



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

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 – 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! We are delighted to have the Westminster Handbell Choir presenting our Prelude and Postlude.

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 Dick Hatfield ("PopPop") by his family.

Recently hospitalized: Jill Getty and 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 19, 2021

TOWER CHIME

Susan Spilecki

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger

arr. Hart Morris

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

David, Brittany, and Geoffrey Keller

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

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:30-55

New Testament, page 49

ANTHEM

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Manz/arr. T.A. Ohnesorge

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.

"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee;

Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. "To me be as it pleases God," she said.

"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.

And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

SERMON

Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN No. 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN'ROS'

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

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

POSTLUDE

Ding Dong Merrily on High

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

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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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 when we will kick off the New Year! For more information about 180 youth ministry for grades 6 to 12, contact 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=SIJrY2V2Y2tYa3JWQXk5ak1iZU1ldz09>

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.

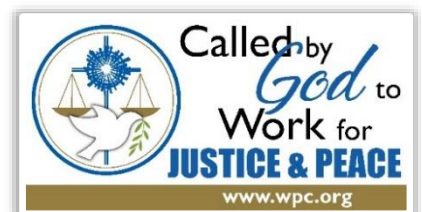
Thursday Evenings – 6–7 p.m. on Zoom

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

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

There will be no P&JWG class on either 12/23 or 12/30. We will resume on January 6, 2022. 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. No meeting on December 23. We will resume on January 13. Happy New Year! Use the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477914100>

Help Provide Clean Water for Gaza School Children Through *ECHO Giving*



One wish for a child in Gaza is clean water. Your Christmas *ECHO* gift to the Solar Powered Water Desalination Project can make that wish come true! Nearly all water in Gaza is undrinkable, one of our most basic human needs. This system, at a cost of \$25,000, will be installed at an UNRWA school to change the lives of more than 1,000 students by providing a reliable source of clean water. Check out our *ECHO* article in [this month's Chimes newsletter](#) to learn more about our water project. Thank you for your support for children in Gaza and clean water!

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

Church Office Holiday Hours

The church office will CLOSE at 12 noon on Friday, December 24 and will be closed all day on Monday December 27. The church office will be OPEN December 28, 29, 30 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All donations POSTMARKED on or before December 31, 2021 will be credited to your contribution record as received in 2021, so there is no need to physically drop off donations to receive credit. Secure online donations can be made until December 26 for 2021 year-end giving.

COME HOME TO WESTMINSTER FOR CHRISTMAS

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

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.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

One Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

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
Rebecca Hughes, soprano, Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano, Jerry Polman, bass, Section Leaders

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Tanner Freeman, Rich Albert, Drew Holmes, Chip Pfleegor, Roger Reinicker,
Baden Saathoff, Aaron Wemhoff and Sophia Wolff

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES STAFF

Kathleen Kennan, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry
Teisha Fooks, Director of Preschool Ministries
Beatrice Taylor, Kristen Wolanski, Nursery

YOUTH LEADERS

Tommy Neilson, 180 Leader
Josh Cox and Molly McPheeters

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: Robert King, Daniel Steele, Joan Truitt, John Young

SESSION

Michelle Butler, Sally Buttner, Clark Collins, Bob Cox, Michael Enderle, Jessica Fischer,
Dick Jolly, Carla Krupanski, Faith Kuehn, David Máthé, Kelly McCulloch, Susan McPheeters,
KC Morrison, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor, Todd Piercy, Roger Reinicker, Carrie Saathoff,
Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Barbara Stratton, Gill Timon, Mary Vane, Susan Williamson

BOARD OF DEACONS

Amy Bickhart, Jennifer Blackford, Russ Butler, Kyle Carrick, Ron Carrick, Beatty Chadwick,
Diane Chandler, Eadie Churchill, Joe Daley, Tammy Daley, Kate Dietz, Nancy Fleming, Kendra Gallagher,
Lili Gerstenschlager, Jamie Hickey, Paul Kelly, Mary Laskaris, Tara Lee, Arun Loptes, Gathoni Murugi-Jenkins,
Marsha Mah, Dan McAllister, Blair McConnel, Debbie McCullough, Robert Moore, Roland Pamm, Lynne Perkins,
Emily Pfaff, Sandie Reinicker, Patti Ridout, Robin Rosser, Lisa Stoddard, Lois Underhill,
Sue Weissinger, Sandra Wermus, Pam White, Pam Wilson

TRUSTEES

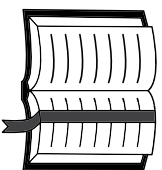
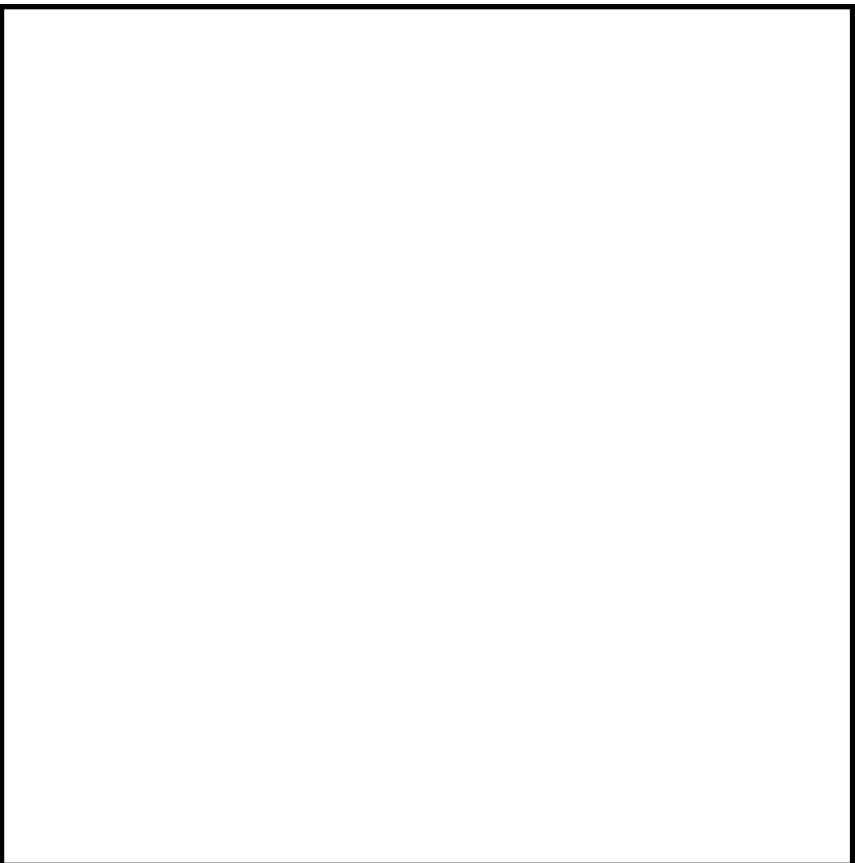
Rich Albert, Charles Babcock, Mark Gerstenschlager, Fred Iobst, Brock Jobe,
Sue Linderman, Tom Preston, Kris Qualls, Bob Ridout, Stan Stevenson, Bruce Weber, Dan Weintraub

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

DR Congo – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inge Sthreshley;
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker
Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches, Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band
Guatemala - CEDEPCA, AJPU, the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development,
PCUSA Mission Co-workers Betsey & Eric Moe

DRAW IT

When Mary learns she is pregnant with Jesus, she runs to see her cousin, Elizabeth, and shares the incredible news. Draw what you imagine the scene looked like when Mary shares this with Elizabeth.

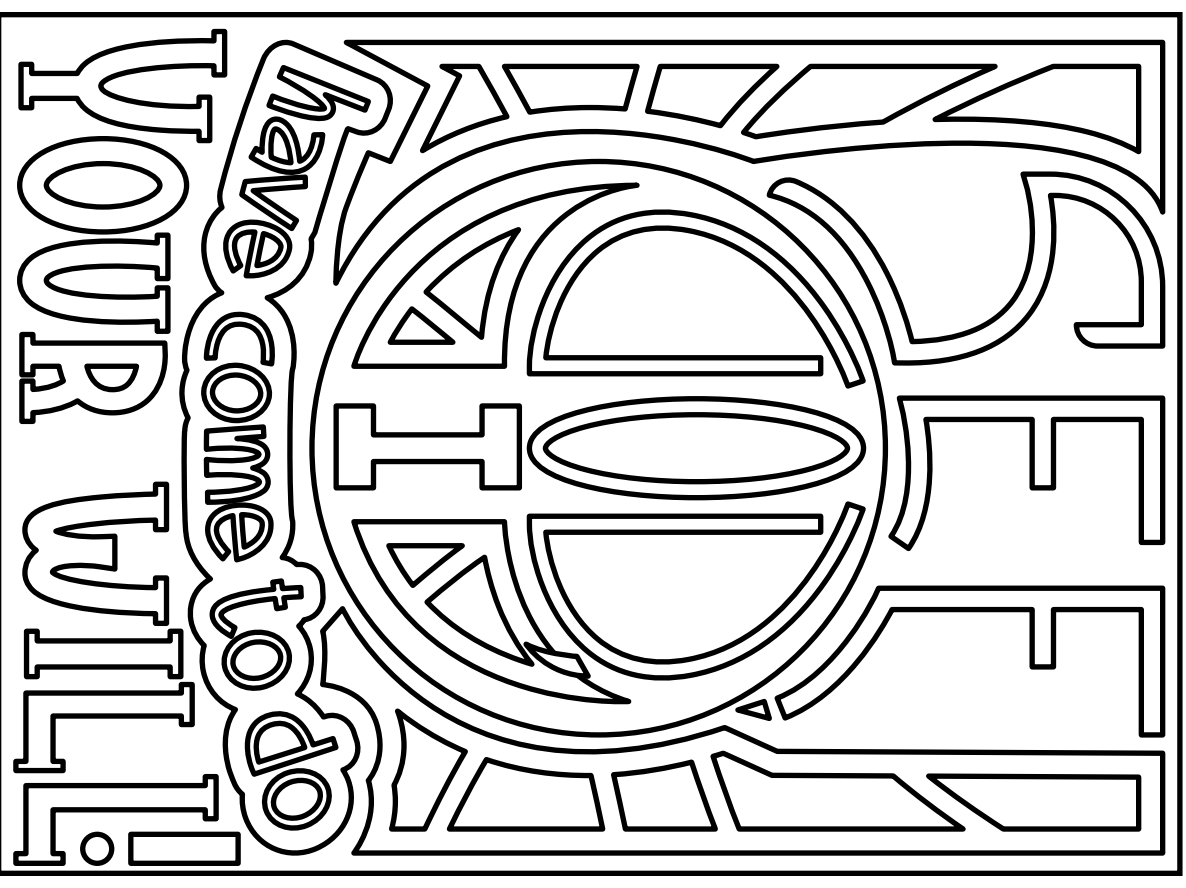


illustrated
—MINISTRY—

Suggested for use on December 19, 2021 based on the RCL.
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CHILDREIN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45.



WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Micah 5 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

G P E C M X K Y T F H S O F U
M A A X A X T X A A H Y T L Q
E G R C D S Q G Y L E A R S I
A N T H E A M A K V U R D K N
N Z H J R L N Q M D X G U V
Q W A G D G M E V I G R Y S J
P M S P N U K S E C U R E G G
D E E F I J T B T L M T J E M
H R O O K R R W E R N C A U I
N Z G P E B Y W X F F L O C K C
K F R N L Z P Z I F U M T J B
N C G E B E T H L E H E M C L
T T N E I C N A G H K D X M O
H F I U C O U X Z N R U T E R
B P H I V H A K E C A E P S D

BETHLEHEM	RETURN	LORD
JUDAH	ISRAEL	MAJESTY
RULE	PEOPLE	SECURE
ANCIENT	FEED	GREAT
GIVE	FLOCK	EARTH
KINDRED	STRENGTH	PEACE

CONNECT the DOTS

Mary sings a beautiful song of praise to God called "the Magnificat." Connect the dots to form music notes. Inside or around the notes, write or draw what you would sing to God about.

