



**Service of Worship  
Third Sunday of Advent  
December 15, 2019  
9:00 a.m.**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome**, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community and the world beyond.

**A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

**1502 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org)**

## **This Morning at Westminster**

**8:30 – 11:15 a.m.**      Coffee and tea in Classroom 6

### **Deacon Team of the Month**

Jeff Argus, Roger Atkins, Jenn Blackford, Kyle Carrick, Ron Carrick, Barry Cobb,  
Teisha Fooks, Marsha Mah, Hugh Underhill

**8:45 – 12:15 p.m.**      **Nursery Care** in Preschool Suite D

**9:00 – 9:55 a.m.**      **Worship**

Children are always welcome in worship. If they prefer, they can follow teachers to classes after the TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN. Please use the identification wristband or stickers in your pew.

- ❖ Ages 2 – 4: **Godly Care**, in *Preschool Suite C*, uses the *Deep Blue* curriculum.
- ❖ K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: **Godly Play**, in the *Ruth Christie Room*, is a place of worship where children learn Bible stories using Montessori-style methods. *Pick up in Preschool Suite*.
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade: **Sing-to-Praise Choir**, in the *Youth Music Room*, uses the *Growing in Grace* curriculum to learn about the Bible, hymns, and music theory. Sing-to-Praise occasionally lead in worship.

**10:00 a.m.**      **Christmas Caroling** for All Ages      Community Hall

**10:10 a.m.**      **Adult Ed: Art of “A Christmas Carol”**      Classroom 5

**11:15 a.m.**      **Living Mosaics Worship**      Rodney Chapel

**12:00 p.m.**      **Fellowship Time**      Meeting Room

### **Later Today**

**11:30 a.m.**      Flying Solo Brunch      Catherine Rooney’s

**4:00 p.m.**      Christmas Musical Celebration      Sanctuary

**6:00 p.m.**      Clean But Not Straight – NA      Club Room

**8:00 p.m.**      AA      Club Room

**The mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians** is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace by working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.



**Westminster is certified as an Earth Care Congregation** by the Presbyterian Church (USA). This honor means that we have exhibited exceptional leadership in protecting God's creation and being good stewards of earth's resources through our worship, education, outreach and advocacy. Only 2% of the 10,000 Presbyterian congregations in this country have earned this honored distinction.

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

**The flowers in the sanctuary today** are given to the glory of God with gratitude for the many years of wonderful music and dedication by Paul Fleckenstein. Wishing you the very best in retirement. Josh, Rick, Alejandro & Leonardo.

**Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship** to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event, while expressing praise and thanksgiving to God. Please contact Linda Watson during business hours at 302-571-6719 or [lwatson@ycst.com](mailto:lwatson@ycst.com) for available dates.

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

**Please remember in your prayers:**

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:**, Janet Beeson, Jamie Cartmell, Linda Depfer, Janice Nolen, Fred Schmitt, Ron Shelly
- ❖ **Those unable to attend worship on a regular basis** by sending a card, saying a prayer, or visiting. This week we ask you to remember Doris and Jerry Larson at Shipley Manor, Margaret and Jim Hodges at The Summit, and Leucia Venable at Lodge Lane.
- ❖ **Westminster's Prayer Team** prays for the needs of our community of faith. You may submit a prayer request by leaving a confidential message on 302-654-5848, ext. 335; or filling out a prayer request card (in the pew pocket) and placing it in the offering plate; or sending an email to [wpcprayerlist@gmail.com](mailto:wpcprayerlist@gmail.com).

**Afghanistan and Iraq often seems far away**, and we may neglect to realize that Americans, as well as Afghans, Iraqis and members of coalition forces continue to die. As Christians, we are called to pray for the spreading of peace and justice and an end to violence. If someone in your family is serving in the military, please let us know, so that we may include that person on our prayer list. Contact Cathy Lang: 302-654-5214 ext. 129, or [cathylang@wpc.org](mailto:cathylang@wpc.org).

**This week we pray for** those suffering from Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

### WORSHIP NOTES

**Easy-to-use assisted listening devices** may be found in the back of the sanctuary and the side entrance off the main hallway.

**Worship Resources** – You can obtain large print hymnals. Worship bags for children ages 3-6 include a children's bulletin designed for them. Children's bulletins for ages 7-12 are also available from the ushers.

**Are you wearing a nametag?** Whether you are a long-time member or new to our church family, wearing a nametag provides others the opportunity to meet you, greet you by name, and for you to become more familiar with others at church. You will find nametags and markers in baskets at all major entrances.

**You can make a contribution** to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org) and click the "Donate Now" button or scan the QR code on your smart phone.



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

TOWER CHIME

Craig Checkel

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Mary, Nazareth girl:*

*What did you know of ethereal beings with messages from God?*

*What did you know of men when you found yourself with child?*

*What did you know of babies – you, barely out of childhood yourself?*

*God-chosen girl:*

*What did you know of God that brought you to this stable blessed among women?*

*Could it be that you had been ready – waiting, listening – for the footsteps of an angel?*

*Could it be there are messages for us if we have the faith to listen?*

*“Mary, Nazareth Girl” from *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weems*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign and pass the friendship folder, at the end of the pew, to the person next to you.*

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ORGAN PRELUDE

A la Venue de Noël  
(At the Coming of Christmas)

Claude-Bénigne Balbastre

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Say to those of fearful heart: “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.”

**Behold! The glory of the Lord shines upon us!**

Say to those with weak hands and feeble knees: “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.”

**Behold! In splendor the Lord dwells among us!**

The barren lands burst into bloom; the desert erupts with delight. We join creation’s song:

**With joy in our hearts, let us worship God!**

(Inspired by Isaiah 35:1-10)

\*HYMN NO. 107

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

*REJOICE, REJOICE*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Karen Asenavage and Arun Loptes

“Look!” the prophet proclaims, behold the glory of God’s new day:

**The desert blooms with song;**

**wastelands yield a harvest of joy.**

Souls thirsting for mercy find God’s embrace, and hearts hungry for hope feast on grace.

**The wounded rise, healed and whole,**

**and the despairing shine with hope restored.**

“Look!” the prophet proclaims, can you imagine God’s dream for creation?

**Joy wells up, like a bubbling spring,**

**to water the parched places of our lives.**

Gardens of gladness displace desolation, and faith-filled eyes behold a bright horizon.

**“Look,” we echo. Sing out your joy!**

**For God’s new day is dawning.**

Today we light the third candle

**as we wait in wonder for the Child of Joy.**

*Passages in **bold** print are said by all. At the asterisk (\*), please stand as you are able.*

## ADVENT PRAYER

**Emmanuel —  
You enter the heartache and hurt of daily life  
and transform dismal landscapes  
into havens of grace where all life flourishes.  
As we strain our eyes  
for glimpses of your new creation  
fill us with peace,  
sustain us in hope,  
and overwhelm us with joy,  
so that we may share the glad tidings:  
Our Lord is near! Amen.**

## TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Greg Jones

*Children through Grade 6 may leave for Godly Care, Godly Play, and Sing-to-Praise Choir,  
or they may remain in worship.*

## ANTHEM

“And the Glory of the Lord” (from *Messiah*)

G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth  
of the Lord hath spoken it.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11

New Testament, page 9

## SERMON

Sudie Niesen Thompson

## \*HYMN NO. 106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

*BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN*

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord”

John Rutter

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour: 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 shewed strength with his arm: He hath scattered 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 rememb'ring 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER (page 35 in our *Glory to God* hymnal, using “debts” and “debtors”)

\*HYMN No. 744

“Arise, Your Light is Come!”

FESTAL SONG

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

Don Cason

GOING FORTH

*If you are visiting with us and wish to learn more about our church family, we invite you to meet today's ambassador, Marlys Kerr, following the service. She is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.*

# Christmas CAROLING

**Today**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**  
**Gather in Community Hall**  
*All ages and voices are welcome!*

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Share the joy of Christmas by caroling to those in our faith community who can no longer attend church. Children especially welcome! Come to Community Hall immediately after the first worship service concludes. We will QUICKLY divide into five Christmas Caroling teams to go to five retirement communities and healthcare centers in our area. Grab a muffin and/or a beverage and stand in the area designated with the name of the place where you would like to go caroling. For those who attend the 11:15 a.m. *Living Mosaics* service, there will be a team going to Ingleside on Franklin Street (three blocks from the church) starting at 10:30 a.m. and concluding by 11:00 a.m. in time for you to return to church for that service. All other teams finish at 12:00 noon. Comfortable shoes encouraged.



## ***Today's Educational Offering for Adults***

### ***The Art of "A Christmas Carol"***

Today through December 22

Classroom 5

Presenter: Bob Cox

This class will be a journey through the many forms of artistic expressions used to share the story, characters, and themes of *A Christmas Carol*. This week we will explore illustrative representations of *A Christmas Carol*.

### ***UPCOMING: "Let's Talk About It"***

December 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Ruth Christie Room

Facilitator: Sue Linderman

To varying degrees, everyone recognizes that racism and prejudice have a profound impact on our communities and our country. We need opportunities to experience the challenges and benefits that come from bringing racial issues into the light of day. All are welcome to join us in these dialogues as we continue the journey of exploring our national history and our beliefs about race, with openness to differing opinions and respect for one another.

## ***New to Westminster?***

### **Welcome! We are so glad you are here.**

Here is some information you might find helpful:

- Hymnals are located on a shelf under the pew in front of you, or at the ends of the pew. Please join us in singing!
- A red Friendship Pad at the end of the pew will be passed during the service. We hope you will sign it and let us know how we can welcome you with a follow-up contact.
- There will be an Ambassador at the back of the church at the end of worship, who would love to answer any questions you might have or give you more information about Westminster.
- For more information about our community of faith, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter from the home page of our website ([www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org)) or contact the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson at [sniesenthompson@wpc.org](mailto:sniesenthompson@wpc.org) or (302) 654-5214 ext. 103.



**Please join us for coffee or tea in Classroom 6 after the service.**

**Ask someone to show you the way!**

# ECHO Giving in the World

An Outreach of Westminster Presbyterian Church – Supporting Mission



*Echo Giving* provides an alternative to traditional gift-giving, benefiting Westminster-supported missions across our city and around the globe. With your **tax-deductible donation**, the options for helping your neighbors are many – you can feed the hungry at Emmanuel Dining Room, fund families in transition through Family Promise, or support a neighbor's path to homeownership through a Habitat build. Similarly, you can buy clean cook-stoves for Guatemala or Congo, support disaster relief efforts, and help Westminster youth participate in myriad mission opportunities.

**An *Echo Giving* table will be set up in Community Hall during the 10:TEN education hour on Advent Sundays, today, December 22.** Stop by to pick up your shopping list, discuss giving options, and decide how you'd like to make a difference during the Christmas season. Make your contribution, and you'll receive an *Echo Giving in the World* card for the loved ones on your list. Shopping lists are also available on the literature tables.





*Music at Westminster*

*presents*

# CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION 2019


**TODAY**  
**4:00 p.m.**

The Westminster Choir  
with  
Organ, Brass, and Percussion  
Paul Fleckenstein, organist and conductor

and special guests:  
The Wilmington Handbell Ensemble  
Kerry Dietz, director

Featured work:  
*Holy Light*, by Robert Hobby  
Festive carols for the Advent and Christmas season  
Readings by Susan Palo Cherwien

FREE ADMISSION | OFFERING RECEIVED







# I'M DREAMING OF A ~~WHITE~~ *calm* CHRISTMAS

Take a break from the hectic pace of the Christmas season and join us for a time of prayer and reflection, silence and song, inspired by the worship of the Taizé Community in France. All are welcome!



## WEDNESDAY EVENING TAIZÉ

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

December 4, 11, and 18, 2019  
6:30 p.m.



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# CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER 2019

*Please join us for the many ways we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

**Today, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Share the joy of Christmas by caroling to those in our faith community who can no longer attend church. Come to Community Hall immediately after the first worship service concludes. Quickly grab a muffin and/or a beverage and stand in the area designated with the name of the place where you would like to go caroling. Children especially welcome!

## **CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION**

**Today at 4:00 p.m.**

Experience the joy of the season through glorious music as choir, organ, brass, percussion, and handbells join together in fresh arrangements of carols for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22**

We will have our usual two worship services at **9:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Tuesday, December 24**

Services of Story and Song – 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

These informal, lively services trumpet the joy of Jesus' birth! Both services include stories of the birth of Jesus and singing Christmas carols. 4:00 p.m. spotlights a pageant by our young children. 5:30 p.m. features Westminster Storytellers and our children's choirs. *Child care for infants and toddlers is available in the Preschool Suite for the 4:00 and 5:30 services.*

Candlelight Communion Services – 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Traditional candlelight services with communion (open to all), sermon by Dr. Jones, and music of the Westminster Choir. **Prelude concert at 7:30 p.m.** features music for violin, harp, and organ.

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

There will be ONE worship service at **10:00 a.m.** (no Christian education classes). **Celebrate with Paul Fleckenstein on his last Sunday** as Organist/Director of Music at Westminster, and gather in Community Hall following the service to offer him our farewell blessings.

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff  
Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor  
Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

### **MUSIC STAFF**

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music  
Alexis Droke, Director of Music for Children and Youth  
Soloist/Section Leaders: Hye Eun Choi, Sharon Babcock, Jason Berger, Brenton Mattox

### **DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Chesna Hinkley

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES STAFF**

Teisha Fooks, Director of Preschool Ministries  
Nursery: Beatrice Taylor, Kristen Wolanski

### **YOUTH LEADERS**

Chesna Hinkley, Tommy Neilson  
Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, Emily Knepper, Molly McPheeters

### **SUPPORT STAFF**

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor  
Mary Clark, Office Assistant for Data and Archives  
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security  
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations  
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications  
Jerry Hunter, Financial Assistant  
Suzie Hurlock, Administrative Assistant  
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant  
Sextons: Thomas Carter, Robert King, Joan Truitt, John Young

### **SESSION**

Karen Beer, Ty Burns, Sally Buttner, Chad Chandler, Karen Dietz,  
Rich Diver, Michael Enderle, Peter Gildner, Cathy Higgins, Carol Hogue, Barbara Jobe, Kelly McCulloch,  
Mark Mosher, Jan Patrick, Todd Piercy, Margo Reign, Roger Reinicker, Carrie Saathoff, Kent Smith,  
Janet Steinwedel, Barb Stratton, Mary Vane, Susan Williamson, Helen Zumsteg

### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

Jeff Argus, Roger Atkins, Liz Bacon, Amy Bickhart, Jennifer Blackford, Kyle Carrick, Ron Carrick,  
Beatty Chadwick, Barry Cobb, Nancy Diver, Teisha Fooks, Nicole Fox, Laura Holmes, Louis Horton, Tara Lee,  
Marsha Mah, Kris Marvel, Luke Máthé, Dan McAllister, Sally McBride, Blair McConnel, Debbie McCullough,  
Mary Lou McDowell, Bob Moore, Emily Pfaff, Sandie Reinicker, Martha Spaethling, Ann Shadduck,  
Lisa Stoddard, Josh Thomas, Jennifer Trickey, Hugh Underhill, Lois Underhill, Lowell Underhill,  
Gen Wallace-Roe, Pam White, Sandy White, Debbie Wise

### **TRUSTEES**

Charley Babcock, Gary Bryde, Denison Hatch, Bobbe Hoy, Fred Iobst, Brock Jobe, Mary Lu Pamm,  
Tom Preston, Bob Ridout, Barbara Steen, Bruce Weber, Dan Weintraub

### **PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY**

Congo – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inga Sthreshley;  
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish  
Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker, Dr. Mary Mikhael  
Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band  
Guatemala – CEDEPCA, AJPU, Rosario Diaz and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development