



**Service of Worship
Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018
9:00 a.m.**

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
Merideth Hite Estevez, Director of Faith Formation through
Music and Arts, Teaching Artist in Residence
Allison Martin, Assistant Director of Children's Music
Soloist/Section Leaders: Hye Eun Choi, Sharon Babcock,
Jason Berger, Brenton Mattox

YOUTH LEADERS

Merideth Hite Estevez
Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, Emily Knepper,
Molly McPheeters, Tommy Neilson

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Colleen Falasco

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND SECURITY

Paul Crothamel

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 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org

This Morning at Westminster

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

Deacon Team of the Month – Barry Cobb, Kyle Carrick, Diane Chandler, Teisha Fooks, Debbie Wise

8:45 – 12:15 p.m. Nursery Care

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. Worship

Children are always welcome in worship. We also provide additional opportunities for children to grow in faith. Children are escorted to classes after TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN during worship.

❖ **Godly Care** – Children ages 2 through 4 in Preschool Suite C.

❖ **Sing-to-Praise and Joyful Noise Choir Program** – Children kindergarten through grade 6 in the Youth Music Room.

All children who leave the sanctuary after TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN must have a completed yellow security label on their backs. If you do not find a security label in the pew pocket, you can obtain one in the Preschool Suite. This policy is for your child's protection. Children will only be released to a guardian or an adult pre-approved by the guardian. Thank you for your help.

10:00 – 12:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling Community Hall

10:10 a.m. Sunday Seminars See page 6

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

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time after Living Mosaics Meeting Room

Later Today

11:15 a.m. Flying Solo brunch Off Site Location

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

8:00 p.m. AA Club Room

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, Jeanne Checkel, 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) or contact the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson at 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!



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 are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lu Currin by Roland and Mary Lu Pamm.

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 for available dates. The next available dates are January 13, 20 and 27.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Joyce Ruston
- ❖ **Those unable to attend worship on a regular basis** by sending a card, saying a prayer, or visiting. This week we ask you to Bob Kline and Laura Stevens at Cokesbury 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.

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.

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 and listening devices from any usher. Worship bags for children ages 3 through 6 include a children’s bulletin designed for them. Children’s bulletins for ages 7 through 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 and click the “Donate Now” button or scan the QR code on your smart phone



ORDER OF WORSHIP

TOWER CHIME

Sue Spilecki

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Living Christ, your earthly ministry was full of struggle, as well as joy; yet you were faithful in following God's will. Breathe your Spirit into our lives, so that we may never fall back from the way of justice or the effort of loving. Grant that we may find true joy as we accept the cost of faithful discipleship. Amen.

Ruth C. Duck, *Bread for the Journey: Resources for Worship*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*PASSING THE PEACE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us
(Tune: Hymn #349)

J. S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lois and Lowell Underhill and grandchildren, Hugh and Ellery

We have lit the candles for peace and hope.
Today we light the candle of joy.
Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us,
but joy is also an attitude we choose.

Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised.

So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it within us.

We will nurture our joy and share it with others.

ADVENT PRAYER

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you,
trusting that you create us for joy-filled lives.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.
Prepare our lives to be transformed,
so that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

*HYMN NO. 107

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

REJOICE, REJOICE

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

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

ANTHEM

“Jesus Christ the Apple Tree”

Philip Ledger

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

New Testament, page 175
Bill Moore, Lay Reader

SERMON

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 100

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

OFFERING

*“How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods
and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?” (1 John 3:17)*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“A Tender Shoot”

Otto Goldschmidt

A tender shoot hath started
up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted
from Jesse’s holy race.
It blooms without a blight,
blooms in the cold bleak winter
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us,
from Jesse’s root should spring.
The Virgin Mary brought us
the branch of which we sing.
Our God of endless might,
gave her this child to save us,
thus turning darkness into light.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

*HYMN NO. 93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

“Rejoice in the Lord Alway”

Henry Purcell

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, Jeanne Checkel, at the back of the center aisle following the service.
She is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.*

Christmas Caroling TODAY

It is different this year, but always great fun!



10:00 a.m. – Gather in Community Hall

10:15 a.m. – Leave for caroling

12:00 p.m. – Return to church

Come spread the joy of Christmas by caroling to our church family at several retirement communities and healthcare centers in our area. Meet in Community Hall at 10:00 a.m. for muffins and cookies hosted by our deacons. Select your caroling group and leave promptly by 10:15 a.m. *Living Mosaics* attendees may join the Ingleside Team as they return by 11:15. All other teams finish at 12:00 noon. Comfortable shoes encouraged; lots of walking. All voices and ages are welcome!



Sunday Seminars

The Challenge of Paul

Classroom 3

Facilitator: Bob Cox

The Challenge of Paul is an educational video series of lectures featuring historical Jesus scholar, John Dominic Crossan, who guides participants through the three-dimensional world of the Apostle Paul's time and place. Crossan pushes past generations of doctrine and dogma to reveal the real-life character of Paul who shaped a generation of courageous Christ-followers to challenge boldly the greed and violence of the Roman Empire, the overlord of the first century Mediterranean world.

Let's Talk About It

Ruth Christie Room

Facilitator: Sue Linderman

White people are unaccustomed to talking about race and its implications in their lives. Yet, at some level, 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 as we continue the journey of exploring our beliefs about race, with openness to differing opinions and respect for one another.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, December 24

Services for Families with Young Children

4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Informal, lively services combining the story of Jesus' birth with the singing of familiar carols. Child care for infants and toddlers is available in the Nursery for the 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. services.

Candlelight Communion Services

8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Traditional candlelight services with communion, choral and instrumental offerings, and sermon by Dr. Jones.



On Sunday, December 23, we will have our usual two worship services at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

On Sunday, December 30, there will be ONE worship service at 10:00 a.m.



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 10:10 education hour on Advent Sundays, today and December 23. 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.

IT'S THE MOST ~~WONDERFUL~~ *hectic*

TIME OF THE YEAR!

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

Wednesday
December 19, 2018
6:30 p.m.



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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