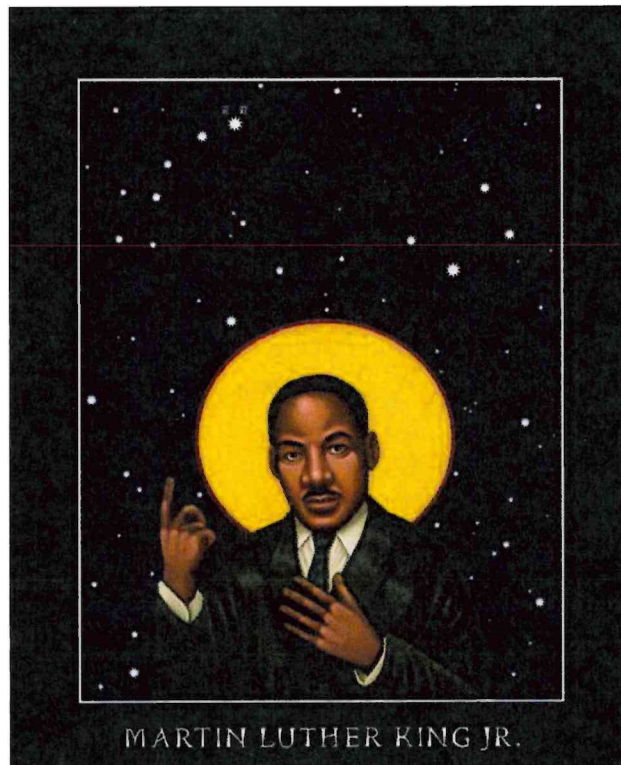


The logo features a stylized blue and red cross with a golden chalice on top, set against a white background.

WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF DETROIT



17567 Hubbell Ave
Detroit, MI 48235
(313) 341.2697
office@wcodetroit.org
www.wcodetroit.org

SERMON NOTES

4 Things to Know About Luke 5:1-11

1. Lake St. Clair is about twice the size of Galilee. The Sea or Lake of Galilee was about 8 miles wide and 13 miles long, from north to south. It is in the Northern Region of Israel and was considered wild, unruly, and hard to control by Jerusalem and Rome because of the fierceness of its people. Galileans had a hard time with any authority that tried to rule them because they had always been the first ones in Israel's long history to be conquered. They were most vulnerable and the first ones to know when Rome, Babylon, Greece, or Assyria had invaded. Peter, James, John, and Andrew, the fishermen in this story, are real men with real backgrounds. They were serious about God and Israel, and they were ready to defend the land and its people from any threat to life. Galileans were always ready for a fight and were almost always armed with small knives and swords, their fishing tools.
2. The Sea of Galilee is the lowest body of freshwater on planet Earth. When Jesus stood on the shores of Galilee teaching it was literally as low as God could condescend. He came to us as far down as the earth went and taught us from that place. The bottom geographically, spiritually, and socially. People in Jesus' time who lived on the Sea of Galilee called it *the Gennesaret*. It means Garden of Riches. They call Detroit: Motown, Rock City, Motor City. The name gives shape to the place and its people. What people call things matters to God and always has since Adam.
3. The Sea of Galilee had carp, catfish, tilapia, and sardines living in it. This is what the fishermen in the story are catching and lugging to shore. They were almost always after Tilapia because observant Jews don't eat catfish or like touching them. People have always been disappointed with catching carp and sardines are difficult to catch in a net. Tilapia swarm in "shoals" in the breeding season and sometimes a great multitude of them will show up at the same place and the same time. They probably were just below the surface of the water in a giant shoal of thousands and thousands of fish. No one else saw them but Jesus knew exactly where they were.
4. The fishermen who catch the shoal of fish in a net that is sinking their two boats is worth between \$20,000 and \$50,000 in our time. In their time they would have been the richest men for miles and probably would never had fished again anyway. They walked away leaving the nets full of money and followed Jesus instead. All of them become Saints and Apostles of our Lord but like the fish in the sea only He could see that at the time.

Sunday, February 9, 2025
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Calvin Taylor

Welcome to all – especially to our guests.

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad, located in each of the pews.

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

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, all the earth! Praise Him, sea!
Praise Him, sky! Praise Him, earth and rock, for He made you
and He formed you. He, the one who fashioned you and gave
shape to you; praise God!

Praise God for His almighty power and goodness!

Let all that He has made praise the LORD!

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, all you in the cosmos! Praise Him, stars!
Praise Him, moon! You, Sun, praise Him for He set you in your place
in the heavens like an ornament and gave the rhythm to your dance.
Praise God!

Praise God for His almighty power and goodness!

Let all that He has made praise the LORD!

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, all you people. Near and far. Rich and poor.
Young and old. All together, now, let the nations lift up His Name high!
Hey you, you in the Heavenly Places, come and join our song! Angels and
Saints; you His Holy Ones. Let us all praise His Name! Our God, He is Love
and Truth and Righteousness and beside Him there is no other!

Holy is He! Praise God!

Praise God for His almighty power and goodness!

Let all that He has made praise the LORD!

Faithful God, you have appointed us as your witnesses, to be the light that shines in the world and the salt that gives earth its richness. Let us not hide the bright hope you have given us, but tell everyone your love, revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord, who live and reigns with you in the unity and power of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Gospel Praise

I Love The Lord
Gospel Choir

Minute for Mission

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you know me. My thoughts, my words, and my actions are never hidden from you. Lord, you love me and there is nothing I have done or could ever do to make you love me any less. Your love is perfect. I am not. Lord, forgive me in your boundless mercy. Help me to trust in your love and goodness. Help me to place my trust in nothing else and in no one else. My God and my Lord, I know that you want nothing but good for me and you are always with me. I thank you for forgiveness. I thank you for your healing. I thank you for being my loving and steadfast God despite all else. Amen.

Declaration of God's Forgiveness

As the voice from heaven said to our Lord,
so, in Christ, God now speaks to us:
you are my child, my beloved one,
with you I am well pleased!
Thanks be to God! The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn GTG #69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)

Call to Offering

Invitation to Offering

Organ Offertory Swing Low, Sweet Chariot arr. Charles Callahan

***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

Prayers of the People

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.

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn AAHH #492 I've Got Peace Like A River

*Benediction

Postlude Hold On! arr. Calvin Taylor

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 worshiping.

Worship Leaders:

The Rev. Dakota Whitaker, Pastor/Head of Staff
Dalos Grobe, Chancel Choir Director/Organist
Victor Boyd, Gospel Choir Director
Tema Pefok Zama, Liturgist
CJ Chapman, Myiesha Mokom, Acolytes

During the month of February, the choir anthems as well as the organ preludes, offertories and postludes are arrangements of spirituals or original compositions by African American composers.

Visit our website at www.wcodetroit.org for the link to view our Sunday morning worship services on YouTube or follow us on Instagram and Facebook.



Today's Anthem

Fisherman Peter on the sea, drop your net now and follow me! Brother James...Brother John, son of Zebedee, leave your fishing and follow me! All you people now come along, hear Jesus call and join His song. He will show us the way to go, so come and follow and don't be slow.

New to Westminster Church of Detroit? We are so thankful that you have joined us today for worship, and we would love to get to know you and help you get to know us. Please sign the Friendship Pad which can be found in each pew rack. Sign it then pass it down to others sitting in your pew.

Westminster Church of Detroit News and Events

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, 23, 2025

A congregational meeting has been called by Session to present the 2023/24 Annual Report, the 2025 budget and to vote on the new incoming slate of officers. This meeting will take place in the sanctuary immediately following worship.

February is Black History Month – The Invisible Church

To celebrate and carry on the legacy of Black History month, Pastor Dakota will be doing a special sermon series for the month of February, "The Invisible Church." Each week will have a theme that relates to the history of the Civil Rights Movement, a prominent African American figure who epitomizes the fight for equality and justice, and the lectionary reading that grounds and inspires the hope behind the movement. In Jesus, God shows us clearly that He is all about justice and equality amongst all peoples no matter where they live. Please join us in honoring the good fight: the fight for social justice and the preservation of the truth in the church.

Evening Adult Bible Study

The Wednesday evening bible study is reading and discussing "Pedagogy of the Oppressed" by Paulo Freire. The book is available for purchase through Amazon or Barnes and Noble. All are welcome to come and participate, either in person or by Zoom at 6:30pm in the Parlor. The Zoom link can be found on the WCOD website: wcodetroit.org.

Westminster Calendar

Sunday, February 9th

10:00am Worship

10:15am Sunday School for Children & Youth

Monday, February 10th

7:00pm NA Meeting

Wednesday, February 12th

12Noon Bible Study

2:00pm Gospel Choir Rehearsal (at Fort St. Presbyterian Church)

6:00pm NA Meeting

6:30pm Evening Bible Study

Thursday, February 13th

9:30am Sewing Ministry Team

Saturday, February 15th

1:00pm Respond

Sunday, February 16th

10:00am Worship

10:15am Sunday School for Children

11:30am Session Meeting

Prayer Concerns

Praying for one another is an important and loving gift. If you would like to add a person to our prayer list, please call the church office at 313-341-2697 or email at office@wcodetroit.org. May God continue to surround you with love and care.

Recent prayer requests

Matthew Gough (son of Irene Gough), Melvina Norment, A'lanna Norment, Aaliyah Garrett, Kamani Jacobs, Central Park Village, Bishop Melvin L. Williams, Trudy & Jim McCreadie

Dr. Joyce Tibbs, Dorothy Ellis-Davis, Arice Willoughby, Dr. Maxine Bloodworth, Catherine Lewis, Gladys Stephen, Prince Ella Cunningham, Sandy Gross, Margaret Clay, Virginia Fields and Family, Heide Lewis and Family, Julie Handel & Family, Elizabeth Galloway, Adeyah Brady Lewis (great-granddaughter of Carol Lewis), Lela Norris (Eddie & Cynthia Norris's sister-in-law), Rosa Armstrong, Faye Baker, Dorn Fair, Dianna White (Deborah Fair's sister-in-law), Edda Dickerson, Sandra Lamb, Samuel Willis, Sandra Gray, Victor & Janette Jackson, Ann Gourlay, Ruth Wallace Robertson (Sharon Wallace's mother), Vernon and Alfreda Wilder, Jocelyn Wilder

69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

G Am D G C G D
Leader or All

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain
All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

492 I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER

...my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.
John 14:27

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
 3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an

1.
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er in my
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain in my
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean in my

2.
 soul. I've got riv - er in my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain in my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean in my soul.

Text: Congregational Praise Song
 Tune: PEACE LIKE A RIVER, 7 7 10, Congregational Praise Song