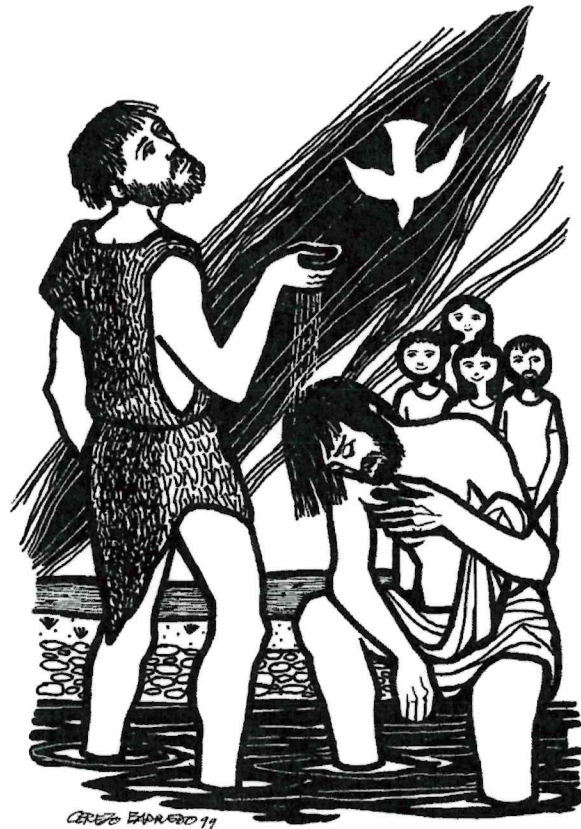




WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF DETROIT



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www.wcodetroit.org

**Sunday, January 7, 2024
Baptism of the Lord
Communion Sunday**

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude How Brightly Shines the Morning Star Dietrich Buxtehude

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)

This morning communion will be administered at stations located in the sanctuary.

All communion bread is gluten-free.

There is no Sunday school this morning for children.

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

God spoke the creative Word into the formless void.

The cosmos cries, “Glory!”

From the wilderness, God brought forth new life and liberation.

The plants and animals that inhabit the wild places cry, Glory!”

A messenger in the wilderness brings good news.

God’s people cry, “Glory!”

In baptism, we are united to God through Jesus Christ.

With all of creation, we cry “Glory!”

Gospel Praise

Amen

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Creating God, we cannot look at our lives, our communities, or the world around us without seeing the fractures and brokenness that reflect the reality of sin.

You created the earth and called it good, but it now groans, awaiting redemption and re-creation under the weight of our greed, abuse and carelessness.

You created humanity in your image, and called us very good, but we have ignored the image of God in each other. We have created, maintained and benefitted from unjust systems built on divisions based on race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and more.

You poured out your love in Jesus Christ, who showed us how to live and how to love, but we continue to make our own path, follow our own desires, and neglect to love others as Christ loves us.

Lord, have mercy. Rend the heavens. Re-create us now. Amen.

Declaration of God's Forgiveness

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 # 93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to
thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner
presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Genesis 1: 1-5

Anthem Sing My Soul, His Wondrous Love Ned Rorem
Chancel Choir

Gospel Reading Mark 1: 4-11

Message

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**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 AAHH #326 Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*To receive communion, you are invited to come to one of the four stations;
two in the center aisle, two in the cross aisles and follow the directions given
by the ushers.*

*If you are unable to come forward, please raise your hand and an usher will serve
you where you are seated.*

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

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn GTG #476**

Crashing Waters at Creation

***Benediction**

Postlude

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy arr. Noel Rawsthorne

(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

Sean Neall, Liturgist

* Please stand as you are able.

Visit www.wcodetroit.org for the link to view our Sunday morning worship services on YouTube.

Liturgy reprinted by permission from Stephanie Sorge, *The Presbyterian Outlook*.

Today's Anthem

Sing, my soul, His wondrous love, who, from yon bright throne above, ever watchful, o'er our race, still to man extends His grace. Heav'n and earth by Him were made, all is by His scepter swayed; what are we that He should show so much love to us below? God, the merciful and good, bought us with the Savior's blood. And, to make our safety sure, guides us by His spirit pure. Sing, my soul, adore His name; let His glory be thy theme: Praise Him till He calls thee home, trust His love for all to come.

Westminster Church of Detroit News

2023 Donations End of Year Deadline

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, note that any final donations for 2023 should be received by the church no later than **07 January 2024** (and dated in 2023) to be recorded in 2023. Anything received after that deadline will be reflected in your 2024 statements.

Wednesday Adult Bible Study

The Rev. Beth Downs leads this weekly Adult Bible study. This group meets faithfully every Wednesday from noon to 1:00pm, studying and discerning God's word. All are welcome to come and participate, either in person or by Zoom. The Zoom link can be found on the WCOD website: wcodetroit.org.

Westminster Church of Detroit Sewing Ministry Team

In the coming year, we will be working on new throw pillows for Worthington Lodge at Camp Westminster, flannel blankets for preemie babies, lap blankets for the elderly and shut ins, and of course a big quilt to donate to the Linus project. All are welcome to join us no matter what your skill level.

We have machines available to use or other helpful skills are needed such as sorting and cutting materials. Bring a sack lunch and join us for wonderful fellowship and lively discussions!

10:00am to 2:00 pm:

January 11th and 25th

February 8th & 22nd

Pop Can Tabs for the Ronald MacDonald House of Detroit

As you enjoy cool drinks, please remember to pull the tabs and bring them to church. Removing the pull tab will not change any refund you are due. There is a large jar on the table by the church office where you can deposit them. Annette Trice, a member of our office staff, takes the tabs to the Ronald MacDonald House of Detroit, near the DMC. The donated tabs are used to purchase laundry supplies. Ronald MacDonald House provides residential space to families while their children recover from surgery.

POD Toilet Paper Drive

The Presbytery of Detroit is taking donations of single-wrapped toilet paper rolls. Their goal is 3 rolls per family for a total of 3900. If you would like to contribute, please bring them next time you come to WCOD. If you need further information, contact Unah at unah@detroitpresbytery.org or 313-345-6550 x207.

326 SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

... agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
2 Corinthians 13:11

There's a sweet, sweet spir - it in this place,
sweet ex - pres-sions on each face,

And I know that it's the spir - it of the
And I know that it's the pres - ence of the

Lord. There are Sweet Ho-ly Spir-it,
Lord.

Sweet Heav'n-ly Dove, Stay right here with us

Fill-ing us with Your love. And for those

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff begins with a G4 quarter note, followed by a half note G4-A4, a half note B4-A4, and a half note G4. The bass staff begins with a G3 quarter note, followed by a half note G3-A3, a half note B3-A3, and a half note G3. The lyrics 'Fill-ing us with Your love. And for those' are written below the notes.

bles-sings We lift our hearts with praise; With-out a

The second system of musical notation continues the melody. The treble staff has a half note G4, a half note A4, a half note B4, and a half note G4. The bass staff has a half note G3, a half note A3, a half note B3, and a half note G3. The lyrics 'bles-sings We lift our hearts with praise; With-out a' are written below the notes.

doubt we'll know that we have been re-vived, when

The third system of musical notation continues the melody. The treble staff has a half note G4, a half note A4, a half note B4, and a half note G4. The bass staff has a half note G3, a half note A3, a half note B3, and a half note G3. The lyrics 'doubt we'll know that we have been re-vived, when' are written below the notes.

we shall leave this place.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the hymn. The treble staff has a half note G4, a half note A4, a half note B4, and a half note G4. The bass staff has a half note G3, a half note A3, a half note B3, and a half note G3. The lyrics 'we shall leave this place.' are written below the notes.

Text: Doris Akers, b.1922
Tune: MANNA, Irregular; Doris Akers, b.1922
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BAPTISM

476 Crashing Waters at Creation

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (F#dim7) Gdim7 (Em) Fm

1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered
 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the
 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a -
 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the

(D#dim7) Edim7 (Em) Fm

by the Spir - it's breath, first to wit - ness
 cap - tives passed on through, wash - ing off the
 round the One fore - told, o - pened to re -
 thirst and flood the soul. Well - spring, Source of

(F#dim7) Gdim7 (Em) Fm (Am) (B) (Em) Bbm C Fm

day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
 chains of bond - age: chan - nel to a life made new.
 veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
 life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness; make us whole.

Like the Thanksgiving Over the Water in the rite of Baptism, this text by a United Church of Canada minister recalls significant events in salvation history involving water. The final stanza is a prayer to Christ, the Living Water (John 4:10, 14), to quench our spiritual thirst.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1987
 MUSIC: William A. Cross, 1992
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music © 1994 William A. Cross

CRASHING WATERS
 8.7.8.7