

MORNING WORSHIP  
A Bold Peace

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"Luke's gospel shows that Jesus learned the path of nonviolence from his mother."

—John Dear

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Jen Porter

As we prepare for worship, we are invited to be attentive to God's presence in our midst.

Opening Voluntary

"Away in a Manger"  
Cherub Choir

"Go Tell it On the Mountain"  
Carol Choir

Advent Candle Liturgy

DeVries Family

One: The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God." As we seek fulfillment in a hectic, fear-filled world, we remember God's peace is found in a newborn child. With hope, we light the third Advent candle and pray:

All: **Come, Prince of Peace. Reveal yourself to us today.**

++Hymn 123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Carol

Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, God of peace, we confess we are not the people you intend us to be. The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. We admire and emulate the ones who pursue profits at the expense of your will. We are so focused on having more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, merciful God. Look with grace upon us, that we may live secure in your love and be your people of peace in the world...**

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Lee J. Afdahl

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Hear the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

++Response Hymn 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (stanza 7)

Veni Emmanuel

**O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

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

All: **And also with you.**

Ministry of Music

"The Snow Lay on the Ground"  
Chapel Singers

arr. Vicki H. Wright

"Shepherd's Echo Carol"  
Kirk Singers

arr. John Leavitt

Blessings with Younger Disciples

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 1:26-55

New Testament p. 56

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"A Bold Peace"

Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 144

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Cranham

++Affirmation of Faith Adapted from the Confession of 1967

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

**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 and 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

Elder Cheryl Bremer

Offering Our Lives

Please take a moment to sign and pass the red friendship pad located in the pew, and take note of those worshiping next to you.

Offertory

"Birthday Carol" David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Rejoice today with one accord, Alleluia.

This is the birthday of our Lord, Alleluia. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds abiding in the field, Alleluia.

To them God's glory was revealed, Alleluia. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

And to the shepherds sore afraid, Alleluia.

An angel said, "Be not dismayed," Alleluia. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

"Tidings of joy to you I bring," Alleluia.

"Today is born a heavenly King," Alleluia. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

"And ye shall find in manger laid," Alleluia.

"The Babe in swaddling clothes arrayed," Alleluia. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

A host of angels filled the sky, Alleluia.

Thus singing praise to God on high. Alleluia. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Now join we all the angel-throng, Alleluia.

And let our voices swell the song. Alleluia. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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.**

**Generous God, we thank you for the joy it is to share what we have with others, give ourselves away in love, and receive the gifts shared by others. With our whole being—spirit, soul, and body—we rejoice in you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

In Dulci Jubilo

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"In Dulci Jubilo" BWV 729

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE

Go into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold on to all that is good. Return no one evil for evil. Do justice. Walk with those who are fainthearted. Help those who suffer. Honor all people. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Liturgies adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion and Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies "The Snow Lay on the Ground," "Shepherd's Echo Carol," and "Birthday Carol" used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved. Kyrie used by permission of the composer.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

**Sunday, December 24, 10:00 a.m.**

**Peace on Earth**

*Live Streamed*

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Luke 2:1-14

Sanctuary Choir

**Christmas Eve Services**

**4:30 p.m. Intergenerational Service**

String & Vocal Ensemble

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

*Live Streamed*

Sanctuary Choir, Guest Singers

**11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion**

Lee Copenhaver, Cello and Piano

Janet Carter, Flute

**Sunday, December 31, 10:00 a.m.**

Rev. Jen Porter

Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano

**Ahead in Adult Faith Formation:**

**December 17, 11:15 a.m., Chapel**

**The Gospel Writer's Playlist: An Advent Study of the Canticles of Luke**

with **Rev. Kyle Kooyers** When it comes to Christmas music, nothing beats the "classics." While it's difficult to say words like Benedictus, Magnificat, and Nunc Dimitus without imagining a wand in your hand, this Latin-laden language lists three of the oldest songs in the Christian Tradition. For centuries, the Church has used these three canticles in worship, prayer, and daily liturgy. Arising from the lips of characters from the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel, these songs give voice to all that is the Advent season - hope, anticipation, wonder, and longing. Join us for an inductive study as we listen in and explore together!



Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, the Presbyterian Church (USA) decided to act boldly and compassionately to see our neighbors through Jesus' eyes and to serve those who are marginalized or in need, by building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
 Liturgists .....Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
 .....Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate  
 ..... Tom, Lori, Eva, and Patrick DeVries  
 ..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and their Families  
 ..... Cheryl Bremer, Elder for Stewardship

Musicians.....Janlee Richter, Organ & Piano  
 .....Cherub Choir  
 .....Carol Choir  
 .....Lindsey Doody, Cherub & Carol Choirs Director  
 .....Chapel Singers  
 .....Kirk Singers  
 .....Jackie Schoon, Chapel & Kirk Singers Director  
 .....Sanctuary Choir, Ellen Pool, Director

Ushers.....Team C  
 ..... Doug Dowling, Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs  
 ..... Kari Fuller, Chris Fuller, Ann Jarvis  
 ..... Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp

**Welcome to Westminster**

**MEMBERSHIP**

If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Nicole Koetje at [nicolek@wpcgr.org](mailto:nicolek@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!

**ACCESSIBILITY**

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

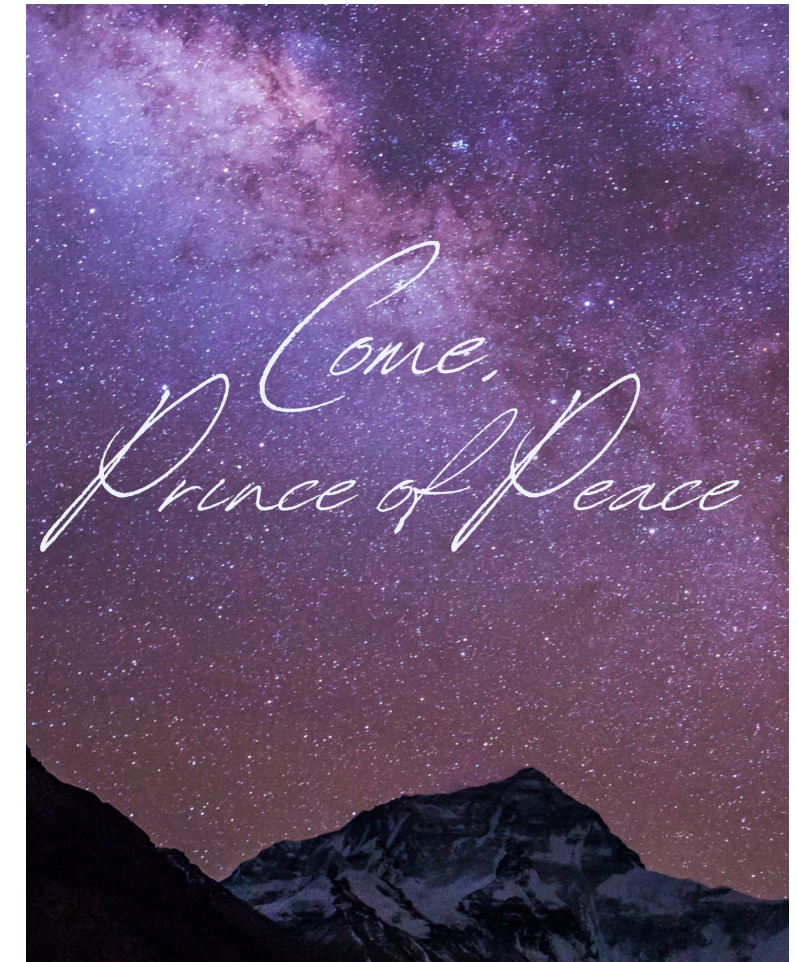
We have accessible, all-gender, companion bathrooms available off of the Dining Room.

**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. 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.

**YOUTH**

If you would like more information about youth ministry, please contact our Minister with Youth and Young Adults Kat Jonker at [katj@wpcgr.org](mailto:katj@wpcgr.org).



**A Bold Peace**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 17, 2023**  
**10:00 A.M.**

# Announcements

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**MEDICINE COLLECTION:** A group of Westminster folks are traveling to Cuba in January to deliver much needed medicine and other supplies to First Presbyterian Church in Guines, along with other congregations in the area. We will have a collection table available in the Gathering Place.

**DÉGAGÉ DINNER VOLUNTEERS IS BACK!** WPC will be serving dinner at Dégagé Ministries the second Saturday every other month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. starting in January. We need five to seven people for each scheduled Saturday. Sign up or learn more with Heather Lunt or Margaret Tuori at [degagedinners@wpcgr.org](mailto:degagedinners@wpcgr.org) or stop by the table after worship.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE:** Take an ornament from our Giving Tree to purchase the item pictured on the ornament. The tree and additional information can be found next to the children's check-in tables.

**CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE: December 17:** Worship centers during the service but no church school or choirs after the service; **December 24:** no worship centers or church school and choirs, but nursery is available for the morning service; 3:00 practice for those involved in our 4:30 Christmas Eve service, and nursery is available at the 4:30 evening service only. **December 31:** Nursery available for the morning service, but no worship centers or church school and choirs. All children's programs resume as usual on January 7.

**ELISABETH CIRCLE: December 19, 12:30 p.m., Parlor** Elisabeth Circle will meet for lunch and Christmas traditions and carols. Contact [stophilffe@comcast.net](mailto:stophilffe@comcast.net).

**GUEST SINGERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE! December 24, 7:00 p.m.** All voices are invited to join the choir for the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service! We will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. to rehearse before the service. Please RSVP to Janlee Richter at 616-808-1228.

**JOIN THE WPC COMMUNITY ON FACEBOOK!** Come be a part of our online community by joining the WPC Community Facebook Group! Stay up-to-date with happenings at WPC and share content with your fellow congregational members. You can request to join by searching "WPC Community" on Facebook.

**SIMPLY GIVE: December 31 - March 30** Help our neighbors facing food insecurity and buy a Meijer Simply Give food donation card at the Meijer store on Kalamazoo and 28th Street from December 31 to March 30 to benefit Westminster's Downtown food pantry.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** 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 times of need.

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:** As we near the end of 2023, giving to the General Fund has been steady, sure, and generous. We are grateful for each gift, which, as of December 12, totals \$1,264,491 toward our budgeted giving goal of \$1,472,307. Please consider how you can contribute to our general fund needs before December 31. We are called to Live Generously as we anticipate a 2-3% increase in our 2024 budget. If you are able to increase your commitment by that amount or if you are able to make a first-time commitment, we will be grateful. To date, we have received \$983,000 toward our Giving Commitment goal of \$1,280,000. Every commitment will help us continue the life-changing ministry of Westminster.



**DONATIONS:** Donations can be made by scanning the QR code, through our secure online giving site, or by check sent to the church office. Email [angiek@wpcgr.org](mailto:angiek@wpcgr.org) or call (616) 717-5533 with questions.

# This Week's Calendar

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## SUN. DECEMBER 17

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.....Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour..... Gathering Place
- 11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation..... Chapel

## MON. DECEMBER 18

- 11:00 a.m. Quilting Group.....Multipurpose Room
- 6:00 p.m. Mission Partnerships..... Offsite

## TUES. DECEMBER 19

- 12:30 p.m. Elisabeth Circle..... Parlor

## WED. DECEMBER 20

- 7:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study ..... Parlor

## THURS. DECEMBER 21

- 9:30 a.m. Evergreen Circle.....Library
- 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry ..... Front Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir ..... Choir Room

## FRI. DECEMBER 22

- 4:00 p.m. Youth Ice Skating.....Rosa Parks Circle

## SUN. DECEMBER 24

- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service..... Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour ..... Gathering Place
- 3:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal..... Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Intergenerational Service ..... Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room
- 8:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols ..... Sanctuary
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion..... Sanctuary



**The Poinsettias in our Sanctuary for  
Christmas 2023 are Provided**



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**GIVEN BY**

Doris West

Alex & Rachel Fergus

Cliff & Ellen Prince

Katie & Dan Prince

Fred & Barbara Mills; John & Agnes Kaye

John & Marcia Kaye

Milton & Emily Harmening  
Daryl & Martha Morse

Carolyn & Jim Morse

Tom Worthington

Doris Worthington

Tom & Jeanette Reid

The Reid Family

Our Parents

Ben Boerkoel & Rickie Rivard

Katrina Pool

Ellen Pool

Erwin & Eloise Johnson  
Kenneth Lemmon

Ron & Jeannine Lemmon

Ruth Huisman

Howard Huisman

Laurin Waldecker

Lois Waldecker

Peter & Ruth Brandsema VanMeurs

Daniel VanMeurs

Fred Tiggelman

Sue Tiggelman

Harriet Engbers & Sage Engbers

James Engbers

Callum & Holden

Scott, Heidi, Ellery, &  
Graham McPheeters

Joshua Riddle, Muriel & Harry Riddle,  
Patricia & John Yoder

Susan & Kent Riddle

Amy (Veldkamp) DeKock

Carla Fortuna

David Bolton  
Marilyn Sherwood

Saralyn Coupe

Elizabeth and Alva Taylor  
Judy & Harry Marshall

Don & Nancy Taylor

Justin VanHaven

Frank & Sharon VanHaven

Cal Blair

Andrew & Emily Hakim

N. Lewis Schoon  
Dick & Louise Sonderfan

Jackie Schoon

Roger Nelson

Linda Nelson

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Emily Boyer

Orville Pasma & Tilly Pasma

Albert & Eleanor Moore

Clyde & Enid Hartzell  
Jim Starkweather

Our parents

Karl DeJonge

Harry & Judy Marshall

Charles, Phyllis, & Julie Mellentine  
Dick, Joan, & Keith Howlett

Paul, Lois, Lori, & Bob

Hermine Pastoor  
Kathryn Houseward

Jeanette Groot: Joanie's mom  
Virginia Dowling: Doug's mom

Hal & Marilyn Walters  
Dave & Peg Atwater

IN HONOR OF

Our grandsons: Jacob, Drake, Callum,  
Jackson, Gavin, & Easton

Sanctuary Choir & Janlee Richter

Our children & grandchildren  
The Leadership & Staff at WPC

Our children: Stephen, Kirsten, & Melissa

Alex Joseph Kline

Our children, grandchildren, &  
great-grandchildren

Westminster Choir

Marilyn's sister SJ King  
Tom's sister Mary Jewell

Our grandchildren: Collin and Ella

Our marvelous children

GIVEN BY

Russell Boyer

Sandy Drummond

Joe Kline

Laurie & Ted Hartzell

Paul & Ardis Huizenga

Joan deJonge, Julia deJonge, &  
Paul Karsten

Marshalls & Taylors

Debra Mellentine

Carol & Bob Lautenbach

Bernice Houseward

Doug & Joanie Dowling

Marti, Stu, Evie, Maggie, &  
Tanner Atwater

GIVEN BY

Carolyn & Jim Morse

Ellen Pool

Cindy & Steve Baron

Don & Nancy Taylor

Joe Kline

Paul & Ardis Huizenga

Joan deJonge

Tom & Marilyn Lawrence

Ann & Jim Jarvis

Marti & Stu Atwater