

The logo features a stylized cross with a flame at the top and two flames at the base, rendered in blue and red.

WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF DETROIT



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Sunday, March 3, 2024
Third Sunday of Lent
Communion Sunday

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Prelude on 'Kingsfold'

James Biery

Welcome to all – especially to our guests.

Hymns labeled GTG are in the Glory to God Hymnal (purple)

Hymns labeled AAHH are in the African American Heritage Hymnal (beige)

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Psalm 19: 7-10)

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

They are more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey.

Let us worship God!

Gospel Praise

I Love The Lord

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of righteousness, we confess that we have not kept your commandments. We bow down before idols, declaring our allegiance to other powers and principalities.

We take your name in vain, using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions. We do not make adequate time to rest and remember your goodness, nor to revel in the delight of family and friends. We look the other way in the face of violence and oppression,

misogyny and sexual assault, land grabs and unjust economic practices. Our dishonesty and greed get the better of us. Yet you gave us commandments not for condemnation, but so that we might live in justice and joy. Purify us by your righteousness and enfold us in your grace. Sanctify our intentions and actions, that our lives may begin to reflect your Beloved Community. Amen.

Declaration of God's Forgiveness

Hear these words from the Apostle Paul, "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." The grace of Christ is sufficient for us.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace/A Time for Celebration

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!**

(Exchange signs of Christ's peace and forgiveness with others. We greet one another as neighbors in Christ. You may say "Peace be with you," or respond, "And also with you.")

***Response GTG #792** There Is a Balm in Gilead

**There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. (Refrain)
Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.
(Refrain)**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Affirmation of Faith (adapted from The Confession of 1967)

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic, and political, scientific, and technological, individual and corporate. It includes our natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. God wills that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ, and all evil be banished from God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgement and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

Hymn GTG #307

God of Grace and God of Glory

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give your thanks and praise.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER

Call to Offering

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

Oh Love, How Deep

arr. Bradley Ellingboe

Chancel Choir

Bobbi Adams & Carol Tallieu, percussion

***Doxology GTG #606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

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.

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn AAHH #129**

Lord, Keep Me Day by Day

***Benediction**

Postlude

Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven

arr. Robert Powell

*The organ postlude is offered as an instrumental prayer. You are invited to
remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly,
remembering those who are still worshipping.*

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

129 LORD, KEEP ME DAY BY DAY

...if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, ...eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1

1. Lord, keep me day by day
2. Lord, keep my bod - y strong
3. I'm just a stran - ger here,

in a pure and per - fect way.
so that I can do no wrong.
trav-'ling through this bar - ren land.

I want to live
Lord, give me grace
Lord, I know
I want to just to run this Chris-tian
there's a build-ing some-

live on
race
where,
in a build-ing not made
to a build-ing not made
a build-ing not made
by hand.
by hand.
by hand.