



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship 1st Sunday of Advent December 3, 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

Josh Cox, Merideth Hite-Estevez, Chris Hickey, Susan Moseley,
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. Intergenerational Advent Celebration Community Hall

10:10 a.m. Westminster By Heart Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. Living Mosaics worship in Rodney Chapel. Children are always welcome.

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time Meeting Room

Also Today

11:15 a.m.	Flying Solo brunch at Catherine Rooney’s	1616 Delaware Ave.
1:00 p.m.	Home Communion	Members’ Homes
5:00 p.m.	180° Youth Dinner and Fellowship	Classroom 6/Community Hall
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 gratitude to our Westminster family from Josh, Rich and Alejandro (Thomas-Suarez 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. The next available date is December 31.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Eadie Churchill and Martha Dewees.
- ❖ **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 Murchison and Les Whitney at Maris Grove, Lois Rogers at Jenners Pond and Betty Kelley with her daughter in Connecticut.
- ❖ **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:
Corporal Todd L. McGurn, age 20, from Riverside, California.
- 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

Sue Spilecki

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation of Christ coming into our lives. During the four weeks prior to Christmas, we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Christ – a time to remember the event that occurred 2,000 years ago changing history forever, and a time to welcome Christ anew into our lives. To mark the weeks, we light candles and honor the major themes of the season.

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

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
(Savior of the Nations, Come)

J. S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Keith, Emily, Rabea, Annika, and Ava Pfaff

The church announces the coming of Christ because it speaks to a deep truth –

Christ is coming.

Even where there is war and discord,
whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts,

God is present, calling us to a new future.

We light the first candle, the candle of peace,

as we express our longing for healing, for justice, and for the well-being of all creation.

*HYMN NO. 106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

What does the Lord require of us?

To do justice,

to love kindness,

and to walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, forgive us for the times we fall short of what we can be.

Forgive our lack of sensitivity to the hurts of others;

our silence in the midst of injustice;

our cowardice in the face of oppression;

our lack of love among the unlovely.

Humble us where we are arrogant;

remake us where we are weak;

strengthen us where we lack faith;

guide us where we have lost our way;

that once again, by your grace,

we may become the people you would have us become. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

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.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Old Testament, page 647
Kyle Carrick, Lay Reader

SERMON

"A Prophetic Voice"

Greg Jones

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Ex Sion"

Josef Rheinberger

*Ex Sion species decoris ejus: Deus manifeste veniet. Congregate illi sanctos ejus, qui ordinaverunt
testamentum ejus super sacrificia. Laetatus sum in his, quae dicta sunt mihi, in domum Domini, in domum
ibimus, alleluia.*

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Summon before him the consecrated nation who
made a covenant with him by sacrifice. I was glad when they said to me, go up to God's house. Alleluia.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

We come to the table as children of God.

We share a common faith and a common desire.

We come to be transformed into new people
who live according to the loving spirit of Christ.

May Christ transform us and bring us peace.

*HYMN NO. 378

"We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom"

MERLE'S TUNE

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...

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*The Lord's Supper is open to all who trust in Christ.
For those who have wheat allergies, we provide gluten-free rice crackers with the communion bread.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Comfort Ye; Every Valley...” (from *Messiah*)
Christian Sanders, tenor

G. F. Handel

Comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd, that her iniquity is pardon'd. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

*HYMN No. 771

“What Is the World Like”

NEW WORLD

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

Don Cason

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, at the back of the center aisle following the service. He is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.

SERMON SERIES: WHY CHURCH?

The Golden Age of the church has passed. Or has it? The church will never regain its place of importance. Or will it? The Christian Church in the West has been on a downward slide for decades. Belief in God remains high among Americans, but church membership is on the decline. Is this the long, slow death of Christianity, or is it the long, slow death of the church as we know it today? Are we living in the final days of the church or could this be the beginning of the reformation of the church?

On seven Sundays this fall, Dr. Jones will lay out the reasons that the church is absolutely crucial to the state of the world.

October 8	The Church Plays a Critical Role in Society	November 19	Serving the World, Finding Our Soul
October 15	Where Community is Built	December 3	A Prophetic Voice
November 5	Can the Church Revive Our Sense of Enchantment with the World?	December 10	Where We Find Hope
November 12	Shaping Character		

Previous sermons are available on the literature table and on the church website.

Christmas Boxes Project Is Under Way!

Every year, Westminster fills more than 125 boxes at Christmas with food and gifts for families in need in our community. You can be a part of this joyful project.

- Take one or more “Wish Stars” from a Christmas tree in the Pavilion or near Rodney Chapel. **Sign the log book by the tree 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 10.**
- Donate boxed healthy cereal and stuffing mix; and canned green beans, corn and sweet potatoes (no more fruit or cranberry sauce, please). Bring your donations to church **by Sunday, December 10** and place them in a collection bin.
- Help wrap and sort gifts in Grace Hall beginning at 10:10 on **Sunday, December 10.**
- Plan to attend the Packing Party on **Friday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m**

You can find more detailed information and additional ways to help in the October/November 2017 issue of *The Westminster Chimes* and the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter. There will also be an “Answer Elf” at each tree on Sunday mornings to answer questions.



Christmas Caroling and Pizza Luncheon

Sunday, December 17

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



Come spread the joy of Christmas by caroling to our members 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! If you can join us for the pizza lunch, please RSVP to Kris Marvel at ksmarv@msn.com or call/text (302) 540-9983.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER



Sunday, December 24

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.

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.

On Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve), there will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m.

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) 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 and Classroom 6 after the service.
Ask someone to show you the way!**

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

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Wednesdays
December 6, 13, and 20
6:30 p.m.



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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

Music at Westminster

presents

THE 2017 CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION

**Sunday, December 10
4:00 p.m.**

This year's concert to usher in the Christmas season will be a special one indeed, as it will feature music primarily by French composers. Be prepared for a "High Romantic" musical experience!

Our major work is the beloved *Christmas Oratorio* by Camille Saint Saëns, which will be presented by our Westminster Choir, soloists, string orchestra, harp, and organ. Also on the program will be gorgeous instrumental works with a spotlight on solo strings and harp. Of course, there will also be the opportunity for you to raise your voices in festive arrangements of traditional carols.

As always, the concert is free of charge, and open to the entire community, with an offering received. We look forward to seeing you (and all your friends) there!



2017
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 this form, 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 11**. For any form received *after* that date, the names will be listed in the December 31st bulletin.

DONATION AMOUNT

\$20 \$40 \$60 \$80 \$100 Other \$ _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

❖ In Memory Of: (FOR THE DECEASED)

Deceased Person's Name

❖ In Honor Of: (FOR THE LIVING)

Living Person's Name

❖ Given By:

Donor's Name and Telephone Number

If you wish to take a poinsettia plant home with you, you may do so following the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Plants remaining after that service will be delivered to our homebound members. If you can help with delivery, please contact Jill Getty at jgetty@wpc.org by Wednesday, December 13, 2017.