



Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

PASTORAL STAFF

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

MUSIC STAFF

Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Music/Organist
Alexis Droke, Director of Music for Children and Youth

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Kathleen Kennan

YOUTH LEADERS

Tommy Neilson, 180 Leader
Josh Cox, Molly McPheeters

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.



**Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Matthew 25 Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

1502 West 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org

We hope you will stay connected with our community of faith during this season of social distancing by subscribing to the *Westminster Weekly Word* e-newsletter through the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org), liking us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware), or following us on Instagram (www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware).

Today at Westminster

- 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.** **Food Collection** for Emmanuel Dining Room in the Westminster parking lot.
- 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.** **Worship** in the Sanctuary. See link below for guidelines.
- 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.** **Prayground** in Community Hall. Worship is live streamed and activities are provided for children. Masking (for those over the age of 2) and social distancing are required. See link below for guidelines.
- 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.** **Fellowship Time** in the Meeting Room.
- 10:00– 12:00 p.m.** **Assembling gift bags and making cards for the Christmas Box Project** in Classroom 6. See announcement on page 6.
- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** **Confirmation Class** in Classroom 7.
- 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.** **Psalms Alive!** in Grace Hall. Pre-registration is required. See page 5 for details.
- 11:15 – 12:00 p.m.** **Living Mosaics** in Rodney Chapel.
- 12:00 – 12:15 p.m.** **Fellowship Time** in the Meeting Room.

For a link to our **revised COVID policy** go to:

https://www.wpc.org/uploads/Westminster_COVID-19_Mask_Policy_and_Safety_Measures.pdf

Please see page 5 for information on Educational Offerings for Adults.

Today's Music: The fully vaccinated and masked Westminster Choir will lead our hymns. Please join us in lifting your voices in praise! Please be sure to come back at 3 p.m. for our annual Christmas choral concert or join us via livestream. More information can be found on page 7.

Westminster has been certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (USA) for the 11th consecutive year. This honor means we exhibit exceptional leadership in protecting God's creation and are good stewards of earth's resources through our worship, education, outreach and advocacy. Only 2% of the 10,000 Presbyterian congregations in the U.S. have earned this honored distinction.

Westminster is a Matthew 25 Congregation that strives to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle structural racism, and build congregational vitality. The gospel calls us to actively engage in the world so that our faith comes alive.

Westminster is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians whose mission is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace, by working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a more just and inclusive church.

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. Dates are available in January and February 2022.

The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jackie and Dean Gooderham, parents of Robert Gooderham.

Recently hospitalized: Chris Waisanen.

Westminster's Prayer Team prays for the needs of our community of faith. You may submit a prayer request by email: wpcprayerlist@gmail.com.

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- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

TOWER CHIME

Craig Checkel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE

Meditation on GREENSLEEVES
Ted Barr and Tony Thurman, piano duet

Joel Raney

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Teresa and Aaron Wemhoff, Griffin and Cooper

On our journey to Bethlehem, we have lit the candles for peace and hope.

Today we light the candle of joy.

Joy is an underground spring that wells up within us,
but joy is also an approach to life.

Each day we awake to find traces of joy.

So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it within us.

We will nurture our joy and share it with others.

ADVENT PRAYER

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you,
trusting that you will guide us to joy-filled lives.**

Show us the creative power of hope.

Teach us the peace that comes from justice.

Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.

Prepare our lives to be transformed,

so that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

[Click here](#) to watch today's TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN on Westminster's YouTube channel.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 35

Old Testament, page 622

ANTHEM

Carol of Joy

Nicholas White

Love of the mother, watching over her newborn son;
Love of the father, knowing not what has just begun;
Love of the angels, hovering over the Holy One;
How can we show our love?

Peace of the nighttime, still and silent, the world is calm;
Peace of the moonlight, gleaming softly with golden balm;
Peace of the baby, sleeping soundly and free from harm;
How can we feel his peace?

Hope of the shepherds, as they follow the star so bright;
Hope of the wisemen, bringing gifts on that Christmas night;
Hope of the nations, unaware of the world's new light;
How can we hold that hope?

Joy of the sunlight, gleaming bright on that Christmas morn;
Joy of the windrush, spirit moving with each new dawn;
Joy of the whole world; Alleluia! For Christ is born;
How can we share our joy?

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

**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.**

GOING FORTH: OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES TO GOD

With gratitude for the grace we have received, we go forth from worship to offer our energy, our hands, and a portion of our income in service to God. A tangible way we respond to Christ's call is by giving our financial gifts to further God's mission in the world. You may mail a check to the church or make an online offering to support the many ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church by clicking "Donate Now" on the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org).

**Join us for a time of fellowship following worship.
You can enjoy coffee, tea, and hot chocolate in Rodney Chapel and the Meeting Room.**

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The resources for children attached at the end of the online bulletin are provided by Illustrated Ministry. Please print them to participate in this service or for family devotions throughout the week.

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My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout! Rory Cooney.

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EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

You can find virtual Christian education and small group opportunities on the homepage of the Westminster website (www.wpc.org) and discover other Education Offerings for Adults on [YouTube](#).

"Psalms Alive!" – Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in Grace Hall

Come worship, jump, and jive with *Psalms Alive!* This innovative and custom-made program fuses elements of worship and music education together to create a God-focused music program for families. Due to space constraints, participation is limited and registration is required. Please email Alexis Droke at alexisdroke@wpc.org for more information.

180 Youth – No 180 meeting tonight!

Our next meeting is January 9, 2022. For more information, email Tommy at tommyjneilson@gmail.com.

Online Bible Studies

Midweek Manna Bible Study – Wednesdays at Noon on Zoom (Resumes January 12)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89503349345?pwd=SlJrY2V2Y2tYa3JWQXk5ak1iZU1ldz09>

The Midweek Manna Bible Study, facilitated by the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, is taking a break for the remainder of Advent and during the Season of Christmas. On **January 12**, the group will begin a short study on Paul's Letter to the Philippians. Then, on **January 26**, Midweek Manna will take on something a bit different ... a novel! We will discuss *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd, which tells the story of a remarkable young woman named Ana who, in the author's imagination, becomes the wife of Jesus of Nazareth. Pick up a copy of this engaging novel and join us for our conversation on January 26! New faces always welcome.

Thursday Evenings, 6–7 p.m. on Zoom

Our Bible Study, facilitated by Randy Williamson and Mary Anne Peters, continues and new faces are always welcome. Contact Randy Williamson at randywilliamson1@comcast.net and he will send the Zoom link.

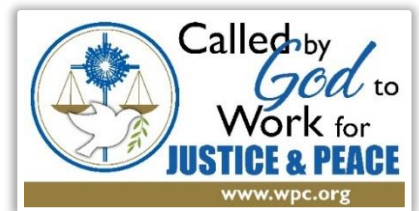
WPC Peace & Justice Online Education Events

Renewable Energy

Thursday, December 16, 7 p.m. on Zoom

With Sally Buttner & Roger Reinicker, Earth Care Task Force

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86027521655>



What does renewable energy have to do with Peace and Justice, you might ask? The answer is: A WHOLE LOT! Renewable energy is the alternative to the fossil fuels that are creating havoc with our climate, from birth (extraction), to transport, use and finally to grave (greenhouse gases that cause global warming). As the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change declares "Code Red for Humanity," we realize that **replacing fossil fuels is now a moral imperative**. This class will explore wind and solar as the chief renewable energy sources that can replace fossil fuels. We will also discuss a national policy that will incentivize the replacement of fossil fuels. Our classes are accessed via Zoom using the Zoom link above, or go to zoom.us/join, enter Meeting ID **860 2752 1655** and click "Join."

Women's Online Community Group – 2nd and 4th Thursday at 5 p.m.

The women of Westminster connect for heartfelt and enriching discussions on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 5 to 6 p.m. The Rev. Jill Getty facilitates this group on Zoom. Use the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477914100>

Christmas Boxes Are Wrapping Up!

Every year, Westminster fills boxes at Christmas for families in need in our community. Due to the pandemic, our Christmas Box Project has once again been reimagined for 2021. We can still bring holiday cheer to 120 families! Be a part of this joyful project!

- **Check and Online Donations Due Today**

By **TODAY (SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12)**, make a check or online donation so that we can purchase Walmart gift cards for kids 0-18 years old and ShopRite food cards for each family. This again replaces the tradition of “Wish Star” gifts and food collection we used for so many years. Write and mail check to *Westminster Presbyterian Church* (memo: Christmas Boxes) or make an online donation by going to www.wpc.org, click on “Donate Now” at the top of the page, and choose “Christmas Boxes Project” from the list of options. Donate what you can. Every dollar helps make the goal of this mission a reality!

- **Drop Off Cookies and Advent Banks This Morning**

If you made cookies or decorated Advent Banks, please deliver them to the Elves inside the Blue Doors (Community Hall entrance off 13th Street) **TODAY (SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12) FROM 8:45 TO 11:00 A.M.**

Check the *Westminster Weekly Word* e-newsletter each week for any unanticipated updates and additional information. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ!



Help Fund a Congolese Nurse Through *Echo Giving*



Join the Church in the World Committee via our Christmas *Echo Giving* campaign as we prepare a young Congolese woman to be a nurse in the neo-natal unit at IMCK Hospital! There is a great demand for neo-natal nurses and midwives in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and your gift will contribute to a \$5,000 scholarship fund for this advanced degree. Check out our recent article in the [December Chimes](#) newsletter for more information, and thank you in advance for making a difference in many lives into the future!

You can make an Echo Gift online at WPC.ORG (click “Donate Now”) or by using [the Echo Giving form](#).

COME HOME TO WESTMINSTER FOR CHRISTMAS

Please join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Westminster Choir Christmas Concert

TODAY, 3 p.m.

God's Promise: Lessons, Readings, and Carols of Our Time, including familiar scriptures and poetry by Thomas Troeger.

Westminster Choir | Westminster by Heart Storytellers | Ted W. Barr, piano

Pre-concert Tower Chime Recital by Susan Spilecki at 2:30 p.m.

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 18, 4 p.m.

Christmas brings out the child in all of us. Experience the joy and wonder of the season through a child's eyes as the Ensemble presents *A Child's Christmas*.

Kerry Dietz, artistic director | F. Anthony Thurman, organ

Pre-concert Tower Chime Recital by Susan Spilecki at 3:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24

Service of Story and Song – 5:30 p.m.

Featuring a pageant for children and the young-at-heart and our Youth Instrumental Ensemble, this lively service will trumpet the joy of Jesus' birth!

Candlelight Communion Service – 8:00 p.m.

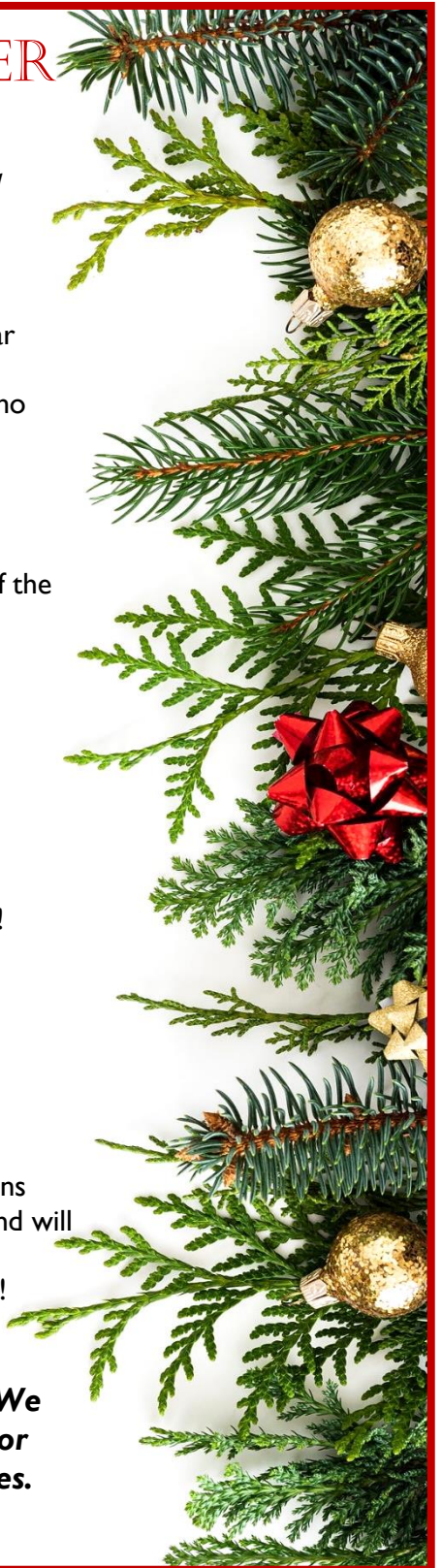
Traditional candlelight service with communion that is open to all, sermon by Dr. Jones, and Christmas music sung by the Westminster Choir.

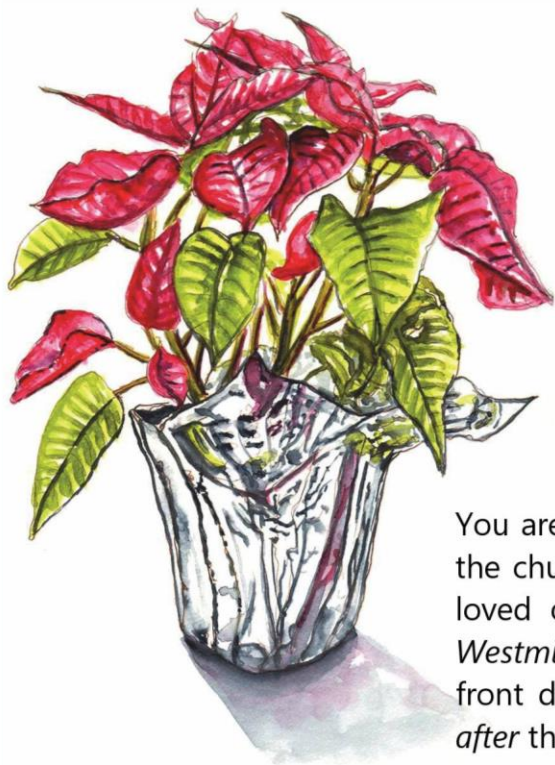
Sunday, December 26

One worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Continue your celebration of Christ's birth with a joy-filled Service of Lessons and Carols, featuring the Westminster-by-Heart Storytellers. The Playground will be closed on December 26, but we hope children of all ages will join us for worship in the sanctuary. Kids: feel free to come in your Christmas pajamas!

We hope you will join us in person or online! All concerts and worship services will be livestreamed on our [YouTube channel](#). We are committed to your safety during the pandemic. [Click here](#) or visit wpc.org for our COVID-19 mask policy and safety measures.





WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

2021 Christmas POINSETTIAS

You are welcome to make a contribution toward the decoration of the church for the Christmas season in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. Please complete this form, make check payable to *Westminster Presbyterian Church*, and mail to Susan Alexander at the front desk by **Wednesday, December 15**. For any form received *after* that date, the names will be listed in the December 26 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)

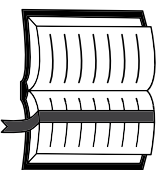
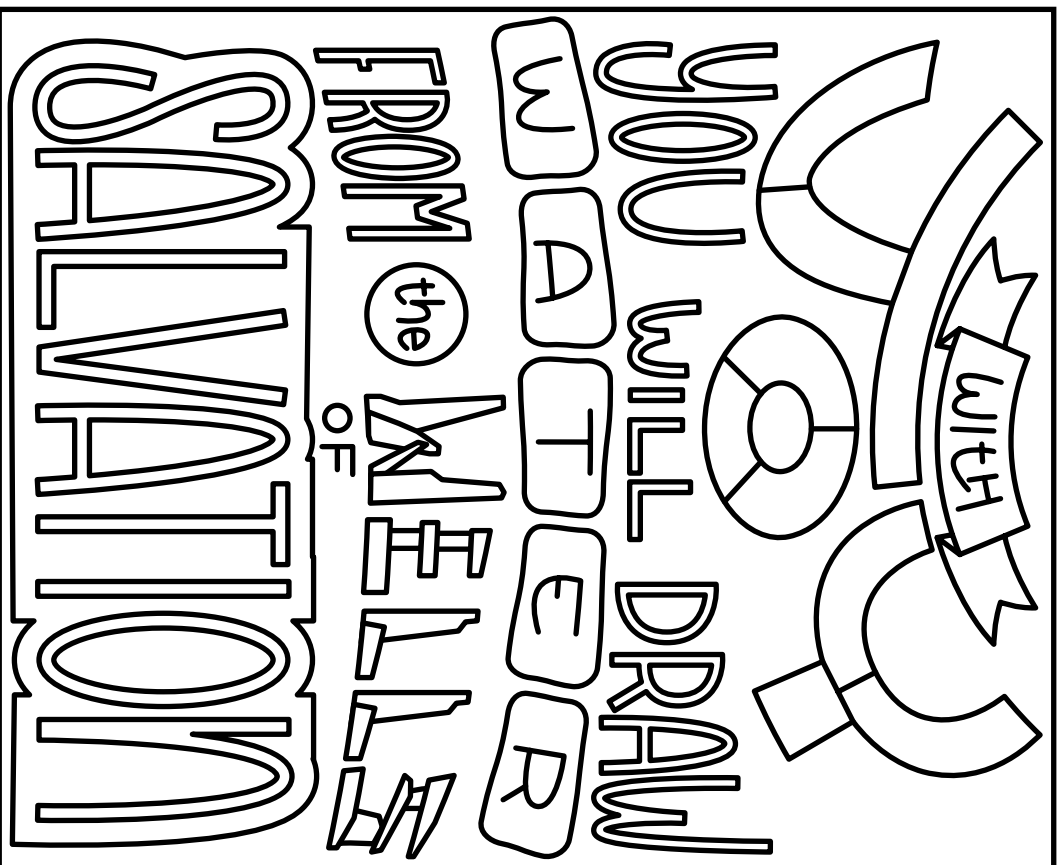
Living Person's Name

❖ Given By:

Donor's Name and Telephone Number

You may take a poinsettia home following the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. We are delivering poinsettias to local retirement communities to share the joy of the season.

COLOR IN THE WORDS

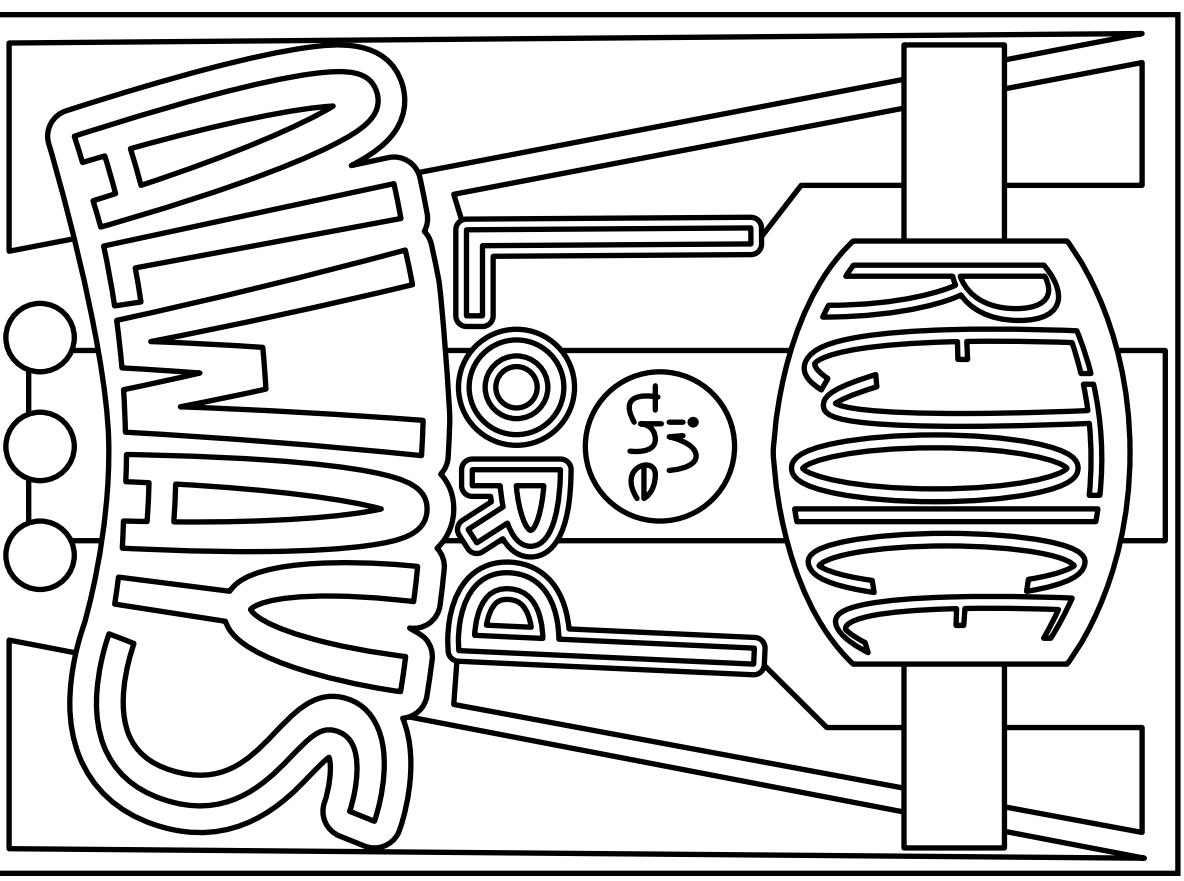


illustrated
— MINISTRY —

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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18.





DRAW IT

In Luke 3, John tells the crowds of people how God wants us to live generously. He says if you have two coats, give one away. He tells them to share their food. Draw a picture of how and where and what you can share with others today.

UNSCRAMBLE IT

What does the apostle Paul say about our worries?
Unscramble the words to find out!

OD TON YRWOR BTOUA

GNHYANTI TUB NI VNGETHERYI

TLE ROYU UESQTSRE EB DAME

NOWKN OT DOG DAN HET

AECPE FO OGD L WLI ARUDG

YURO ARTHES DNA SMNDI

NI SUESJ