



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Service of Worship 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent December 17, 2017 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL STAFF:

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

CHURCH EDUCATOR:

Susan Moseley

MUSIC STAFF

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music  
Merideth Hite Estevez, Director of Faith Formation through Music  
and Arts, Teaching Artist in Residence  
Kevin Flaherty, Assistant Director of Children's Music  
Soloist/Section Leaders: Sharon Babcock, Elizabeth Holmes  
Christian Sanders, Travis Lucas

YOUTH LEADERS

Merideth Hite Estevez, Susan Moseley,  
Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, 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.

## This Morning at Westminster

8:30 – 11:15 a.m. The Holy Toast Café, in Community Hall, offers free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar per item.

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

Nancy Diver, Nicole Fox, Lisa Stoddard, Jennifer Trickey, Jennie Wagner, Gen Wallace-Roe

**8:45 – 11:15 a.m. Nursery for babies and toddlers**

**9:00 – 9:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary**

Children are always welcome in worship. We also provide additional opportunities for children to grow in faith.

- ❖ **Godly Care** – Children ages 2 through 4 begin in worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they walk with a parent to the **Preschool Suite** where they are greeted by the morning coordinator and escorted into **Classroom A**. The children experience simple worship rituals and learn key stories in the Bible. They respond through crafts, songs and prayers.
- ❖ **Godly Play 1** – Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade begin worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they walk with their teachers to the Ruth Christie Room. The children learn the language of God’s people through sacred space, stories, parables and liturgical actions. You may pick up your children in the **Preschool Suite Classroom C**.
- ❖ **Sing-to-Praise Choir Program** – Children in grades 3 through 6 begin worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they meet their leaders in the pavilion and walk together to the Youth Music Room

**10:10 a.m.**

### **Education for All Ages**

- Sunday School for Preschoolers Preschool Suite D
- Joyful Noise Choir Program for K – 2 Youth Music Room
- Godly Play 2 for Grades 3 – 5 Classroom 4
- Middle Schoolers for Grades 6 – 8 Classroom 8
- Sunday Seminars See page 6

**10:10 a.m.**

### **Westminster-By-Heart**

Sanctuary

**10:10 a.m.**

### **Session Meeting**

Classroom 3

**11:15 a.m.**

**Living Mosaics worship in Rodney Chapel. Children are always welcome.**

**12:00 p.m.**

### **Christmas Carolers’ Lunch**

Community Hall & Classroom 6

**12:30 p.m.**

### **Christmas Caroling**

Retirement Communities

### Also Today

6:00 p.m.

Clean But Not Straight – NA

Club Room

8:00 p.m.

AA

Club Room



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 and in loving memory of Jane, Ann and Jay by the Kline and Spilecki families.

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 date is December 31.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Fred Carspecken.
- ❖ **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 Betty Uhlinger at Cokesbury, and Jim Bercauw, Gertrude Hood and Margit and Spence Stradley, all at Country House.
- ❖ **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

- The families of those from the U.S. who have died recently:  
Staff Sergeant David Thomas Brabander, age 24, from Anchorage, Alaska
- Those suffering from Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

## WORSHIP NOTES

**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 parent or an adult pre-approved by the parent. Thank you for your help.

**Worship Resources** – You can obtain large print hymnals and hearing devices from any usher. 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

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

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 and peace 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, at the end of the pew, to the person next to you.*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Scott Patrick and his sons, Scott and Sean

We have lighted 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.**

HYMN PRELUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. Mark Sedio

\*HYMN NO. 83

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

STUTTGART

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,  
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

*Children through Grade 6 may leave for Godly Care, Godly Play 1, and Sing-to-Praise Choir,  
or they may remain in worship.*

ANTHEM

“Love Divine”  
(Text: Hymn #366)

James Biery

*At the asterisk (\*), please stand as you are able*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 126

Old Testament, page 534  
Barbara Stratton, Lay Reader

SERMON

“Shouts (or at least whispers) of Joy”

Greg Jones

\*HYMN NO. 105

“People, Look East”

BESANÇON

OFFERING

*True kindness lies within the act of giving without the expectation of something in return.*

OFFERTORY

“Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion” (from *Messiah*)  
*Elizabeth Holmes, soprano*

G. F. Handel

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee.  
He is the righteous Saviour, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN NO. 107

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

REJOICE, REJOICE

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Michael Praetorius

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, Robin Rosser, 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.*



### ***A Tale of Two Gospels: An Advent Bible Study***

Classroom 5

Presenter: Sudie Niesen Thompson

Angels. Shepherds. Wise Men. They were all together at the manger, right?

Did you ever notice that our nativity sets and Christmas Pageants conflate two different narratives? The Gospels of Matthew and Luke tell the story of Christ's birth differently...and have reasons for doing so! Join Sudie for a two-Sunday study on the birth narratives of Jesus, and discover what these texts reveal about Matthew and Luke's understandings of the Messiah.

### ***Reflections on A Christmas Carol***

Classroom 6

Presenter: Bob Cox

Advent is a time to celebrate the coming of Christ into our lives. Join Bob Cox and explore Charles Dickens' "little ghost story" of Ebenezer Scrooge's salvation. Bob will weave his extensive collection of adaptations of *A Christmas Carol* together to highlight our journey from sin to redemption.

# 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 Community Hall and after the service.  
Ask someone to show you the way!**



## WEDNESDAY EVENING TAIZÉ

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Wednesday  
December 20  
6:30 p.m.

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

# Christmas Caroling and Pizza Luncheon

**TODAY**

**12:00 p.m. Pizza Lunch | 12:30 p.m. Caroling**



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 12:00 p.m. for a quick but hearty pizza lunch hosted by our deacons. At 12:30, we will divide into groups and go out Christmas caroling. All voices of all ages are welcome!

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

### 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

One Morning Service – 10:00 a.m.

Continue your Advent journey with us as we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath and prepare to welcome the Christ child.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Services for Families with Young Children – 4:00 & 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 & 10:00 p.m.

Traditional candlelight services with communion, choral offerings, and sermon by Dr. Jones. Westminster Choir at 8:00 p.m. | Alumni Choir at 10:00 p.m.

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**On Sunday, December 31, there will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m.**