

MORNING WORSHIP
The Beginnings & Ends of Restoration

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"God has an affection for the small...Advent urges us to see ourselves and the world through this divine gaze."
—Thomas Long and Donyelle McCray

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

"Still, Still, Still" Setting by Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Advent Candle Liturgy

Brian & Rachel Kamstra

Long ago, the prophet Micah declared, "From you, O Bethlehem, will come forth one who will rule in peace."

Though the world is filled with wars and conflict, we choose to embrace God's promise of restoration and flourishing for all people.

In lighting the fourth Advent candle,
**we seek to live
as God-bearers to the world.**

++Hymn 104

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" Valet will ich dir geben

Prayer of Confession

Elder Matt Russell

O God, giver of all good gifts, we come 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 selves. 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. Restore us, O God, in your mercy and steadfast love...

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Lord Have Mercy"

Swee Hong Lim



Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Swee Hong Lim, 1990
SINGAPURA
Music © 1990 Swee Hong Lim (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBCMusik)

Assurance of God's Grace

As sure as the fig tree blossoms, so sure is the promised salvation of God, poured out for the world in Jesus Christ our Lord. Believe the good news.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

++ Stand in body or in spirit
Bold text is spoken by the congregation

++Response Hymn 357 "The Days Are Surely Coming"

Llangloffan

(stanza 1)

**The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.**

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Two Advent Hymns" arr. John L. Bell (b. 1949)

I. Comfort, Comfort Now My People

The text of this anthem can be found in the hymnal, hymn 87.

Janet Carter, Flute

Sanctuary Choir

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

Micah 5:2-5a Old Testament p. 865

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Beginnings & Ends of Restoration" Rev. Lynette Sparks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Hymn 110

"Love Has Come"

Bring a Torch

++Affirmation of Faith (adapted from the Confession of 1967)

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.**

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. We invite you to fill out any of the pew cards and place them in the offering plate.

Offertory

"Two Advent Hymns"

arr. John L. Bell

II. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The text of this anthem can be found in the hymnal, hymn 88.

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

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 thanks and praise.

Holy God, we seek to magnify you in our worship and in our deeds.

Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ's ministry. May they lift

those who are lowly and fill those who are hungry. May they reveal

your glory present with us today and still to come. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Hymn 102

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland", BuxWV 211

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

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.

Worship liturgies adapted from Discipleship Ministries (United Methodist Church), Call to Worship Journal, and The Presbyterian Outlook. Music used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

December 24

4:30 p.m. Intergenerational Service
8:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

December 29

First Sunday after Christmas
A Modest Proposal
Rev. Kyle Nolan
Colossians 3:12-17

January 5

Epiphany of the Lord
Communion Sunday
Rev. Jen Porter
Sarah Constable, Oboe

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation

Lectio Divina: December 22, Chapel following worship

Join us for the final week of Larry Slager's Advent faith formation offering, leading us in the practice of Lectio Divina. We will listen prayerfully and respond together to scripture as we make our way through the season. In community, we anticipate God's hope and restoration.

WORSHIP WORDS: January 5, 12, 19, Chapel following worship

In January we turn to the language of our worship, examining hymns, the order of our worship service, and the language we use in our Sacraments of Baptism and Communion. If you have wondered about the reasons for aspects of our worship, here is your opportunity to ask questions and think theologically about why and how we use particular language. On January 5, our Minister for Music, Robert Ragoonanan, will lead us through the different styles of Hymns in our hymnal. January 12, Rev. Lynette and Rev. Jen will share and respond to questions about the flow of our worship. And on January 19, Rev. Lynette will lead a session on the particular language of our Sacraments.



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 serve those who are marginalized or in need, by building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PreacherRev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
LiturgistsRev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Brian Kamstra, Community Resource Coordinator
..... Rachel Kamstra, Elder for Communication
..... Matt Russell, Elder for Camp Henry
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
Musicians.....Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Janlee Richter, Organ
..... Janet Carter, Flute
..... Sanctuary Choir
Ushers..... Doug & Joanie Dowling, Keith Combs, Chris & Kari Fuller
..... Ann & Jim Jarvis, Rich Zimmerman, Sharon VanderWilp
AV Team Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Sam Putt, Stella Sheckler

Welcome to Westminster

MEMBERSHIP

If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Crystal Hovey at crystalh@wpcgr.org. More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at 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 Hand at kath@wpcgr.org.

YOU ARE INVITED TO WEAR A NAMETAG!

We encourage you to wear a nametag every Sunday to help us learn to know one another better and extend our welcome. If you would like a reusable nametag, please email Crystal at crystalh@wpcgr.org.

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



RESTORE US, O GOD



The Lord Is My Light, Mike Moyers

**The Beginnings & Ends
of Restoration**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**DECEMBER 22, 2024
10:00 A.M.**