



**Service of Worship
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2016
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

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Colleen Falasco

MUSIC STAFF

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
Merideth Hite Estevez, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Section Leaders/Soloists: Diana Milburn, Sharon Babcock,
David Price, Travis Lucas

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.

1502 West 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org
An Earth Care Congregation of the PC (USA)

This Morning at Westminster

8:30 a.m. – 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

Liz Bacon, Diane Chandler, Nicole Fox, Keith Pierce, Jennifer Trickey, Pamela White

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

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

After TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN, if you wish, your children may leave the Sanctuary and go to:

- ❖ **Godly Care** – Children ages 2 – 4 experience simple worship rituals and learn key stories in the Bible. They respond through crafts, songs and prayers. Class meets in the **Preschool Suite Classroom A**.
- ❖ **Godly Play 1** – Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade gather in the **main hallway and 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 A**.
- ❖ **Sing-to-Praise Choir Program** – Children in grades 3 through 6. Parents, please escort your child to the Youth Music Room for sign-in, just prior to the start of worship, and pick up your child from the Youth Music Room immediately following worship. Children will only be released to a parent or an adult pre-approved by the parent.

10:10 a.m.

Education for All Ages

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| ➤ Sunday School for Preschoolers | Preschool Suite |
| ➤ Joyful Noise Choir Program for K – 2 | Youth Music Room |
| ➤ Godly Play 2 for Grades 3 – 5 | Classroom 4 (Art Room) |
| ➤ Middle Schoolers for Grades 6 – 8 | Classroom 8 |
| ➤ Confirmation Class for Grades 9 and 10 | Classroom 7 |
| ➤ Adult Education Classes | See page 6 |

11:15 a.m.

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

Flying Solo at Catherine Rooney’s

1616 Delaware Avenue

12:00 p.m.

Christmas Caroler’s Lunch

Community Hall & Classroom 6

12:30 p.m.

Christmas Caroling

Retirement Communities

Later Today

4:30 p.m.

Instrument Rehearsal for Christmas Eve, 5:30 Service

Sanctuary

5:30 p.m.

Role Rehearsal for Christmas Eve, 5:30 Service

Sanctuary

6:00 p.m.

Clean But Not Straight – NA

Club Room

7:00 p.m.

Parent Support Group for Families with Addiction

Daughtry House Conf. Room

8:00 p.m.

AA

Club Room

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Agnes Kochan Dubberly by her family.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ Those recently hospitalized: Natalie Bush and Debbie Wat
- ❖ Westminster's homebound who can no longer attend worship with us, by sending a card, saying a prayer, or visiting. This week we ask you to remember Hal Schonhans at Crosslands and Leucia Venable at home.

Westminster's Covenant Prayer Group prays weekly for specific needs of the faith community. 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.

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 known to the WPC Community presently serving in various locations:
 - Brian Gorman, grandson of Art and Barbara Gorman
 - Jeremy Lushnat, nephew of Arch and Melody Layman
 - Sam Pittman, nephew of Roland and Mary Lu Pamm
- The families of those from the U.S. who have died recently:
 - Warrant Officer, Travis R. Tamayo, age 32, of Brownsville, Texas
 - Staff Sergeant, Adam Thomas, age 31, of Takoma Park, Maryland
 - Sergeant, Douglas Riney, age 26, of Fairview, Illinois
- Those who have returned from service, possibly suffering from wounds or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

WORSHIP NOTES

All children who leave the sanctuary after Children's Time must have a completed yellow security label on their back. If you do not find a security label in the pew pocket, you may obtain one in the Preschool Suite. This policy is for your child's protection. Thank you for your help.

Worship Resources – You may 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

Sue Spilecki

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Immanuel, God with us;
In muscle and sinew, breath and bone.
In vulnerability and risk, escape and refuge.
In parable and healing, encounter and sign.
In suffering and death, word became flesh.
In resurrection, ascension, and spirit come down.
In justice and grace, patience and peace.
Immanuel, God with us,
Creator, Son and Spirit.
Glory be to God. Amen.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign and pass the friendship folder to the person next to you.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ORGAN PRELUDE

A la venue de Noël
(At the coming of Christmas)

Nicolas Lebègue

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Louis and Krissy Horton

We lit the candles for hope, peace and joy.
Today we light the candle of love.
This flame signifies the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times.
There is no greater power than love.
It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death.
**We love, because God loves us
and commands us to love others.**

RESPONSE (HYMN NO. 91)

**Come, come Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel.**

ADVENT PRAYER

**Loving God, we open our lives to you this season.
As we light these candles, light our lives with your vision for the world.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with a joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.
Magnify your love within us,
prepare our lives to be transformed by you,
and fill our souls with Christ-like love
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

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

*HYMN NO. 108

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Verse 1: Choir

Verses 2-5: All

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Susan Moseley

Children through Grade 2 may leave for Godly Care or Godly Play 1, or they may remain in worship.

ANTHEM

“O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings”

G. F. Handel

Westminster Choir

Sharon Babcock, mezzo-soprano

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain! O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength! Lift it up, be not afraid! Say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come; and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

Common English Bible
Craig Stabler, Lay Reader

SERMON

“A Sign from the Lord”

Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN NO. 87

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

GENEVAN 42

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Ave, Ave the Angel Sang”

Robert Lau

O lowly maiden, O blessed woman,
you have been chosen to bring us the king.
Peace be with you, O fairest holy one,
Mary, mother, child of God.

*Ave, ave, ave Maria.
Ave, ave the angel sang.*

Fair one so gentle, filled with the Spirit,
you will bear Jesus, the savior for all.
Don't be afraid now, God's love surrounds you,
Mary, mother, child of God

What will you call him, O lovely maiden?
Rulers and nations will bow at his name.
Let all creation give thanks for the holy one:
Jesus, Savior, child of God

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER (page 35 in our *Glory to God* hymnal)

*HYMN NO. 110

“Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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, Bill Nace, following the service.
He is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.*



Adult Education Classes This Morning

Megatrends of the Coming Decade

Today

Classroom 6

Facilitator: Jim Lee, CFA, CMT, CFP

Professional futurist of Strategic Foresight Investments will share his insights on the coming decade. We will learn about the future of work and retirement, global growth and where to find it, urban centers and why they may be on the verge of a growth boom, demographics and the indicators of the next major expansion for the U.S. economy, and emerging technologies to watch.

Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas (DVD and Book Study)

Today

Ruth Christie Room

Facilitator: Sue Linderman

In this 5-week, small group program, we will embark on an Advent journey to discover how, where, and why we are sent. Dynamic pastor, Jorge Acevedo and four young clergy will challenge us through story, art, and Bible study. Each session begins with a story about Advent or Christmas and is followed by a lively discussion among the presenters. *Jesus' birth was not a one-time occurrence. Every Christmas has the possibility of Jesus being born again in our lives and in our world.*—Jorge Acevedo.

History of the Bible

Today through May 14, 2017

Classroom 3

Facilitator: Bob Cox

Have you ever wondered where the Bible came from? Who wrote it? Why do some Christian Bibles have different books in them? Who decided which books would be included and how were they chosen? Join Bob Cox to explore these and other questions as we use video lectures, archeological discoveries, samples of key texts, and various classroom aids to follow the path of our sacred scriptures from pre-history to the digital age.

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

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Wednesday, December 21
6:30 p.m.



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1502 West 13th Street • Wilmington, DE 19806
(302) 654-5214 • www.wpc.org

Christmas Caroling and

Pizza Luncheon

TODAY

12:00 noon – 2:30 p.m.



Come share the joy of Christmas by caroling in some of the retirement communities and healthcare centers in our area. Meet in Community Hall at 12:00 noon for a quick, hearty pizza lunch hosted by our deacons. At 12:30, we will divide into groups and go Christmas caroling. All voices of all ages are welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24

Services for Families with Young Children

4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Informal, lively 45-minute 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 offerings, and sermon by Dr. Jones.



Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

One worship service at 10:00 a.m.