



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sacrament of Communion
Second Sunday of Advent
10 December 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Noël Éranger

Louis Claude Daquin

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

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

Leader:

People of God, come,
for the light of peace calls us together.

People:

**The Lord has spoken through the mouth
of the holy prophets of old.**

Leader:

We have been given knowledge of salvation by the
forgiveness of our sins. By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us.
Come, people of God, let us follow this new light.

People:

**Let us listen to the voice crying out preparing the way,
inviting us to travel the journey of this Advent season.**

Leader:

The lights of hope and peace are lit in our midst – God
will use these lights to show us the way.

(The First and Second Advent Candles are lit.)

***Processional Hymn 93**

Lift Up Your Heads

Truro

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy and Loving God, we gather in reverence and awe,
seeking to prepare our hearts for your coming. On our
journey to the Christ child, give us the courage to embrace
the broken places of our lives. By honoring the part of us
that feels rejected, fearful, lonely, tired, may we respond
to the refugee, accept the stranger, stand in another's
shoes. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon
and Passing of the Peace**

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.

Leader:

Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

***Response of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, Back Cover

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end.

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response

Come, Savior, quickly come; come,

Come Savior, quickly come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, come, Savior, quickly come.

Children (preschool – Grade 5) go to Sunday School following the Congregational Response. Grades 6-7 remain for communion.

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5

Pew Bible, OT pages 667

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 1:1-8

Pew Bible, NT pages 34

Leader:

This is the Word of the Lord.

People:

Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Journey into Peace

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; Isaiah 40:3a

Anthem

Good People, Be Ye Glad

Henry Purcell

**The Presentation
and Dedication of our Gifts**

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

Offertory

Gloria!

Noel Rawsthorne

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you 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.

The people sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Communion Music

Christmas Cradle Song

Alfred Hollins

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, we gather around this table with a deep sense of gratitude and wonder that the Creator of heaven and earth would come to us in the gentleness and mystery of the Christ Child to embrace our brokenness, heal our sorrows, and provide comfort and nourishment on our journeys into peace. Amen.

*Hymn 87

Comfort. Comfort, Ye my People

Genevan 42

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Heaven and Earth Are Ringing

Giovanni Gastoldi

*Voluntary

People Look East

Kristina Langlois

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Jerry Boutelle
- **Acolytes:** Harper and Reese Huston
- **Bible & Cross Carriers:** Aerwyna Eastvold and Braden Barton
- **Greeters:** Susan and Mike Shaw
- **Advent Candle Lighters:** New Member Katie Black and her daughters, Lucy and Biz
- **Today's Communion Bread** is Swedish Limpa and was lovingly baked by Brad Swanson.
- **Communion Prep Team:** Mary Ray, Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Leigh Milward, Krista Steller
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Mary Ray (Team Leader), Scott Day, Jim Dolan, Mal Hildebrand, Robyn Hovey, Will Hovey, Jay Kennerly, Amanda Kurmann, Tim Kluge, Christie Pound, Jeanne VanGieson, Sarah Zerfas
- **Home Communion Teams:** Melanie and Bud Green, Marilyn and Jim Rigney, Dee Dee Duffy and Sara Eldridge
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir; Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher) Mervice Alah Abung, Terry Haynor, Sabrina Holmes, Melanie Humphrey, Julie McDonough, John McNutt, Bruce Strom
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney and Rich Canady
- **Videographers:** Bob Fox and Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "Nothing is Impossible with God." Caregivers: *Erin Winn, Sara Eldridge*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Children Kindergarten – Grade 5** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Time to Get Ready" (Mark 1:1-8). Teachers: *Kate Morthland, Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **ADULT EDUCATION FORUM presents No Room at the Inn: Homeless & Refugee Ministries** We welcome Rev. Josh Sabo of the Heartland Continuum of Care who will give us an update on the thoughtful plans to address homelessness in Springfield.
 - **Seniors Lessons and Carols Rehearsal (Sanctuary)** Seniors will gather with Mary Ray and Dr. Kieffer to review their readings in the Christmas Eve service.
- **4:00 p.m. Christmas Vespers (Sanctuary)** The program includes choral music and carols sung by the Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's Sisters. Vespers will include the seasonal music of Wilan, Lloyd Webber, Forrest, Thiman, Walmisley, Chilcott, and choral settings of Christmas Carols.



- **5:30 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party** - The Junior and Senior High youth are invited to the Huston's home from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for a festive dinner of pizza and salad! Please bring a white elephant gift (maximum of \$15).

WI-FI Hearing Assistance System is available in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with instructions to install the app for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids, lanyards, and hearing amplifier packets for those with regular hearing aids, hearing amplifier packets and disposable earbuds for those without hearing aids. Please return the lanyards and hearing amplifier packets at the end of worship. For assistance, ask an usher.

The Library Committee has prepared a cart of books for checkout from both of our libraries in the West Narthex containing philosophy, psychology, and a wide variety of Christmas books. Please plan to stop and peruse the books and resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

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

THANK YOU to everyone who collaborated on purchasing gifts for the nine families in transitional housing at Contact Ministries. One hundred gifts along with wrapping paper and ribbon were purchased, ordered, and delivered this past week. The Mission and Community Service Committee organized the gifts last Sunday. Please know the difference you make for these families.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS - Members and friends are invited to donate \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund and \$25 to support Westminster's decoration fund. *Please submit your donation with your desired wording and dedication by Monday, December 11.* You may go online at www.wpcspi.org to donate and let us know how you want this to be listed in the bulletin. If you wish to pay by check, please indicate this online.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING assists current and retired church workers and their families who are in financial need, also makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please look for the offering envelopes and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church.

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE is today **2:00-4:00 p.m.** There will be refreshments and entertainment, new Christmas cards (only 10 cents per piece), Christmas décor & ornament sale, plus more.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets on **Monday, December 11, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** at the Illinois Presbyterian Home for their annual Christmas luncheon, which will be catered by Qdoba for \$17.00 per person (Checks payable to Eleanor VanDeventer). Please bring your own beverage.

K2P4 KNITTERS will gather for a Dessert Party on **Tuesday, December 12** at 1:00 p.m. The group will knit at home on December 26 and January 2. Regular Tuesday sessions will resume on January 9, 2023 with a brown bag lunch. Questions - call Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

SESSION AND DEACON JOINT MEETING is **Wednesday, December 13** at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We welcome new and thank outgoing elders and deacons. Following the joint meeting, church officers and their significant others are invited to a festive reception at the Kieffer Home.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST will be **Thursday, December 14** at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Pete VanGieson will present an overview of Westminster's 2023 Mission Giving. Charlie King will provide breakfast. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROCESSIONAL will be next **Sunday, December 17** during the 10:00 a.m. service. The Sunday school classes will come together under Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz's leadership to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity. The children will process through the Sanctuary during the final hymn in costume and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the benediction.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRACTICE is **Sunday, December 17** at 11:00 a.m. in the Chancel. The Confirmation youth, Bridges children and siblings, Holy Family and Children's Choir will gather after worship for a rehearsal.

POINSETTIA DELIVERIES The Board of Deacons will deliver Christmas poinsettias **Sunday, December 17** to members who are shut-in and who have lost loved ones since Easter.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets **Tuesday, December 20** at 12:00 noon for a Christmas luncheon in Parish Hall. Please RSVP to Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

ADVENT AT WESTMINSTER

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 10

CHRISTMAS VESPERS at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon, Westminster's Christmas Vespers program will include choral music and carols sung by the Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's Sisters, with Dale Rogers, Organist. Vespers will include the seasonal music of Adelmann, Friedell, Forrest, Purcell, Halls, Rawsthorne, Bach, Spirituals, and more.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 17

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROCESSION during 10:00 a.m. service

The Sunday School children will recreate the Nativity in the Third Floor Chapel and process in their costumes during the closing hymn "Joy to the World" and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the Charge and Benediction.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 24

10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant

On Our Way to Bethlehem

The Confirmation youth and Bridges children will narrate the Christmas story in a more elaborate pageant with special music by the Children's Choir and Eleanor VanDeventer. We welcome Millie and John McNutt with newborn son, James, as our Holy Family.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, December 11

1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (Off site)

Tuesday, December 12

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)

1:00 PM Knitters Christmas Dessert Party
(2nd Floor Classroom)

3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids

Wednesday, December 13

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)

10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)

4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group
(Conference Room)

4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)

5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)

5:30 PM Joint Meeting of Elders and Deacons
(Sanctuary)

7:00 PM Elders and Deacon Christmas Party
(Off site)

Thursday, December 14

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)

4:00 PM Personnel Committee (Pastor's Study)

5:30 PM WCP Winter Holiday Party (Parish Hall)

7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, December 15

Saturday, December 16

12:00 PM Memorial service for Gale J. Fixmer
(Sanctuary)

1:00 PM Memorial Luncheon (Parish Hall)

Sunday, December 17

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Sanctuary)

10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)

11:00 AM Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
for children and confirmands
(Sanctuary)

11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)

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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

Mary Ray
Interim Director for Youth

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

Millie McNutt, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Staff

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert**
Part-time Custodians