


MORNING WORSHIP The Word Is on His Way		
GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD		
In Preparation for Worship “Grace and truth is the invitation to be seen, and in that seeing to receive the gift of presence not withheld.” — Scott Erickson, Honest Advent		
Sharing the Life of Westminster	Susan Jennings	
Opening Voluntary	8:00	"Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. David Cherwien
	11:00	"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" Chapel Ringers arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
Advent Candle Liturgy Norden/Tenclay Family (11:00)		
One: A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord.” A choir sings in the silence, “Come, Emmanuel.” Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole, for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate. As we light our second Advent candle,		
All: we pray for the holy peace of God.		
One: Come now, O Child of Mary.		
All: Come now, O Prince of Peace.		
++Hymn 82	"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"	Hyfrydol
Prayer of Confession		
God of advent, you give us these days to prepare our hearts for the coming of your Word, and yet we hardly pause to think about what that means. We often barrel through days and seasons attending to tasks and work and school without paying much attention to the things of the Spirit. Forgive us when we ignore those who announce your presence and the cries that you send from the wilderness. Help us to live into our baptisms, to be your people in all we say and do, living together in abundant life and unconditional love. Lord, hear our prayer...		
Silent Confession		
Kyrie - Unison	"Lord, Have Mercy"	Lee J. Afdahl
		
The Assurance of God's Grace		
One: Friends, believe the Good News.		
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.		
++Response Hymn 110	"Love Has Come" (stanza 3)	Bring a Torch
Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!		
++Stand in body or in spirit		

++Passing the Peace of Christ		
One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.		
All: And also with you.		
Ministry of Music		
8:30	"In the Bleak Midwinter"	arr. David Cherwien
11:00	"Go Tell It on the Mountain" Cantus, Cherub, and Carol Choirs	Traditional
"I Saw Three Ships" Russell Robinson		
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning. And what was in those ships all three on Christmas Day in the morning? On Christmas Day, I saw three ships come sailing in the morn. The mother and the son were there on Christmas Day in the morning. Now let us all rejoice today on Christmas Day in the morning. I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning. Karys Russell and Jocelyn Russell, handbells Chapel Singers and Kirk Singers		
Blessings with Younger Disciples (11:00)		
(Children three years through second grade may finish their time of worship in the worship centers. Children's worship leaders or parents will shepherd them from the sanctuary to their rooms. Parents may pick them up in their worship rooms following the service.)		
Congregation: As you worship together, may God be with you.		
Children: And also with you.		
Congregation: Go in peace!		
THE WORD		
Scripture		
Luke 3:1-6 New Testament p. 60		
One: The Word of the Lord.		
All: Thanks be to God.		
Sermon	"The Word Is on His Way"	Rev. Jen Porter
RESPONDING TO THE WORD		
++Affirmation of Faith adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19		
Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.		
Offering Our Lives		
Offertory:	Rev. Kyle Kooyers	
8:30	"Go Tell It on the Mountain"	arr. David Cherwien
11:00	"I hear the Prophet Callin"	Pepper Choplin
I hear the prophet callin', "Prepare the way of the Lord." Come and make straight the way in the desert, A highway for our God. Prepare the way of the Lord. I hear Isaiah callin', "Fear not, your God has come." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened. The ears of the deaf will hear. And then the mute will shout for joy. They'll be shouting for joy, And the desert will be joyful and blossom as a rose. We shall rejoice with joy and singing and see the glory of God. Kate Reed, Soprano Sanctuary Choir		

++Doxology		
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!		
The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper		
For those worshiping in the sanctuary, we are using pre-packaged communion elements with gluten-free bread and juice. If you didn't receive one before you entered the sanctuary, simply raise your hand and one will be brought to you. Children are welcome to participate in this sacrament. You may place the used packaging materials on the communion racks on the back of the pews, and then dispose of them in bins when you exit the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.		
Invitation to the Lord's Table		
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving		
One: The Lord be with you.		
All: And also with you.		
One: Lift up your hearts.		
All: We lift them up to the Lord.		
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.		
All: It is right to give thanks and praise.		
The 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.		
The Words of Institution		
Communion of the People		
Prayer of Response		
Faithful God, we have come and been fed at your table of peace for all. May your peace that promises new creation be birthed in all who gather in your name and be known to the ends of the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, who is coming to live among us. Amen.		
GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH		
++Closing Hymn 87	"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"	Genevan 42
++Charge and Benediction		
Closing Voluntary	"Joy to the World"	arr. Benjamin M. Culli (Quoting from J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio)
CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE FOR ADVENT		
In this Advent season, be people of hope. Be people of peace. Be people of joy. Be people of love. Christ is coming to us!		
"Kyrie" used with permission of Lee J. Afdahl		
"Angels We Have Heard on High," "In the Bleak Midwinter," "Go Tell It on the Mountain," "I Hear the Prophet Callin'," and "Joy to the World" are used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.		

### AHEAD IN WORSHIP

In person 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Livestreamed at 11:00 a.m.

#### **December 8 — Longest Season Service**

**5:30 p.m., Chapel**

Susan Jennings, Rev. Jen Porter, Rev. Lynette Sparks

#### **December 12 — Third Sunday of Advent**

**Salvation Is Coming to Us**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Scripture: Isaiah 12:2-6

Music: 8:30 & 11:00 Janlee Richter, Piano

11:00 Sanctuary Choir

#### **December 12 — Christmas Concert**

**7:00 p.m., Sanctuary**

#### **December 19 — Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**A Child Is Coming to Us**

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Scripture: Luke 1:39-55

Music: Beth Colpean, Harp

### UPCOMING IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

9:45 a.m., Chapel

#### **Dec. 5 and 12:**

Simply Wait: Finding Connection and Reflection in the Advent Season,  
Martha Velting and Amelia Grayson

## Welcome to Westminster

### **WELCOME**

If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Susan Jennings at [susanj@wpcgr.org](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org). More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at [westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org). You are welcome and celebrated here!

### **ASSISTANCE**

If you'd like a large-print bulletin or a hearing device, please ask one of the ushers at a sanctuary entrance. For T-loop hearing assistance, set your hearing aid to T.

### **CHILDREN**

Parents of three-year-olds to fifth graders, come to the children's check-in tables in the Gathering Place before the service to sign in. Children are welcome throughout the service! Ask an usher if you'd like special worship bags, folders, or children's bulletins to help your kids engage in worship. The nursery (babies through two-year-olds) is available during the service. Children (ages 3 through 2nd grade) will begin worship in the sanctuary and be invited to continue worship in the interactive settings of our worship centers. Leaders will shepherd them to their centers, but parents are welcome to lead them as well. Children will wait for you at the end of the service in the Children's Ministry hallway off the Gathering Place.

### **MASKING UPDATE**

Per CDC guidelines, we ask that you wear a mask for all indoor gatherings at church. This includes worship and meetings. The Way Forward Committee and staff continue to monitor CDC recommendations and infection levels in our community. We will have masks available at church if you need one.

### PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher ..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
Liturgists ..... Shanna Tenclay, Andrew, Willa, Whitaker, and Bea Norden  
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care, Membership, and Mission  
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families  
..... Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate

Musicians..... Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music  
11:00 ..... Cantus, Cherub, and Carol Choirs  
..... Emma Taranko, Cantus, Cherub, and Carol Choirs Director  
..... Chapel Singers  
..... Kirk Singers  
..... Karys Russell and Jocelyn Russell, Handbells  
..... Sanctuary Choir  
..... Kate Reed, Soprano  
..... Janlee Richter, Accompanist

Ushers..... Team B  
8:30 ..... Bernie and Kathy Smith  
..... Bill and Roleen Westfall  
11:00 ..... Gordon Griffin, David Abbott,  
..... Larry Hollenbeck, Chris Mayhew,  
..... Randy Block, Steve Marshall

### **WORSHIP CENTERS 11:00 a.m.**

Worship Center 1 (Young 5's and Kindergarten)..... Coreen and Will Hausig

Worship Center 2 (1st and 2nd Grade)..... Amy and Abby Strand

**NURTURING CENTER** (Age 3 and 4) ..... Maggie Atwater

..... Amanda Schnepf

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

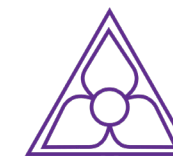
Our ALL-IN: Together in the Kin-dom 2022 Stewardship Campaign is well underway. As of December 1, we have received \$897,128 in commitments from 228 giving units. We are deeply grateful for every commitment!

Last year at this time, we had reached 97 % of our needed budget. This year, we have reached 85 % of our needed budget. We need to hear from each of you to be ALL-IN in our Kin-dom work. If you need a nudge, whether it is to renew your pledge or to make a first-time pledge – be nudged! We are counting on you! You can complete your pledge through our website <https://westminstergr.org>, scan the QR code below, return your pledge card in the mail, or call Kathy Cisler at (616)717-5533. Be encouraged!

Thank you,  
Cheryl Bremer  
Elder for Stewardship



*"Stewardship is managing the resources that have been entrusted to us for the sake of a mission that is greater than us."*



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*The Word Is on His Way*

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 5, 2021  
8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

## CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER

### **LONGEST SEASON SERVICE: December 8, 5:30 p.m., chapel**

As we enter the Advent season once again, we are carrying our own hurts, sorrows, and broken places. It can be hard to feel joyful at this time of Christmas celebration. But we are not alone. We have our church community to lean into as we remember and reclaim that Emmanuel, God with us, is the light of the world. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

Join us on Wednesday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel for a time of prayer, music, and communion, led by Susan Jennings, Rev. Jen Porter, and Rev. Lynette Sparks. Please join us. All are welcome!

### **Christmas Concert: December 12, 7:00 p.m., sanctuary and livestreamed**

Please join us for the annual Westminster Christmas Concert! The program will feature the Gloria of John Rutter, which will be accompanied by a large brass ensemble. The Sanctuary Choir and Kirk Singers will also sing other seasonal music, including selections by Stephen Paulus, Richard Lakey, and David Willcocks. A freewill offering will be taken, and childcare will be provided. We ask that you wear a mask.

### **Christmas Eve Services: In person at 4:30 p.m., in person and livestreamed at 8:00 p.m., in person at 11:00 p.m.**

We invite you to celebrate Christ's birth with us on Christmas Eve! The 4:30 p.m. service is geared towards families and is accessible for all generations. The Sanctuary Choir and Kirk Singers sing at the 8:00 p.m. service.

# Announcements

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**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE:** The Christmas Giving Tree is ready! Every year, the Presbyterian Giving Catalog compiles items that you can purchase to help people in need across the world. Gifts for purchase include aid kits, food resources, water, and many other resources. Everyone is invited to come and see what item you would like to purchase for someone in our world. Take off an envelope, fill it, and bring it back to our children's check-in tables.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS:** December 5 and 19, 9:30 -10:50 a.m.; 12:00-12:50 p.m., library Would you like to update your church directory photo? Photographer Emma Richter will be available in the library on Sunday, December 5 and December 19, 9:30 - 10:50 a.m. and 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. No appointment necessary – just walk in!

**WPA DECEMBER EVENT:** December 9, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary Westminster Presbyterian Adults (WPA) will hold a December program on Thursday, December 9, at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. WPA is Westminster's fellowship ministry for older adults who may or may not be retired. Join us to learn more about the carols of Christmas through narration and organ demonstration by our guest presenter, Helen Hofmeister, Westminster's Minister of Music. Please call the church office at 616-456-1456 to sign up no later than December 6!

**MARANATHA ECUMENICAL ADVENT EVENT:** December 9, 6:30 p.m., Catholic Information Center and online with Zoom Recognizing our anxiety, loneliness, or frustration in this present season, we are still a hope-filled people. Our hearts cry "Maranatha." Come, Lord Jesus! Experience an evening of ecumenical reflection and dialogue this Advent on why we need Jesus now. This ecumenical community wide event is sponsored by Bethlehem Lutheran, Cathedral of Saint Andrew, Catholic Information Center, St. Mark's Episcopal, Westminster Presbyterian, and Kaufman Interfaith Institute. Rev. Lynette Sparks is one of the panelists in the dialogue. For more information and to register, visit <https://bit.ly/3oV8nWD>.

**ELISABETH CIRCLE:** December 14, 1:00 p.m., Parlor The Elisabeth Circle will be discussing chapter 9 of *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Elisabeth Circle always welcomes new members and visitors. Contact Lois Waldecker at 616-784-0900 for more information.

**YOUTH MINISTRY AND CHOIR IN 2022 UPDATES:** January 2, 12:00 p.m. Please make a note that we are shifting Youth Group, Chapel Singers, and Kirk Singers to after the 11:00 a.m. service in 2022. Starting January 2, 2022, join us for Youth Group & Choir from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m.

- 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. - Food & Connect (Announcements, Songs, Engerizers, & More)
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - Chapel Singers/Middle School Choir; High School Youth Group
- 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. - Kirk Singers/High School Choir; Middle School Youth Group
- Note: Food after church will be flexible and cautious as per covid precautions. Bring a warm jacket for meals!

# This Week's Calendar

## SUN. DECEMBER 5

8:30 a.m.	Worship Service .....	Sanctuary
9:30 a.m.	Church School and Children's Choirs .....	Upstairs
9:30 a.m.	Church Directory Photos .....	Library
9:45 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation .....	Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Middle School Bell Rehearsal .....	Sanctuary
10:15 a.m.	MS and HS Choir Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
10:30 a.m.	Cantus, Cherub, Carol Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal .....	Choir Room
11:00 a.m.	Worship Service .....	Sanctuary
12:00 p.m.	Youth Christmas Party .....	Youth Room
12:00 p.m.	Church Directory Photos .....	Library
12:30 p.m.	Kirk Singers Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
1:00 p.m.	Game On Board Game Group.....	Online

## MON. DECEMBER 6

11:00 a.m.	Quilting Group .....	Multipurpose Room
1:30 p.m.	Spiritual Formation Group .....	Library
7:00 p.m.	Session.....	Chapel

## TUES. DECEMBER 7

9:30 a.m.	Presbytery Meeting .....	Online
7:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee .....	Online

## WED. DECEMBER 8

6:30 a.m.	Youth Prayer Breakfast .....	Wolgangs
5:30 p.m.	Longest Season Service.....	Chapel

## THURS. DECEMBER 9

10:30 a.m.	Food Pantry .....	Gathering Place
12:45 p.m.	WPA Event .....	Sanctuary
7:15 p.m.	Rehearsal for Christmas Concert .....	Choir Room

## SAT. DECEMBER 11

9:30 a.m.	Rehearsal for Christmas Concert .....	Choir Room
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## SUN. DECEMBER 12

8:30 a.m.	Worship Service .....	Sanctuary
9:30 a.m.	Church School and Children's Choirs .....	Upstairs
9:30 a.m.	Youth Group Sunday Brainstorming.....	Parlor
9:45 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation .....	Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Middle School Bell Rehearsal .....	Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Worship Service .....	Sanctuary
6:15 p.m.	Christmas Concert Rehersal .....	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Christmas Concert.....	Sanctuary

### Christmas Poinsettia Donation



We invite you to donate a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of someone special to you. These flowers will fill our Sanctuary during worship, and donors may take them home after the late service on Christmas Eve.

**Donation: \$10.00 each    Deadline for Order: December 5, 2021**

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return order form and donation to the church office at 47 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, drop in Christine Davis' mailbox in the office, call (616) 456-1456, or email [christined@wpcgr.org](mailto:christined@wpcgr.org). Thank you.**