



Service of Worship
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018
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 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org

This Morning at Westminster

8:30 – 11:15 a.m. The Holy Toast Café, in Community Hall, offers free coffee, tea, and fellowship.

Deacon Team of the Month

Kyle Carrick, Diane Chandler, Barry Cobb, 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.

10:10 a.m.	Education for All Ages	
	➤ Sunday School for Preschoolers	Preschool Suite C
	➤ Christian Ed for Grades 3 – 8	Art Room
	➤ Senior High for Grades 9 – 12	Grace Hall
	➤ Sunday Seminar	Classroom 6
11:15 a.m.	Living Mosaics Worship	Rodney Chapel
12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Time after Living Mosaics	Meeting Room

Later 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 are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles M. Krick, Jr. and Ann E. Linderman by Sue and Bob Linderman.

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 remember George and Barbara Scanlan and Betty Uhlinger at Cokesbury.
- ❖ **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:
Private 1st Class Joshua Mikeasky, age 19, from Johnstown, PA
- 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

Craig Checkel

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O Christ, I watch and wait for the warmth and light of your presence. As candlelight is not overcome by darkness, I rejoice that your light is radiant within me, despite the wintry seasons of my life. I live with hope that your birth will occur in every heart and the world will fall to its knees in joy. Amen.

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

Accourez Pastoureaux
(Hasten, shepherds...)

Henri Büsser

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jennifer and Michael Steiner and their children Max, Chloe, and Julia.

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 one another.

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.

*HYMN NO. 104

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

ANTHEM

Carol of the Advent
(Text: Hymn #105)

arr. Philip Dietterich

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-45

New Testament, page 49
Barbara Fedeler, Lay Reader

SERMON

“The Power of Blessing”

Greg Jones

* HYMN NO. 110

“Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Ave Maria”

James Biery

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee,
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

*HYMN NO. 140

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

*V. 1: Choir
Vs. 2-4: All*

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

Please join us after the service in Community Hall to celebrate Merideth Hite Estevez’s service to Westminster.

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, Bill Nace, 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 Community Hall after the service.

Ask someone to show you the way!

Thank You, Merideth!

Reception Today

10:10 a.m.

Community Hall



After serving as our *Director of Faith Formation through Music and Arts: Teaching Artist in Residence*, Merideth is leaving us to teach oboe at the University of Delaware. Please join us in Community Hall to thank Merideth for her work with our Sing-to-Praise Choir, Joyful Noise Choir, and our 180° Youth Ministry.



Sunday Seminar

Sing the Story

Classroom 6

Facilitated by Sharon Babcock, Merideth Hite Estevez, and Sudie Niesen Thompson

For many of us, it just wouldn't be Christmas without singing "Silent Night, Holy Night" or "Joy to the World." Music is one of the most powerful ways we proclaim the "good news of great joy" that Jesus Christ dwells among us. On the Sunday before Christmas, join Sharon, Merideth, and Sudie as they delve into the richness of this musical tradition and explore the ways our carols tell the story of Christmas.

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.
(Prelude music for the 8:00 service begins at 7:40)



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:TEN education hour today. 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.

PASTORAL STAFF

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

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES: Teisha Fooks

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

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
Nursery: Beatrice Taylor, Kristen Wolanski

SESSION

Jen Barrington, Karen Beer, Ty Burns, Sally Buttner, Chad Chandler, Jeanne Checkel, Joe Daley, Karen Dietz, Rich Diver, Michael Enderle, Peter Gildner, Cathy Higgins, Carol Hogue, Barbara Jobe, Kelly McCulloch, Mark Mosher, Margo Reign, Carrie Saathoff, Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Barb Stratton, Mary Vane, Susan Williamson, Helen Zumsteg

BOARD OF DEACONS

Jeff Argus, Roger Atkins, Liz Bacon, Don Beddie, Amy Bickhart, Kyle Carrick, Beatty Chadwick, Diane Chandler, Barry Cobb, Nancy Diver, Teisha Fooks, Nicole Fox, Laura Holmes, Louis Horton, Hillary King, Cathy Lang, Kris Marvel, Luke Mathé, Dan McAllister, Sally McBride, Debbie McCullough, Blair McConnel, Mary Lou McDowell, Carol Neff, Ann Shadduck, Lisa Stoddard, Josh Thomas, Sharlym Torres, Jennifer Trickey, Hugh Underhill, Lois Underhill, Lowell Underhill, Jennie Wagner, Gen Wallace-Roe, Sue Weissinger, Pam White, Sandy White, Debbie Wise

TRUSTEES

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

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

Congo – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: John and Gwenda Fletcher, Jeff and Christi Boyd,
Larry and Inga Sthreshley, Cecilé de Sweemer, MD; 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, Rosario Diaz and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development