

MORNING WORSHIP
A Child Is Coming to Us

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Advent is the waiting season, hoping to be rediscovered. She is seasoned waiting, wishing wisdom and pregnant with promised life. She is a season conceived each day."
— Joseph J. Juknialis

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Opening Voluntary

"Away in a Manger"
Elizabeth Colpean, Harp

Kirkpatrick/McDonald

Advent Candle Liturgy

Aaron and Eileen Doty (11:00)

One: Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen, to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope. Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth, to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy. Mary went to a place called Bethlehem, to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love. As we light our our fourth Advent candle,

All: we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

One: Come now, O Child of Mary.

All: Come now, O Prince of Love.

++Hymn 129

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Es ist ein' Ros'

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Jen Porter

O God, giver of all good gifts, we come before you as children in need of your wisdom and grace. Our fears and our hopes are braided together in the rhythm of daily life. Our visions of the future depend on our own hands and ability. Our expectations remain reasonable and within our control. Break into this tangle of fear and hope, bringing peace to our souls. Break into our vision of the future, returning us to your hands. Break into our expectations, awakening us with curiosity and wonder; through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray...

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)

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

"Lo, How a Rose"

Praetorius/McDonald

Elizabeth Colpean, Harp

Blessings with Younger Disciples (11:00)

Nancy Greidanus

(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 1:39-55

New Testament p.57

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"A Child 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

Susan Jennings

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.

Offering Our Lives

Offertory:

8:30

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Willis/McDonald

Elizabeth Colpean, Harp

Bring a Torch

11:00

"Wexford Carol"

arr. Richard Lahey

*Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy, we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.*

*"Prepare and go," the angels said, "To Bethlehem, be not afraid;
For there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."*

*With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,
And as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.*

*Within a manger he was laid, and by his side the virgin maid,
Attending on the lord of life, who came on earth to end all strife.*

*Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.*

Elizabeth Colpean, Harp

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.

God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Mendelssohn

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Noël"

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Louis-Claude Daquin

(b. 1694-1772)

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!*

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AHEAD IN WORSHIP

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

January 2 – Second Sunday of Christmas
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Rev. Kyle Kooyers preaching

UPCOMING IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Chapel

December 19: Honest Advent

Our chapel will be set up with space to reflect on a series of "Honest Advent" images by Scott Erickson. Come and move through at your own pace reflecting on the nativity of Christ and pausing to prepare for Christmas.

*December 19 all morning, December 20 6-8 p.m., December 21, 12-2 p.m.

2022 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of December 17, we have gratefully received \$991,240 in pledge commitments from 262 giving units. Thank you! We are hoping to reach or exceed our Needed Pledge Budget of \$1,200,000 by December 31. Please take time this week to join 262 of your Westminster pledgers by filling out your pledge card online at wpcgr.org, by mail, scanning the QR code below, or by calling Kathy Cisler at the office (616-717-5533). We are ALL-IN this together!



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care, Membership, and Mission
..... Aaron and Eileen Doty
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families

Musicians Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music
..... Elizabeth Colpean, Harp
11:00 Sanctuary Choir
.....Janlee Richter, Accompanist

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

Greeters..... Nominating Committee
8:30Marcie Beck and Carol Lautenback
11:00 Steve Schoon, Larry Slager, Lisa Smith

WORSHIP CENTERS 11:00 a.m.

Worship Center 1 (Young 5's and Kindergarten)..... John Meyers
Worship Center 2 (1st and 2nd Grade)..... Amy Strand
.....Abby Strand

NURTURING CENTER (Age 3 and 4) Carla and Joel Fortuna

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.

616-456-1456 / westminstergr.org / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



A Child Is Coming to Us

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 19, 2021
8:30 & 11:00 A.M.**

Announcements

CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS: Today, 9:30 -10:50 a.m.; 12:00-12:30 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!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: December 24 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR December 24, 8:00 p.m. service All current, former, and potential choir members are welcome to sing in the combined choir at the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. If you are a visiting choir member, please come at 7:00 p.m. to get a robe and music. We will rehearse together at 7:15 p.m. in the Choir Room. We welcome visitors!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. On Christmas Eve, we will receive the Christmas Joy Offering which supports leadership development for communities of color and provides support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Please give as generously as you are able.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER SERVICE: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events. If you would like to help those affected by the recent tornadoes across the country, you can help fund the efforts of the PDA by donating at <https://pda.pcusa.org/>.

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 12:00-2:30 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, 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 19

- 8:30 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Church Directory Photos Library
- 9:30 a.m. Self-Guided Prayer Experience Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Church Directory Photos Library
- 1:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Christmas Caroling..... Offsite

MON. DECEMBER 20

- 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Brigade Dining Room
- 11:00 a.m. Quilting GroupMultipurpose Room
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnership Meeting Offsite
- 6:00 p.m. Self-Guided Prayer Experience Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnership Committee..... Offsite
- 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting..... Online

TUES. DECEMBER 21

- 12:00 p.m. Self-Guided Prayer Experience Chapel

WED. DECEMBER 22

- 8:00 a.m. Youth Prayer BreakfastReal Food Cafe

THURS. DECEMBER 24

- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Dress RehearsalSanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Family Service.....Sanctuary
- 8:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and CarolsSanctuary
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight CommunionSanctuary

SUN. DECEMBER 26

- 11:00 a.m. Worship ServiceSanctuary

****No children's church school or choir 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. during Christmas Break: December 19, December 26, January 2***



Christmas Giving Tree

Our Christmas giving tree is a great way to spread love during this season! Every year, the Presbyterian Giving Catalog compiles items that you can purchase to help people in need across the world, including aid kits, food resources, water, and many other resources. Take off an envelope from the tree in the gathering space, fill the envelope, and bring it back to our children's check-in tables to donate that item! If you'd like to participate but can't come to church in person, contact Nancy Greidanus at nancyg@wpcgr.org or 616-717-5541 and she can help you.

**The Poinsettias in our Sanctuary for Christmas 2021
are provided**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

GIVEN BY

Roger Nelson

Hannah Nelson

Frank & Mary Sremda
Adrian & Claire De Mooy

Mike and Adrienne Sremba

Robert and Virginia Rohwer
Harold and Anne Nienhuis
Twylla Erickson

Milt and Barb Rohwer

Ellen Ruth Schoon
Louise Kay Sonderfan

Steve, Jackie, Maria,
and Nadia Schoon

All who died from Covid related issues

Jim and Carolyn Morse

Tom and Jeanette Reid

The Reid Family

William and Dorothy Farr
Victor and Thelma Cougill

Bill and Kay Farr

Their parents

Cal and Cheryl Bremer

Parents and Siblings (gone too soon)

Deb Mellentine

Gerry Crane

Randy Block

Callum and Holden McPheeters

Scott and Heidi McPheeters

Jong K. Kim
John C. Stoughton

Hyung and Joyce Kim

Jackie TenHoor
Christopher TenHoor

Al TenHoor

Doug's Mother, Virginia Dowling
Joanie's Mother, Jeanette Groot

Doug and Joanie Dowling

Erwin and Eloise Johnson

Ron and Jeannine Lemmon

Husband and Father, Karl DeJonge

Joan and Julia DeJonge
Paul Karsten

Laurin Waldecker

Lois Waldecker

Tom Worthington

Doris Worthington

Husband, Ben VanderWilp

Sharon VanderWilp

IN HONOR OF

Our Children and Grandchildren
The Westminster Staff

All WPC staff and officers who
kept us spiritually connected
during the pandemic

Husband, Tom Mellentine

His Westminster Family

Marilyn Walters, Harold Walters,
and Peg and Dave Atwater

Carole's Mother, Rubie Greene

GIVEN BY

Steve and Cindy Baron

Jim and Carolyn Morse

Deb Melentine

Randy Block

The Atwater Family

Carole and Bill Warren