



**Service of Worship
4th Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2017
10:00 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.

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

Deacon Team of the Month

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

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. | Nursery for babies and toddlers | |
| 10:00 – 10:55 a.m. | Worship in the Sanctuary | |
| 10:10 a.m. | Sunday School for Preschoolers | Preschool Suite D |
| 11:00 a.m. | Fellowship with coffee and tea | Rodney Chapel/Meeting Room |

Later Today

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Nursery for babies and toddlers | Nursery |
| 4:00 p.m. | Family Service | Sanctuary |
| 5:00 p.m. | Children’s Choirs’ warm-up | Youth Music Room |
| 5:30 p.m. | Family Service | Sanctuary |
| 8:00 p.m. | Candlelight Communion Service | Sanctuary |
| 10:00 p.m. | Candlelight Communion Service | Sanctuary |

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 Chancel flowers this morning 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 date is December 31.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Jeanne Butz, Lola Miller, Mary Young
- ❖ **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 Jean Lewis, Evelyn Measley, Jay Ritter and Tee Jay King, 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 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 and click the "Donate Now" button or scan the QR code on your smart phone.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

Craig Checkel

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Most High God –
Through your Holy Spirit
make us aware of the poverty of our hearts,
that we may be open to you and welcome you,
and be ready – like Mary – to respond in faith. Amen.*

– Adapted from a prayer from Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration.

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

ORGAN PRELUDE

Divinum Mysterium
(Based on Hymn #108)

Richard Purvis

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Gary and Kitty Knox

We lit the candles for peace, hope, 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.**

*HYMN No.108

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Mighty God –
You transform lowly manglers into cradles of glory,
and cries of despair into hope-filled praise.
Sometimes we resist transformation.
We cling to old ways because we are scared of what your way will bring.
Open our hearts, minds, and hands to the new things you are doing,
even as we await the babe of Bethlehem.
Bless us with your life-giving Spirit,
and shape us for your purposes,
that we might bear your good news to the world. Amen.**

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

RESPONSE (HYMN NO. 121):

**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!**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Children Preschool thru 2nd grade may leave for Sunday School in Preschool Suite Classroom D.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

New Testament, page 53

ANTHEM

“My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord”

John Rutter

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour: For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: And holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, And hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath fill'd the hungry with good things: And the rich he hath sent empty away. He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SERMON

Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN NO. 100

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

OFFERING

*“All shall give as they are able,
according to the blessing the LORD your God has given you.” (Deuteronomy 16:17)*

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Keith Chapman

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. 110

“Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Henry Gauntlett

GOING FORTH

Next Sunday, December 31 (New Year’s Eve), there will be one
worship service at 10:00 a.m.
Nursery care provided.

Church Office Holiday Hours: The church office will be closed all day on Monday, December 25. The church office will be OPEN December 26, 27, 28 and 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. if you wish to drop off a year-end donation. Also, all donations postmarked by December 31, 2017 will be considered received and credited on your 2017 contribution statement. If you have questions concerning the status of your 2017 pledge, please contact Colleen Falasco (cfalasco@wpc.org or 302-654-5214 ext. 131).

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.
- 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 Rodney Chapel after the service.
Ask someone to show you the way!**

TONIGHT 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.



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: Elizabeth Holmes, Sharon Babcock, Christian Sanders, Travis Lucas,

YOUTH LEADERS

Merideth Hite Estevez, Susan Moseley
Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, Tommy Neilson

SUPPORT STAFF

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Nicole Hughes, Director of Communication and Database Management
Jerry Hunter, Financial Assistant
Suzie Hurlock, Administrative Assistant
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Sextons: Thomas Carter, Robert King, Joan Truitt, John Young

SESSION

Jen Barrington, Ty Burns, Sally Buttner, Chad Chandler, Jeanne Checkel, Art Colbourn, Joe Daley,
Rich Diver, Michael Enderle, Mike Gnade, Cathy Higgins, Carol Hogue, Barbara Jobe, Kali Kniel,
Kelly McCulloch, Jon McPheeters, Mark Mosher, Margo Reign, Roger Reinicker, Craig Stabler, Barb Stratton,
Mary Vane, Susan Williamson, Helen Zumsteg

BOARD OF DEACONS

Liz Bacon, Don Beddie, Amy Bickhart, Beatty Chadwick, Barry Cobb, Tammy Daley, Nancy Diver, Teisha Fooks,
Nicole Fox, Laura Holmes, Hillary King, Cathy Lang, Kris Marvel, Sally McBride, Blair McConnel,
Mary Lou McDowell, Susan McPheeters, Lola Miller, Bob Moore, Carol Neff, Cassandra Piovoso, Ann Shadduck,
Jerry Spilecki, Lisa Stoddard, Judy Stoffer, Josh Thomas, Sharlym Torres, Jennifer Trickey, 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, Bill Nace, Mary Lu Pamm,
Kris Qualls, Bob Ridout, Bruce Weber, Dan Weintraub

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

South Sudan – Bob and Kristi Rice
Congo – PCUSA Mission Co-workers John and Gwenda Fletcher, Jeff and Cristi Boyd,
Larry and Inga Sthresley, Cecilé de Sweemer, MD, Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – Mission Co-workers the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker, Dr. Mary Mikhael
Peace Drums Steel Band – Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine
Guatemala - Rosario Diaz and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development, CEDEPCA, Leslie Vogel, and
Sandi and Brian Thompson-Royer