

MORNING WORSHIP
Salvation Is Coming to Us

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt. To a world like ours, of anguished shame God came, and God's Light would not go out."

— Madeleine L'Engle

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

Opening Voluntary

"Candlelight Carol"
Janlee Richter, Piano

arr. John Rutter

Advent Candle Liturgy

Delano-Taylor Family (11:00)

One: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

The world says, "Worry," and we say, "Rejoice."

The news says, "Fear," and we say, "Rejoice."

The world says, "Be happy," and the church says, "Be faithful."

As we light our third Advent candle,

All: we pray for hope, peace, and joy.

One: Come now, O Child of Mary.

All: Come now, O Prince of Joy.

++Hymn 106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Bereden väg för Herran

Prayer of Confession

Hannah Nelson

Saving God, time and again we fail to trust your grace. Instead of living as those named children of God, we serve our own feeble desires. Instead of participating in the joy of the redeemed, we give in to sarcasm and cynicism, mocking others rather than encouraging them. Bring us to repentance; wash away our sins, and restore us to the joy for which we are created. In your mercy, hear our prayers. . .

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!

++Passing the Peace of Christ

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"What sweeter music"
Janlee Richter, Piano

arr. John Rutter

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

Isaiah 12:1-6

Old Testament p.641

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Salvation Is Coming to Us"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

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.

Prayers of the People

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.

Focus on Stewardship — Mission Partnerships

Elder Joel Schultze

Offering Our Lives

Offertory:

8:30

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

setting David Lasky

Janlee Richter, Organ

11:00

"And the Glory of the Lord" from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

And all flesh shall see it together,

For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

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!

++Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

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.

Loving God, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. By the power of your Spirit, use them to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 134

"Joy to the World"

Antioch

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

8:30

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Kristina Langlois

Janlee Richer, Organ

11:00

"Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella"

arr. Richard Hudson

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

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

"Candlelight Carol," "What Sweeter Music," "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus," and "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" are used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

December 12 – Christmas Concert
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestreamed

December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

A Child Is Coming to Us

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Scripture: Luke 1:39-55
Music: Beth Colpean, Harp
Sanctuary Choir

December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. Family Service

8:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas

One Service Only 11:00 a.m.

Cloth for the Cradle

A Service of Christmas Celebration

Rev. Jen Porter
Music: Karl Falb, Violin; Peter Falb, Cello

UPCOMING IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

9:45 a.m., Chapel

December 12:

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

December 19:

Honest Advent: Self-guided time of reflection on the coming of Christ through a series of images.

2022 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of December 9, we have received \$967,430 in pledge commitments from 248 giving units, which is 92% of our Needed Pledge Budget. We are deeply grateful for each treasured commitment. With just a few short weeks remaining to finalize the 2022 Budget, please take time to fill out your pledge card online or by mail. Whether you are renewing your pledge or making a first time pledge, every response will get us closer to 100%. We are ALL-IN this together!

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.



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsDennis, Merritt, and Patrick Delano-Taylor
.....Hannah Nelson, Youth Coordinator
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
.....Joel Schultze, Elder for Mission Partnerships

Musicians Janlee Richter, Piano and Organ
11:00 Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music
..... Sanctuary Choir

Ushers..... Team C
8:30 Doug and Joanie Dowling
11:00 Keith Combs, Kari and Chris Fuller, Ann and Jim Jarvis,
.....Kevin Larr, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp

WORSHIP CENTERS 11:00 a.m.

Worship Center 1 (Young 5's and Kindergarten).....Katie Prince
Worship Center 2 (1st and 2nd Grade).....Lisa Smith
.....Rowen Heethuis

NURTURING CENTER (Age 3 and 4) Heidi McPheeters
.....Sam Baker

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. More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at westminstergr.org. You are welcome and celebrated here!

ASSISTANCE

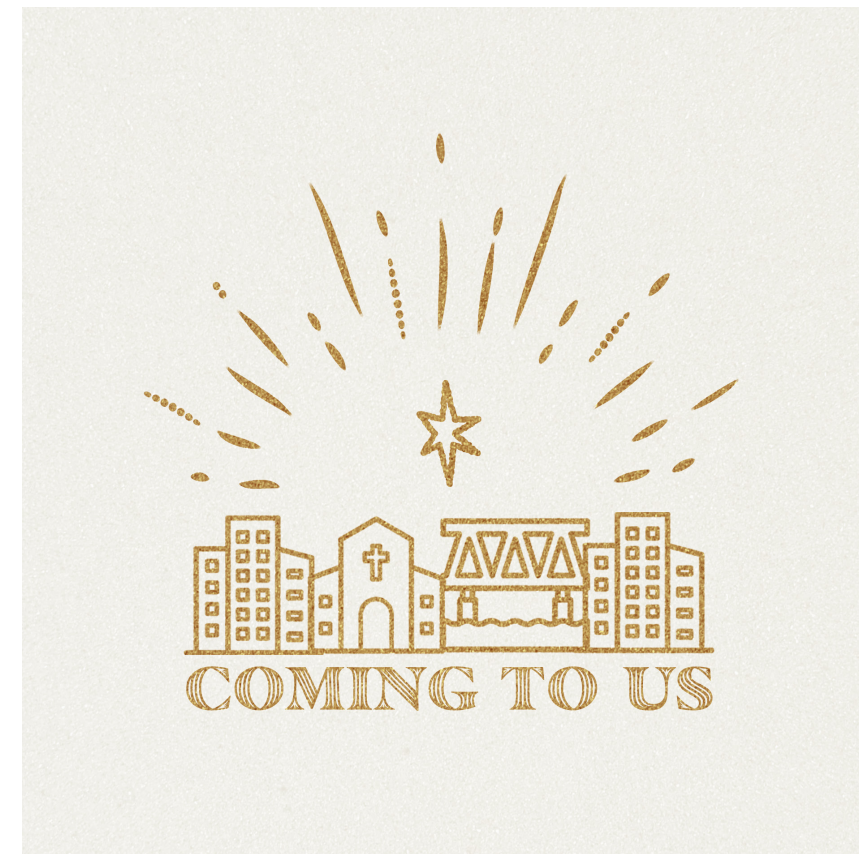
If you'd like a large-print bulletin or a hearing device, please ask one of the ushers at a sanctuary entrance. For T-loop hearing assistance, set your hearing aid to T.

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.



Salvation Is Coming to Us

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 12, 2021
8:30 & 11:00 A.M.**

Announcements

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. We will serve communion at the 11:00 p.m. service.

CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS: December 24 We need ushers for our Christmas Eve services! This is a great way for couples, families, youth, and all generations to participate in the services. You can help at the 4:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m., or 11:00 p.m. service. If you're interested, reach out to Randy Block at 616-456-0125 or randy.cube@gmail.com.

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

CHRISTMAS BREAK YOUTH GROUP OUTING: Friday, December 17, 6-8 p.m. Join us for a "Winter Wonderland Walk" out at Cannonsburg in their Glowing Forest! The cost is five dollars per person. After the walk, there are fire pits and places to gather. We will purchase one hot chocolate beverage per youth. Additional food and beverages will be available on site. We will also bring some snacks and cookies for the group. Dress warm! This is an outside activity. (Maybe throw a camp chair and blanket in your trunk just in case.) Please RSVP to Christy by December 16 so that we have an idea of how many snacks to purchase. We will purchase the tickets when we arrive. This is a middle school and high school event. We will probably separate into two groups once we are there!

CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS: December 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 19, 9:30 - 10:50 a.m. and 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. No appointment necessary - just walk in!

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!

YOUTH GROUP EMAILS: Are you getting the Youth Group emails? Need to add someone to the list? Do you get the Remind alerts? These are all ways we communicate Youth Group details. Feel free to stop by the table in the gathering place this Sunday and next, to sign up and get connected! You may also email Emma Richter at emmar@wpcgr.org to be added to our communications lists.

This Week's Calendar

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 Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Christmas Concert.....	Sanctuary

MON. DECEMBER 13

11:00 a.m.	Quilting Group	Multipurpose Room
4:30 p.m.	True North Board.....	Conference Room
7:00 p.m.	Facilities Committee.....	Parlor

TUES. DECEMBER 14

1:00 p.m.	Elisabeth Circle	Parlor
7:00 p.m.	FASD Support Group	Library

WED. DECEMBER 15

6:30 a.m.	Youth Prayer Breakfast	Wolfgang's
4:00 p.m.	Personnel Committee.....	Online
5:30 p.m.	Stewardship Committee.....	Online

THURS. DECEMBER 16

10:30 a.m.	Food Pantry.....	Gathering Place
11:00 a.m.	Porter Hills Communion.....	Porter Hills
7:00 p.m.	Camp Henry Board.....	Parlor
7:15 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

FRI. DECEMBER 17

6:00 p.m.	Christmas Break Youth Group Outing	Offsite
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SAT. DECEMBER 18

11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Kris Hood.....	Chapel
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SUN. DECEMBER 19

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
11:00 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
12:00 p.m.	Church Directory Photos	Library
1:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Christmas Caroling	Offsite



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 an envelope, fill it, and bring it back to our children's check-in tables.