Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

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.
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](http://www.wpc.org)), liking us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware](http://www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware)), or following us on Instagram ([www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware](http://www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware)).

**Today at Westminster**

8:45 – 10:00 a.m. **Collecting food** for Emmanuel Dining Room – parking lot

9:00 – 9:45 a.m. **Worship**
Anyone over the age of five is required to wear a mask and children must remain with their parents.

*Please see page 6 for ways to connect to the events below.*

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Christmas Caroling – A Virtual Choir**

- **Bible Box** for children ages 2 through 4th grade is available today on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).
- **Educational Offerings for Adults**

The sanctuary flowers are given in memory of Ellen and Doug Clarke from their loving children Morgan Miller and Doug Clarke.

**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](mailto:lwatson@ycst.com). Dates available are January 17 and 31.

**Westminster’s Prayer Team** prays for the needs of our community of faith. You may submit a prayer request by sending an email to [wpcprayerlist@gmail.com](mailto:wpcprayerlist@gmail.com).

**You can make a contribution** to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org) and click the “Donate Now” button or scan the QR code on your smart phone.

The mission of the **Covenant Network of Presbyterians** 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 still more just and inclusive church.

**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.

**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.
ORDER OF WORSHIP- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

TOWER CHIME  
Susan Spilecki

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE  
Still, Still, Still  
Paul Manz

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE  
Michelle and Russ Butler

Light one candle for love,  
because the world is broken and the wait is long, but love never ends.  
Love faithfully goes about the work of  
casting out fear  
speaking truth  
healing the deepest wounds  
crossing the divide from this world to the next and back again.  
“Here I am,” she whispers, “the servant of the Lord.”  
So we light one candle, because it only takes one:  
Christ with us.

The candle is lit.

This flame signifies the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times.  
With love in our hearts, let us worship God.

HYMN NO. 105  
People, Look East  
Besancon

Vs. 1, 4 & 5

People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able;  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

ADVENT PRAYER

Emmanuel –  
Your time is drawing nigh!  
As we await the babe of Bethlehem,  
give us the steadfast faith of Joseph  
and the expectant hope of Mary;  
give us the startled wonder of the shepherds,  
and the peace the angels proclaim.  
Above all, give us hearts ready to receive your gift of love  
and hands eager to share the blessing of your grace. Amen.

Click here to watch today’s Time with Our Children on Westminster’s YouTube channel.
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!

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
PARTICIPANTS
The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
Director of Music/Organist: Dr. F. Anthony Thurman
Choristers: Hye Eun Choi, soprano; Sharon Babcock, mezzo soprano
   Jason Berger, tenor; Brenton Mattox, bass
Videographers: Chip Pfleegor, Roger Reinicker, Baden Saathoff, Aaron Wemhoff and Sophia Wolff
   Tower Chime: Susan Spilecki

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
The Advent Candle liturgy is adapted from “One Candle: An Advent Liturgy for 2020” by the Rev. Karen Ware Jackson (used with permission). The resources for children attached at the end of the bulletin are provided by Illustrated Ministry. Please print them to participate in this service or for family devotions throughout the week.

PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHTS
Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE # A-736679 and CCLI License # CSPL187609. All rights reserved.

Love Has Come, Ken Bible.
Text copyright © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services). All rights reserved.
Music arr. © 2012 Eric. T. Myers. All rights reserved.
Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736679.

People, Look East, Eleanor Farjeon.
Text copyright © 1960 David Higham Associates, Ltd. All rights reserved.
Music harm. © 1928 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.
Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736679.

Still, Still, Still, Paul Manz.
Copyright © 1987 MorningStar Music Publishers. All rights reserved.
Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736679.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came, Paul Manz/arr. T.A. Ohnesorge.
Copyright © 1990/2010 MorningStar Music Publishers. All rights reserved.
Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736679.

Toccatina on Angels We Have Heard on High, Richard Elliott.
Copyright © 2009 OrganMusicDownloads.com LLC. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

December 27 Worship Service Led by New Castle Presbytery

Ministers in New Castle Presbytery will provide Westminster’s online worship service on Sunday, December 27. This will be a wonderful opportunity to experience worship led by others and will be the Christmas gift of a well-deserved break for our staff and videographers. With no in-person worship that Sunday, please go to the “Sunday Worship” box on the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org) for the link to this service.
EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

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

Bible Boxes for Children (Age 2 – Grade 4)

Westminster’s virtual Sunday school programming continues with Bible Box, a very creative YouTube series that combines Bible stories, crafts, and music. Materials for the crafts are provided for free. New content uploaded every Sunday. The program runs through today, December 20. If you have questions about the Bible Box program or would like to sign up to participate in the spring of 2021, please email Alexis Droke at alexisdroke@wpc.org.

Online Bible Studies

Wednesday afternoons, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. on Zoom
Midweek Manna Bible Study
https://zoom.us/j/97700423780?pwd=b1dGL2c4NXRjMIRBOWJWWEIsTTg3dz09
Zoom Meeting ID: 977 0042 3780 | Passcode: 547264
In Advent, the Midweek Manna Bible Study, facilitated by the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, will turn to the Gospels and read different accounts of Jesus’ birth. We will have a full reading of the Gospel of Matthew in the new year. New faces always welcome!

Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88941171153?pwd=MmxuZWFrVEhZSVExS3IvXQvTUhAQ09
Facilitated by Randy Williamson and Mary Anne Peters. Our Bible study continues and new faces are always welcome.

WPC Peace & Justice Online Education Events

Thursday Evening Education Events, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

There will not be a program presented on Thursdays, December 24 and December 31. Classes will resume January 7. The Peace and Justice Work Group wishes you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Ways You Can Share Love at Christmas

ECHO Giving in the World

ECHO Giving in the World supports nine local and four global missions of our church, from Wilmington food pantries to egg-laying chickens in Guatemala. In this year of insecurity and scarcity, think of those who are homeless or who struggle to get a meal. Click here for the Echo Giving form. Simply make your selection from the shopping list (instructions are on page two) and you have given a meaningful gift, in your loved one’s name, to one of God’s children in need. The third page of the form is a printable card; simply print, fold and send.

Christmas Offering

Our Christmas Offering bolsters the work of Christ as we empower our brothers and sisters worldwide, shelter homeless families, support children and young adults, assist those living with mental illness, and work for justice and peace. Every dollar you give goes beyond our walls to ministries that share the love of God with those in need. Click here for more information on how your gifts will be distributed this year. We have added the 2020 Christmas Offering to the online giving options. From December 1 to December 23, at 4:00 p.m., you can set up a one-time transaction to be deducted from a checking or savings account. Visit our website at www.wpc.org and click “Donate Now” to login or create a new user profile. You will need to select a transaction date of December 15 or December 28. A letter and offering envelope were mailed in early December for those who prefer to give to the Christmas Offering by check.
Christmas at Westminster

Although Christmas at Westminster is very different this year, we hope you will join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in as many ways as you can!

Virtual Christmas Caroling
TODAY (December 20) at 4:00 p.m.
With support from the Westminster Choir and our children and youth music program, our annual Christmas caroling will be done virtually this year. A video recording of Christmas carols will be released on Westminster’s YouTube channel on December 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24
Service of Story and Song – 4:00 p.m. (Virtual Only)
Featuring Westminster’s storytellers, youth instrumentalists, and music for handbells, this pre-recorded, informal, and lively service trumpets the joy of Jesus’ birth! Join the virtual service and a Zoom watch party. Check the Weekly Word e-newsletter for more information, or go to our YouTube channel any time after 4:00 p.m. on December 24 to watch online.

Traditional “Sharing the Light” Service – 8:00 p.m.
This service will be no silent night! An inspiring sermon by Dr. Jones will be framed with Christmas carols sung by our choristers and a four-hand piano duo. For COVID safety reasons, a creative alternative to candlelight is in the works! Join the service in person (reservation required) or online. Click here to make a reservation, or go to our YouTube channel on December 24 at 8:00 p.m. to watch it livestreamed.

Christmas Concert: Wilmington Handbell Ensemble
Did you miss the handbell Christmas concert on December 12? A recording of the concert is available on YouTube. Check it out!

More information on these events can be found in the Weekly Word e-newsletter, the December Chimes, and on our website at www.wpc.org.
God will make impossible things possible.

Connect the dots to form an angel - the one who told Mary that nothing is impossible with God.

Around the angel, write or draw some amazing things God has done.

Worship children's bulletin

Luke 1:26-38 shares the amazing experience Mary had when the angel, Gabriel, came to tell her she would bear Jesus. Mary shares the amazement of her experience.

Luke 1:26-38

Draw it like: would be Jesus’ mother. Draw what you imagine this looked like.