sunday, January 9.

ADULT HANDBELL PRACTICE will resume on Sunday, January 9.

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: 2022 envelopes are available for pickup in the hallway outside the Chapel.

PER CAPITA: If you have not paid your 2021 per capita (\$28.76) you can still get that in this month. Per capita for 2022 is \$29.00. Please do not pay your 2022 per capita until January 1 or after.

CONTRIBUTIONS you would like credited for 2021 must reach Heather Heidtman (or be postmarked) by December 31, 2021. Anything received or postmarked after December 31, regardless of the date on the check or offering envelope, will be credited to 2022.

OUR STEPHEN MINISTRY PROGRAM is venturing into volunteering with Hospice. We would like to invite anyone in the congregation to join us. Your time commitment is up to you. The Hospice co-ordinator is great to work with, and will assign you with the job that best suits your interests and time. There will be a training session after Christmas for us all to do together. Please call Jan (989-686-1557) or Pam (989-225-8259) for more information or to be put on our volunteer list.

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.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

This Week at Westminster

Sunday, December 26

9:30 a.m. PJs & Pancakes
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, December 27

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 28

1:00 p.m. Coffee & Conversation

Friday, December 31

Church Office Closed

Next Sunday, January 2

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

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.

The Church Office
will be closed:

**Monday, December 27,
Friday, December 31,
Monday, January 3**

