



**Living Mosaics**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**December 1, 2019 11:15 a.m.**

*Gathering Song #91*      “Come, Come Emmanuel”

*Welcome and Living Our Faith*

*Passing the Peace*

## *Call to Worship*

Can you imagine?

**The wolf lives with the lamb;  
the leopard rests with the goat.**

Can you imagine?

**Knowledge of the Lord fills the land;  
righteousness reigns o'er all the earth.**

The Lord's light shines on a weary world —  
illuminating possibility, beckoning us to hope.

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

(Inspired by Isaiah 11:1-10)

## *Song #92*

*"While We Are Waiting, Come"*

## *Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

Gary Bloomer and Sue Frost

One day, creation will be at peace.

**Predator and prey will curl up together,  
and hunter and hunted will feed side-by-side.**

Children will play

without worries about weapons that wound the body,  
or fear of words that scar the soul.

**On that day, no one shall harm creatures or creation,  
for all things will dwell in harmony.**

This is what God's reign of peace looks like.

It is a peace more enveloping than a world wrapped in snow,  
more tranquil than a home that has put discord to rest,  
more enduring than the hard-won accord that drapes a war zone in silence.

**It is the peace of a world made right,  
as justice rolls down like waters.**

This is the peace God envisions,

**the peace God is bringing to birth.**

Today we light the first candle

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

## *Advent Prayer*

Emmanuel —

**When you dwell among us,  
steadfast love and faithfulness meet,  
and justice and peace kiss each other.  
As we wait for the Prince of Peace,  
fill us with wisdom and understanding,  
that we might follow paths that lead to peace  
and walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

*Song #85*                “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”  
Vs. 1

*Scripture Lesson*                      Jonah, selected verses

Message	“Lean into God’s Dream”	Greg Jones
---------	-------------------------	------------

*Song #753*      “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

## Offering

*Please sign the blue friendship notebook and pass it to the person next to you.*

## Communion of the People

## Invitation to the Lord's Table

As much as we are loved by God,  
**so we are to love one another.**  
 Come to this table of grace with your hearts open wide.  
**We seek to be nourished by the One who loves us.**

*Song #103*      “Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

## *The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Eternal God...

## *The Lord's Prayer*

## *Words of Institution*

## *Sharing the Bread and Cup*

*The Lord's Supper is open to all who trust in Christ.*

*When you approach communion servers, please take a piece of bread, the symbol of Christ's love for you, and dip it in the cup, representing the new life in Christ.*

*If you are unable to come forward, please tell a host so that you may be served.*

*For those who have wheat allergies, we provide gluten-free rice crackers with the communion bread.*

## *Prayer following Communion*

*Song #378*

**"We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom"**

*Vs. 1-3*

*Sending*

*Song #378*

**"We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom"**

*Vs. 4*

*Following worship, please join us in the Meeting Room for coffee, tea, and fellowship.*

# 2019 *Christmas* POINSETTIAS

If you wish to make a contribution toward the decoration of the church for the Christmas season, you may do so in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. Please complete the form (located on the main literature table near the reception desk), make checks payable to *Westminster Presbyterian Church*, and place in the offering plate or return to Susan Alexander at the front desk by **Monday, December 9**. For any form received after that date, the names will be listed in the December 29th bulletin.

**Following worship, feel free to make a bouquet to brighten someone's day.** The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ross Micheals and Norman Naftzger by the Blackford family.

**Please remember in your prayers** Kathleen Lowthert, Ronald Shelly and Leucia Venable.

**Children are welcome.** Yellow worship bags for children are located the chapel entrance.

**Image:** <https://robertpeck.net/2014/10/20/its-us-versus-them-and-the-problem-is-us/>

### Prophetic Spirituality - 2019 Fall Sermon Series

Do the Scriptures reveal wisdom for not merely *surviving* life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but for sculpting a better world? It is essential for people of faith to spend time alone with God in prayer, to reflect on Scripture, and to attempt to discern the whispers of God deep in our soul. However, our interior life is immature if it does not propel us to work for the common good. We can resist the moral deterioration of today and throw ourselves into nudging the world toward God's vision by committing ourselves to following the path of Jesus and the prophets.

As followers of Jesus, we focus the bulk of our attention on his teachings and ministry. However, we stunt our faith if we have scant knowledge of the prophets who came before him, because Jesus stands on the shoulders of the Jewish prophets.

This fall, Dr. Jones is preaching a sermon series entitled "Prophetic Spirituality." To say that our faith is prophetic is to say that we are actively engaged in resisting evil, righting wrongs, and spreading love. To say that our faith is spiritual is to say that it is grounded in worship, prayer, and reflecting on God's message. Prophetic Spirituality intertwines interior work with outward action so that we can go deeper with God and live the life God calls us to live.

September 8	Introduction to Series	"Prophetic Spirituality"
September 15	Moses	"Let My People Go"
September 22	Amos	"Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters"
October 13	Jeremiah	"This is the Temple of the Lord - If you Act Justly with One Another"
October 20	Hosea	"Following Other Gods"
November 10	Isaiah	"Injustice Corrupts Worship"
November 17	Micah	"Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly"
December 1	Jonah	"Lean into God's Dream"

Pastors: Gregory Knox Jones  
Sudie Niesen Thompson  
Pianist: Paul Fleckenstein  
Song Leader: Hye Eun Choi  
Digital Artist: Bob Cox



[www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org)



*Music at Westminster*

*presents*

# CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION 2019

Sunday, December 15  
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



# TAIZÉ

A SERVICE OF PRAYER  
AND REFLECTION

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

I'm dreaming of a ~~white~~ CALM Christmas! Take a break from the hectic pace of the Christmas season and join us on Wednesday evenings during Advent for a brief service inspired by the worship of the Taizé Community in France. Pick up a Taizé flyer from the literature table, or for more information, contact the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson ([sniesenthompson@wpc.org](mailto:sniesenthompson@wpc.org)).

## Christmas Boxes Project is Wrapping Up!

Every year, Westminster fills more than 120 boxes at Christmas with food and gifts for families in need in our community. You can be a part of this joyful project.

- There are still "Wish Stars" on the Christmas tree! Please take one or more, and **sign the log book for each star you take.**
- Buy and wrap the gifts with the Wish Stars taped to the outside of the package. Place them in one of the festively wrapped collection bins **by Sunday, December 8.**
- Donate boxed healthy cereal and stuffing mix; and canned fruit and cranberry sauce (no more green beans, sweet potatoes or corn, please). Bring your donations to church **by December 8** and place them in a collection bin.
- Help wrap and sort gifts in Grace Hall beginning at **10:10 a.m. on Sunday, December 8.**
- Plan to attend the Packing Party and Potluck Dinner on **Friday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m.** All ages welcome!

Find more detailed information and additional ways to help in the December 2019 issue of *The Westminster Chimes* and the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter.





# CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER 2019

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

## CHRISTMAS BOXES DINNER AND PACKING PARTY

**Friday, December 13, 6:00 p.m.**

Share holiday joy with neighbors in need by packing boxes with food and gifts and enjoying a dinner with fellow members and friends. All ages welcome!

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

**Sunday, December 15, 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

**Sunday, December 15, 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.