



The Order of Worship

**December 17, 2023
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

Welcome to Westminster Church! We are a family of Christians gathered from many traditions and neighborhoods, worshipping here with the goal of connecting faith and life. If you are a visitor, we pray you will feel welcome and blessed by our worship. We invite you to consider making Westminster your church home. Please let us have your contact information so we may be in touch. When the prelude begins let us quietly prepare for the worship of almighty God.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRELUDE Rorate caeli Jeanne Demessieux

Drop Down Dew, Ye Heavens

(from *Twelve Chorale Preludes on Gregorian Chant Themes for Organ*, Op. 8)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (9:00) David Krahl and Linda Legge

(11:00) Renee and Bill Wiesehuegel

INTROIT (9:00) Prepare the Way, O Zion *Bereden väg för Herran*

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Frans Mikael Franzen

Boys' and Girls' Choirs

CALL TO WORSHIP** Daniel Lewis

One: Our God can part the sea.

All: God can bring water from a rock, and provide bread in the desert.

One: Our God can walk on water.

All: He can heal the sick, and turn water into wine.

One: Our God sets the stars in the sky.

All: God hears our voice when we cry, and is closer than our own breath.

One: There is nothing our God cannot do.

All: Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

***HYMN NO. 263** (*Glory to God* hymnal) All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Coronation

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

Holy God, more days than not, hope feels like the rain.

We try to hold onto it with cupped hands,

but eventually, it slips right on through.

Forgive us for holding hope so loosely.

Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow.

We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray:

Turn us into those people.

Teach us how to sing Isaiah's song of hope for the world.

With open hearts we pray, amen.

***KYRIE ELEISON**

Healey Willan

Upper voices

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

Lower voices

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

on _____ us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

All

on _____ us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, _____ have mer - cy up - on us.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RESPONSE Gloria Patri No. 581 (*Glory to God* hymnal)

Henry W. Greatorex

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)

Allie Brewington

Children age 4 through 3rd grade are invited to go downstairs for Children's Church.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

SERMON

"Love is Born of Joy"

Rev. Dr. Richard Coble

***HYMN** (*See insert*) O God of Every Nation

Aurelia

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ... The Lord's Prayer

During the Prayers of the People there will be a time of silence. You are invited to use this time for personal reflection, confession, thanksgiving, and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 OFFERING

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle. Your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(9:00) On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Personent hodie

arr. Gustav Holst

On this day earth shall ring With the song children sing To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to save us; Him the Father gave us. *Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!* [Therefore, glory to God in the Highest!]

His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came down to earth, Bethlehem saw his birth; Ox and ass beside him From the cold would hide him. (Refrain)

God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise men three to him led, Kneeling low by his bed, Lay their gifts before him, Praise him and adore him. (Refrain)

On this day angels sing; With their song earth shall ring, Praising Christ, heaven's King, Born on earth to save us. Peace and love he gave us. (Refrain)

trans. Jane Marion Joseph

Boys' and Girls' Choirs

Westminster Choristers

(11:00) Magnificat (*Mount St. Alban*)

David Hogan

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath shown strength with his arm, He hath scatter'd the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath fill'd the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, hath holpen His servant Israel; As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham, and his seed forever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Luke 1:46-55

***AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology No. 608 (*Glory to God* hymnal) *Tallis' Canon*
 (Sung to the tune of Hymn No. 748 (*Glory to God* hymnal))
 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here
 below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
 Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

***HYMN NO. 157** (*Glory to God* hymnal) I Danced in the Morning
Lord of the Dance

***CHARGE AND BEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**
 Hymn No. 105 (*Glory to God* hymnal) People, Look East *Besançon*
 (Verse 3)

***POSTLUDE** Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (I) Johann Gottfried Walther
Sleepers, Awake, for Night Is Flying

*Please stand in Body or Spirit

***Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith Adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Arthur Collins and Richard Ward
CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER: All CARE Teams
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS/ HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES: (11:00) Katie Manrod and Caroline Anglin

GREETERS: (11:00) Carlene and Max Robinson

LITURGIST: Daniel Lewis

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: (9:00) Boys' and Girls' Choirs and Westminster Choristers
 (11:00) Chancel Choir

SHEPHERD'S TEAM: John Salsbery

SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel

USHERS: (9:00) Casey Page and Ken Hughes

(11:00) Judy Jorden, Nancy Lowe, Barbara Froula, Tom and Georgann
 Byerley

DAVID HOGAN (1949-1996), composer, conductor, concert tenor, and music educator, was commissioned to write this morning's offertory anthem at the 11:00 service for the Festival Evensong of Thanksgiving at Washington National Cathedral, September 28, 1990, in celebration of the completion and consecrating of the building.

THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED to join the Chancel Choir **this Tuesday evening, December 19, at 7:00**, for evensong, a lovely service drawn from those held at Coventry Cathedral and York Minster for four centuries. Accompanying a contemplative and reflective liturgy of litanies, prayers, and scripture, the choir will share music by J. S. Bach, Hassler, Hogan, Olejar, and Perkins. The Rev. Dr. Richard

Coble will serve as the liturgist. The choir and I hope you'll be able to join us! A nursery will be provided.

Peter Van Eenam

FISH and HEIFER Gift Cards will continue to be available through the Advent Season. Come by the church office any time to purchase gifts for your loved ones while donating to two amazing ministries! A win-win gift!

CHILDREN'S OFFERINGS AT WESTMINSTER

During 9:00 Hour - Nursery available for children 0-5 years old
 During 10:00 Hour - Nursery available for children ages 0-3 years old
Christmas Breakfast for everyone in the Lisa Kaufman Hall today!
 During 11:00 Hour - Nursery available for children 0-3 years old
 Children's Church for children preschool through 3rd grade
Children will be walked to Children's Church classes following the Time with Children during the 11:00 worship service.

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST! TODAY from 10-10:45am.

Come enjoy a fabulous pot-luck breakfast with your Westminster family!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY tonight from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. All youth 5th-12th grade are welcome to join in the fun! We will be baking, playing games (with fabulous prizes, of course!), and having a Sneaky Santa gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift up to \$15ish dollars. It can be something seriously awesome or seriously hilarious. Soooo much fun!! Dinner will be provided. (Barb promises she won't mess it up this year ;) We hope you can come celebrate with us!!!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING The Christmas Joy Offering opens doors of opportunity for the leaders who are shaped and supported through our gifts - doors that lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping Communities of Color. Our gifts open doors that lead to relief for church workers and their families when emergency needs arise. You will find offertory envelopes in the Narthex.

FINAL 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS as well as any 2024 prepaid offerings need to be in the church office by December 31. All offerings received by December 31 will be included in your 2023 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel.

STEWARDSHIP Many thanks to all of you who have come together to offer your time, talents, and financial resources to the glory of God through the ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church. We have received 162 pledges so far from our 255 family units for a total of \$836,758.00. We need EVERYONE'S participation in order to reach our asking budget of \$1,100,284.

ABBAY DEADLINE is this afternoon at 5pm. Please email your articles to Debbie Bendy at unitedprinters@comcast.net.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR JOHN SHILLING will be held on Friday, December 29 at 2:00pm. Please contact the church office if you would like to provide a tray of finger foods for the reception that will be held immediately after his service.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where Faith and Life Connect"

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Rev. Dr. Richard Coble, Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Gradye Parsons, Parish Associate

Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus

Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster

Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries, CLP

Sophia Manrod, Director of Children's Ministries

Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Joanna Warren, Administrative Assistant

Linda Judge McRae, Parish Nurse

Debbie Bendy, Abbey Editor

Arthur Collins, Worship Tech



"Joy" by Ella Jones

THE SESSION

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Josh Birdwell	Ed Babelay	Bill Farnham
Gloria Borum	Wendy Collins	Lee Ingram
Melanie Lewis	Janet Drumm	Lucy Johnson
Lisa Oros	Stephen Fortney	Kathryn Oakes
Chris Van Beke	Barbara Froula	Richard Ward
Youth Elder: Arthur Collins		Clerk of Session: Leigh Dunlap

TRUSTEES

Ron Alexander	Alice Mercer	John Smartt
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OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 17

9:00am - Sanctuary Worship

10:00am- Churchwide Christmas Breakfast

11:00am - Sanctuary Worship

4:00pm - Youth Christmas Party

5:00pm - *Abbey* Deadline

Tuesday, December 19

10:00am - Staff Meeting

7:00pm - Evensong

Wednesday, December 20

4:30pm - Companions in Prayer Room

7:45pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 21

10:00am - Art Group

4:30pm - Brass Choir

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ADVENT FLORAL DONATIONS: TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY for donations.

There is no set amount for each dedication. A list of donations will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins as well as the *Abbey*. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the office.

I would like to contribute to the Flower Guild for Advent:

\$_____

In memory of/honor of (circle one):

Given by:

O God of Every Nation

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D

William W. Reid, Jr., 1958

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

1. O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land, re -
 2. From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right, from
 3. Lord, strenght - en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease from
 4. Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease, when

deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand. Where
 trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night, from
 fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease; when
 ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace, till

hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled, in
 pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way, de -
 hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard; with
 dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign and

love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.