



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
First Sunday of Advent  
28 November 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

Ziegler Library Renovation Recognition

Voluntary

Wake, Awake! For Night is Fleeting

J. S. Bach

\*Ringing of the Bell

*The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

\*Lighting of the  
First Advent Candle

Debbie, Jim and Ben Parker

One: In a world where so many despair,  
God lights a candle of hope in our hearts.

All: **We wait together for a Savior,  
who will be Emmanuel, Christ the Lord**

*Solo While we are waiting, Come!  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
While we are waiting, Come!*

One: People of God, the light of hope calls us together.

All: **From our solitude, we are called into community;  
From our brokenness, we are called into wholeness;**

One: People of God, come, for the light of hope calls us together.

All: **Let us take the hand of God and carry this light together.**  
*(The First Advent Candle is lit.)*

\*Hymn 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Verses 1-4* *Veni Emmanuel*

\*Prayer of Confession

Holy and loving, you call us into community to wait together for you, but we so often lose sight of hope. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom or lived our lives with the integrity to which you call us. In your mercy, forgive us. Renew us in hope, that we may see you face to face. May our lives grow into branches of righteousness and justice. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

\*Sung Response

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

## **\*Declaration of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.  
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**  
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you;  
People: **and also with you.**  
All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **\*Response of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, Back Cover

## **Children's Sermon**

## **Congregational Response**

**Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, come, Savior, quickly come.**

*Children in grades Pre-K-5 go to Sunday School class following  
the Congregational Response.*

## **First Scripture Reading**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Pew Bible, OT pages 738-739

## **Second Scripture Reading**

Luke 21:25-36

Pew Bible, NT page 85-86

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

Coming Soon

Rev. Christian K. Choi

*Text: when you see these things taking place, you know that  
the kingdom of God is near. Luke 21:31*

## **Anthem**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Healey Willan

The text for the anthem is 347 in the Hymnal

## \*Affirmation of Faith

*Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39*

We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## The Church at Prayer

Choir: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.  
I can hear the brush of angels' wings  
I see glory on each face;  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

## Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

## The Presentation of our Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

*At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass  
the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.*

## Offertory

### Comfort Ye, My People

G. F. Handel

Comfort ye, my people, saith your God. Speak ye  
comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her  
warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.  
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare  
ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

**\*Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

**\*Litany of Dedication  
for Worship Space in  
Renovated Ziegler Library**

- One: God of the universe.  
The heavens cannot contain your glory.
- All: Yet you have come to be with us in Jesus Christ,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
you are present with us now in the risen Christ.**
- One: We dedicate the worship space in our newly  
renovated Zeigler library to your honor and glory.
- All: We thank you for all the gifts  
that have come together in this endeavor.**
- One: The craft and art of many hands,  
contributions of money and material,  
labors of love and commitment.
- All: Bless the work of our hands, O God,  
that this worship space may offer your welcome  
to many and diverse people,**
- One: that all who seek you in this holy place  
may know your presence in their lives.
- All: By your grace and according to your will,  
may the Gospel of Jesus Christ be truly proclaimed  
and the sacraments rightly administered,**
- One: that the body of Christ may be nurtured in this space,  
and strengthened for Christ's service in the world. Amen

**\*Hymn 357**

The Days are Surely Coming

*Llangloffan*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Voluntary**

Come, Savior of the Nations

Kenneth Kosche

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgists:** Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
- **Advent Candle Lighters:** Debbie, Jim, and Ben Parker
- **Greeter:** Brownie Anderson
- **Ushers:** Julie McDonough (Head Usher), Sara Eldridge, Bud Green, Rachael Hickman, Nancy Huston, Gregg Humphrey, Richard Leary, Mike Sundquist
- **Safety Team:** Rich Canady and Mary Ray
- **Music:** Lyle VanDeventer, bass, Adam Miller, tenor, The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week: Creation. *Caregivers: Leigh Milward,*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5** begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.
  - **Pre-Kind - Grade 2** (Third Floor Chapel) First Sunday of Advent Teachers: Cara Barnett (lead), Sophia Choi
  - **Grades 3-5 Foundation** (Tower Room Classroom) First Sunday of Advent Teachers: Linda Purves (lead), Meridith Bryans
- **11:15 a.m. Adult Education Forum: Twentieth Century Creeds”** This is the second of three sessions summarizing the four 20th century creeds in the PC(USA) Book of Confessions: Theological Declaration of Barmen, Confession of 1967, Confession of Belhar and Brief Statement of Faith. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Professor of History at Lincoln Land Community College.
- **No Junior High Confirmation following worship and no Senior High Youth Group tonight.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about who we are is on our website at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org). Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining Westminster, speak to Rev. Choi or Dr. Kieffer.

**PRAYER MINISTRY** -This Advent we began the ninth year of Prayer Ministry at Westminster. Throughout the year, your pastors gather weekly in the Chancel to pray for members and the world. A letter is mailed three weeks prior to the week members are being lifted in prayer to provide an opportunity to share prayer requests.

**BREADLESS BREAD SUNDAY** raised \$1,125 for St. John's Breadline. St. John's Breadline in Springfield serves a hot, nutritious, and free meal in a clean, positive environment daily. The St. John's Breadline serves approximately 175,000 meals annually. Thank you!

**CHRISMON BOOKLETS**, which outline the history and meaning of the ornaments displayed on Westminster's Chrismon Tree located in the Chancel, can be found in the pew pockets

**PC(USA) GIVING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30** The Presbyterian Church (USA) will host an eight-hour virtual telethon 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (CST) which celebrates the collective power of Presbyterian generosity. Presbyterians from near and far will gather for prayer and worship, fun with some familiar faces, and an unparalleled opportunity for our generosity to make a lasting impact around the country and around the world. You are welcome to join anytime during the day at: [pcusa.org/givingtuesday](http://pcusa.org/givingtuesday). Dr. Kieffer serves as Honorary Co-chair of the event as a member of COGA (Committee of the Office of the General Assembly).

**2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - As of Wednesday, November 24** we have received **210 pledges** for a **total \$753,377**. This is **94.5%** toward our dollar amount goal of \$797,000. If you have not yet pledged and intend to, please do so online or contact Lisa Runkle ([lrunkle@wpcspi.org](mailto:lrunkle@wpcspi.org)).



**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets **Wednesday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m.** hosted by Alyssa Haaker at the home of Anne and David Haaker (313 Thames River Rd 62711). The lesson is on chapter three "Rahab." Please RSVP to Alyssa Haaker at 217-652-4026.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON** is **Friday, December 3** at noon in Parish Hall. Franklin Middle School show choir, directed by Shelly Shaw, will perform "Music of the Season" promptly at 12:45. Pat Hildebrand-Culler is the chair of the day. Carolyn and Keith Beatty will prepare the meal.

**YOUTH SHOP FOR CONTACT MINISTRIES** on **Sunday, December 5 at 12:30 p.m.** following the Advent Celebration. The money raised at the Spud Bake provide funds to purchase gifts for Springfield youth which will be distributed at the Christmas Distribution on December 15.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** will meet **Thursday, December 9, at 7:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall for a breakfast gathering. Jeff Fafoglia of Go Get Lost Worldwide Adventures will speak on their small Springfield based company and their private group tours led throughout Europe. Please RSVP via the weekly email link, our website, or by calling the church office.



**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** All women of Westminster are invited to the Village Tea Room (3301 Robbins Rd) to enjoy tea and a musical program by the St. Andrew Sisters on **Monday, December 13 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** The cost is \$12. Please R.S.V.P. to Jennie Alt ([jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org)).

**K2P4 KNITTERS** will not meet at WPC in the month of December. We encourage members to knit at home. There is still a need for hats, mittens and scarves. Please let Sue Cull know what you have placed in the basket. Knitting at Westminster will resume on Tuesday, January 4 with a brown bag lunch at noon. The annual Christmas luncheon will be at Illini Country Club on **Tuesday, December 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Contact Mary Jo Jenkins for details and 217 622-8657.

**A RECYCLING CORNER** is located in the West Narthex near the Church Officer mailboxes. Last year's Christmas tree lights don't work? If simply replacing a bulb or fuse doesn't solve the problem, reclaim valuable copper, plastic, and glass by recycling them (without bags or boxes) in the top bin at the southwest corner of Westminster's West Narthex. Next time, consider purchasing more efficient and long-lasting LED lights!



## ONLINE GIVING: NEW LOOK AND TEXT OPTION

Beginning December 1, 2021, Westminster's online giving link will have a new format and more flexibility. Along with a list of donating options, there is the ability to request recurring donations. We have also implemented a new option which connects members to online giving by texting the keyword "GIVE2WPC" to the number 73256. When texting, you'll receive a return message. Click on the link where you enter the details of your donation.

## YEAR-END 2021 CONTRIBUTIONS

As the end of the year approaches, we want to thank all of those who have made donations to the church, and especially to those who have already fulfilled your 2021 pledge. If you need assistance determining the amount you have donated compared to the amount of your pledge, just call the office, and Lisa Runkle would be happy to help. **Be sure any donations for the 2021 tax year are dated 2021 and received no later than 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 4, 2022.**

**STOCK DONATIONS** Please contact Lisa Runkle, Financial Administrator, for instructions to make a stock donation and to alert us to watch for the transfer at our brokerage firm.

## CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**ADOPT-A-FAMILY** This year, Westminster will again sponsor the nine families living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter, helping supply Christmas gifts for people working their way toward independence. **Please visit our website for a link to each family and to the Shelter and Playroom wish list. For assistance signing up for a gift(s), please contact Jennie Alt at the church office.** Gifts can be dropped off or ordered for direct delivery to Westminster (make sure to notify Jennie Alt to expect a package!), and all gifts need to be at the church by December 5.

**TOYS FOR TOTS** box is in the West Narthex **until December 19**. Place unwrapped gifts in it for children of any age. This is a program of the Marine Corps Reserve.

**THE MITTEN TREE** for Contact Ministries is in the West Narthex. In addition to children's items, adult gloves, hats, and scarves are also needed. Please donate **by Tuesday, December 14** so items can be included in the Contact Ministries distribution. There are many empty clothespins on the tree for additions!

**CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION** will be hosted by Westminster on **Wednesday, December 15**. Recipients were asked to pre-register. If you can volunteer at this event, please call Contact Ministries at (217) 753-3939.

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** is an annual special collection of the Presbyterian Church. It supports church workers and their families in times of need and funds scholarships for racial/ethnic students. Please look for the offering envelopes to give toward this special fund and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church. **A GIFT OPENS DOORS** is this year's theme.

## **THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER**

### **Monday, November 29**

### **Tuesday, November 30**

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting
- 12:30 PM Reporter
- 1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 Mission (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM COMPASS
- 4:45 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
- 5:30 PM Family Ministry (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Offsite)

### **Wednesday, December 1**

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning
- 4:00 PM Choristers (Combined with Children's Choir)
- 4:00 PM Property Committee (2<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Membership Committee (Pastor's Study)
- 5:30 PM Mission & Community Service (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 7:00 PM Ruth & Naomi Circle Study & Holiday Gathering  
Haaker Home

### **Thursday, December 2**

- 6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study
- 7:30 PM Choir

### **Friday, December 3**

- 11:00 AM Presbyterian Women's Board Meeting
- 12:00 PM Presbyterian Women's Holiday Lunch

### **Saturday, December 4**

- 11:00 AM Memorial Service for Judy Ridinger (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 PM Memorial Reception (Parish Hall)

### **Sunday, December 5**

#### **Second Sunday of Advent**

- 10:00 AM Worship Service
- 10:15 AM Sunday School (Chapel)
- 11:00 AM Advent Celebration (Parish Hall)
- 12:30 PM Jr. & Sr. High Youth Shop for Contact Ministries  
(Meet in the West Narthex)

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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<http://www.wpcspi.org>

## **WESTMINSTER STAFF**

**The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
*Pastor and Head of Staff*

**The Reverend Christian K. Choi**  
*Associate Pastor for Parish Life*

**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
*Parish Associate*

**Dale T. Rogers**  
*Director of Music and the Arts*

**Deb Watts Elliott**  
*Saturday Worship Pianist and  
Music Coordinator*

**Karen Sherrick**  
*Director for Children's Ministry*

**Leigh Milward**  
*Nursery Coordinator*

**Ellen Carpenter**  
*Parish Nurse*

**Pat Hymans**  
*Hospitality Coordinator*

**Emily Rowley, Kacey Belitsos**  
*Cooperative Preschool Teachers*

**Lisa Runkle**  
*Financial Administrator*

**Jennie Alt**  
*Church Administrative Assistant*

**Krista Steller**  
*Webmaster*

**Gary Warnick**  
*Building and Property Manager*

**Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert,  
Eddie Hubbard, Steve Stapleton**  
*Part-time Custodians*