

Westminster At Worship

First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

10:30 a.m.



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Return to the Lord your God,

People: For God is gracious.

Leader: Confess to the Lord your God,

People: For God is merciful.

Leader: Repent to the Lord your God,

People: For God is slow to anger.

Leader: Praise the Lord your God,

People: For God abounds in steadfast love.

Leader: Worship the Lord your God.

People: Together, let us worship God!

MUSIC

"Give to Our God Immortal Praise"

Trio

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Wondrous God, we confess that we have not listened for
your Word as we should. We confess that we have**

placed obstacles in the way of our neighbors. We are guilty of being proud and arrogant. Forgive us for our foolish and hateful ways. Forgive us for taking your amazing gift of grace for granted. Redirect us, by your Spirit that we may be your faithful people once again. Hear us now, O Lord, as we come to you in silent confession...

— *Silent Prayer* —

Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

HEBREW

Genesis 9:8-17

Our reading from the Hebrew Scriptures for this morning comes from Genesis chapter 9, verses 8 through 17.

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the

ark. **11** I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." **12** God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: **13** I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. **14** When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, **15** I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. **16** When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." **17** God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

This morning's Gospel Lesson can be found in Mark chapter 1, verses 9 through 15.

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. **13** He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. **14** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, **15** and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

NEW TESTAMENT

1 Peter 3:8, 9, 13-22

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

9 Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.

13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? **14** But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, **15** but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; **16** yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. **18** For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the

righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, **19** in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, **20** who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. **21** And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22** who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

SERMON

“Signs of Covenant”

Rev. Jamie Milton

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Lenten Creed (from, Liturgy Link)

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that unexpected gifts can come in hard times.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

MUSIC

"It is Well With My Soul"
Handbell Choir

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

The psalm reminds us, “All the paths of God are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep God’s covenant and decrees.” Our church’s ministries are extension of God’s love and faithfulness made possible through the generous giving of our time, energy, and money. With love, let us offer our gifts to God.

†DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray —

God of all bounty and blessing, receive our lives and our gifts to be bounty and blessings to you, our church, and the world. Amen

BEING SENT WITH GOD’S WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

“Lord Speak to Me”
Trio

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

MINISTERS

PASTOR

PARISH ASSOCIATE

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

CHOIR DIRECTOR

HAND BELL DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

TREASURER

CUSTODIAN

SECRETARY

CCLI License #2328090

All the People
Rev. Jamie Milton
Rev. Linda Williams
Nikelle Johnson
Elaine Edwards
Dawn Auger
Peggy Hanson
Wendy Tally
Heather Heidtman
Harold Miller
Judy Harrelson

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2021

DEBORAH CIRCLE: Ladies, you are invited! Join us Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For the foreseeable future, Deborah Circle plans to meet the 4th Tuesday of the month via Zoom. Contact the church office or the Log for Zoom login information.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: Join us on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. During the Lenten season, we will explore the book, *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill J. Duffield. 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: Join us on 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.

THE BOOK CLUB will meet Tuesday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss the book *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. Books are available at church this month. They are available in the church office for check-out and can be picked up during regular business hours. Contact Nikelle at cedirector@wpcbc.org to receive Zoom login information.

HOLY COMMUNION: In an effort to help our Westminster family and friends experience a greater connection to the church on Holy Communion Sunday, we have begun delivering the small Communion cups with juice and wafer for you to use when you watch the live-streamed worship service. If you would like to have the Communion elements delivered to your home (socially distanced of course), please call the church office at 686-1360.

SPIRITUALITY OF AGING: Our Spirituality of Aging groups have begun gathering in groups of twos over the phone. We realize this is not the way we would have all hoped to have gathered this Fall, but for the ten to twelve who have signed up, it has become a way to remain connected during these coronavirus days. For these “two-by-two” conversations, we are using “*On the Brink of Everything*,” a beautiful book of reflections on what we can learn as we move closer to “the brink of everything.” This book is written by beloved and bestselling author Parker J. Palmer. It’s never too late to join in! If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our “two-by-two” discussion format, please give Rev. Linda a call.

PER CAPITA & OFFERING ENVELOPES: Per capita for 2021 is \$28.76. This is per active, confirmed member. Offering envelopes for 2021 are available for pick-up at the church during regular office hours.

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

This Week at Westminster

Today, Sunday, February 21, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, February 23

6:00 p.m. Book Club via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle via Zoom

Wednesday, February 24

1:00 p.m. The Wired Word

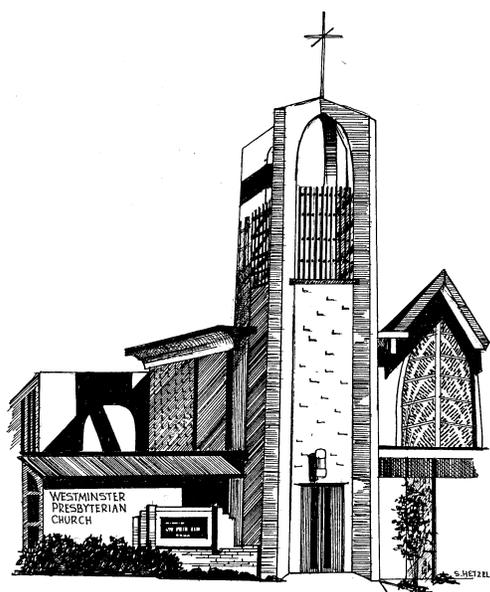
Thursday, February 25

5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran

7:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation via Zoom

Next Sunday, February 28

10:30 a.m. Worship Service



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.

lunch 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Friday

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

