



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sacrament of Communion
Third Sunday of Advent
12 December 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People Timothy Albrecht

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

***Lighting of the Third Advent
Candle and Call to Worship**

Judy and Harvey Stephens

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

All: **Come, let us follow this light into Advent,
into the wonder and heart of God's love.**

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

One: God's love is rain in a dry land,
and water in the deserts of our lives.

All: **And so the desert shall rejoice,
and be filled with beauty and abundance.
All the wilderness will sing together in joy.**

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

All: **Come, let us follow this light in our worship.**
(The First, Second, and Third Advent Candles are lit.)

***Hymn 93** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates *Truro*

***Prayer of Confession** Holy God, we hear your call to repent and to become
people of justice. Reveal to us the ways we compromise
your justice to seek and secure our own comfort. You
tell us what is expected of us. Gather us in, forgive us, renew a right spirit
within us as we seek to do your will. 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,
Come Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, come, Savior, quickly come.

Children in grades Pre-K to 2 go to Sunday School class. Children in grades 3-5 remain in worship for communion.

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 12:2-6 Pew Bible, OT pages 641-642

Second Scripture Reading Luke 3:7-18 Pew Bible, NT pages 60

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation Straight Talk Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them ... Luke 3:10-11a

Anthem There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a Sceptre from
Israel rise up and dash in pieces princes and nations.
How brightly beams the morning star!
With sudden radiance from afar, with light and comfort glowing.
Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, o praise such love o'er-flowing.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn

Words: Numbers 24: 17 and Psalm 2: 9

*Affirmation of Faith A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community. But we rebel against God;
we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage. Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still. Amen.

**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

Noël

Henri Mulet

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

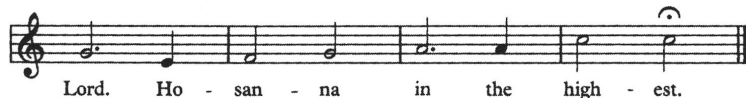
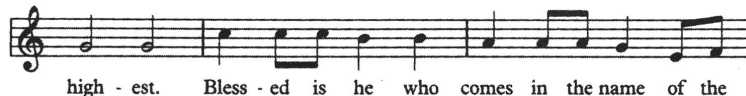
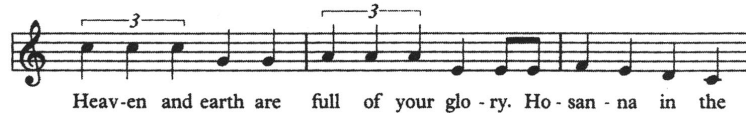
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the

It is right to give our thanks

is truly right and our greatest
thanks and



praise...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with
choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful
of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty...Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may
proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts
of bread and wine... Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, page 35

Words of Institution

Pastor:

People:

Pastor:
Lord our God.

People:
and praise.

Pastor: It
joy to give you

Distribution of Elements *The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.*
Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.

***Prayer after Communion** Holy and loving God, surely you are the one that saves us. We present these offerings with a deep sense of gratitude for the honesty, consideration and kindness of a God who would speak to us with the frankness of John and then come to us in the gentleness and mystery of the Christ Child, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn 87** Comfort, Comfort Now My People *Genevan 42*

***Charge and Benediction**

Voluntary Joy to the World Phil Lehenbauer

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Advent Candle Lighters:** Judy and Harvey Stephens
- **Greeters:** Dee Dee and Rick Duffy
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Jim Kincaid (Lead), Marc Anderson, Katie Carlson-Eastvold, John Cross, Dee Dee Duffy, Adam Ekstedt, Mal Hildebrand, Lynn McMenemy, Mary Ray, Brad Steller, Krista Steller, Carolyn Swanson
- **Communion Prep:** Mary Ray, Bill Deemer, Carol Bloemer, Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Krista Steller
- **Ushers:** Pat Moore (Head Usher), Rich Canady, Bud Green, Alyssa Haaker, Terry Haynor, Mary King, Julie McDonough, Bruce Strom, Brinton Wilkey
- **Safety Team:** Julie James and Alan Schuermann
- **Music:** Lyle VanDeventer, bass, The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:15 – 9:30 a.m. Home Communion Team (Library)** Elders and Deacons serving communion meet to review procedures as we resume serving communion to members unable to attend worship who request to partake.
- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week: An Angel Visits Mary. *Caregivers: Leigh Milward, Karen Sherrick*
- **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) Third Sunday of Advent- A Prophet is Born Teachers: Tamika Hill (lead), Jake Hill
 - **Grades 3-5** will stay in the worship service for communion.
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Confirmands Christmas Pageant Practice (Chancel)** The confirmation class will gather after worship for a brief Christmas Eve rehearsal in the sanctuary.
- **No Senior High Youth Group tonight.**
- **Home Communion** resumes this Sunday, December 12, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is on our website at 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. ***Our next New Member Class is January 9 and 23 with new members received on January 30.***

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.

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - As of Thursday, December 2, we have received **213 pledges** for a **total \$755,377**. This is **94.8%** 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).

ELIZABETH CIRCLE hosts an event **Monday, December 13 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Village Tea Room (3301 Robbins Rd) to enjoy tea and a musical program.

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**.

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

JOINT SESSION AND DEACON MEETING will be Wednesday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All new elders and deacons are invited. A Holiday Party will follow at the Kieffers. Please R.S.V.P. to Jennie in the church office.

ADULT ED FORUM meets **Sunday, December 19, 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon** to explore "A Brief Statement of Faith" Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS Members and friends are invited to make a suggested donation of \$25 to support Westminster's decorations funds, which includes the poinsettias. You may go online at www.wpcspi.org to donate. **Please submit your donations with your desired wording and dedications by Monday, December 13.**

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 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER

5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE

The Confirmation Class will read the Christmas story and the children will participate as shepherds, angels, and magi. Rachael, Chris, and Madelynn Hickman will be the Holy Family.

6:00-7:30 P.M. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

HOSTED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Do not miss this special event that includes a delicious meal of roast turkey, baked ham, two types of potatoes, gravy, vegetables, garden salad, rolls, and fresh fruit pies. **Adults are \$20, children 6-12 are \$13 and children ages 5 and under are no charge.** This year we are limiting the gathering to 100. **Reservations and payment required no later than Friday, December 17.**

7:30 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Westminster Choir will provide the choral music and our high school seniors and juniors will read the Christmas Story in this Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. In ancient times, church bells did not ring during Advent; however, on Christmas at the singing of the angel's song "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" the bells rang out. We follow that tradition by ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES! CHILDCARE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, December 13

8:00 AM - 8:00 PM Contact Ministries Give-a-way Prep
1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle Luncheon at the Village Tea Room

Tuesday, December 14

8:00 AM - 8:00 PM Contact Ministries Give-a-way Prep
10:30 AM Staff Meeting
3:00 PM Compass For Kids
4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Pastor's Study)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Offsite)

Wednesday, December 15

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Contact Ministries Give-a-way
10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
10:30 AM Worship Planning
5:30 PM Joint Deacon and Session Meeting
7:00 PM Deacon & Session Holiday Gathering (Dr. Kieffer's Home)

Thursday, December 16

7:30 PM Choir

Friday, December 17

6:00 PM Staff Christmas Party (Offsite)

Saturday, December 18

Sunday, December 19

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre-K – 2nd Grade
11:15 AM Christmas Eve Children's Pageant Rehearsal
11:15 AM Confirmation and Sr. High Youth Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
11:15 AM Poinsettia Delivery
4:00 PM Christmas Vespers (Parish Hall)
5:00 PM WPC Choir Member Dinner (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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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