



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.



**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

8:45 – 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](#).
- **Educational Offerings for Adults**
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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. 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.

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.



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
Vs. 1, 4 & 5

BESANCON

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.
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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.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-32

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

"Hail, O favored one"

Gregory Jones

HYMN NO. 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Vs. 1 & 3

Love has come: a light in the darkness!	Love has come and never will leave us!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.	Love is life everlasting and free.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;	Love is Jesus within and among us.
hear how their song of joy arises:	Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!	Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.	Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sudie Niesen Thompson

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN NO. 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Vs. 1, 2 & 4

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,	He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:	and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.	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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Angels We Have Heard on High

Richard Elliott

*At the conclusion of the Postlude, please exit the sanctuary, row by row, beginning with the last pew to the front pew. Those sitting in the side transepts exit from the front pew to the back pew down the center aisle to the narthex. **Please wait until an usher directs you to leave.** You may want to have a conversation with others you have missed during the lockdown. We ask that you meet them outside, maintaining the required six-foot social distancing, while continuing to wear your mask.*

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 part of our income in service to God. One 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).

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.

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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=b1dGL2c4NXRjMIRBOWJWWElsTTg3dz09>

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

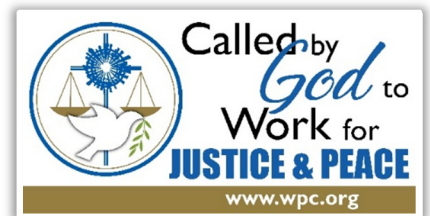
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88941171153?pwd=MmxuZWVvREhZSVExS3lveXQvTUhaQT09>

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.

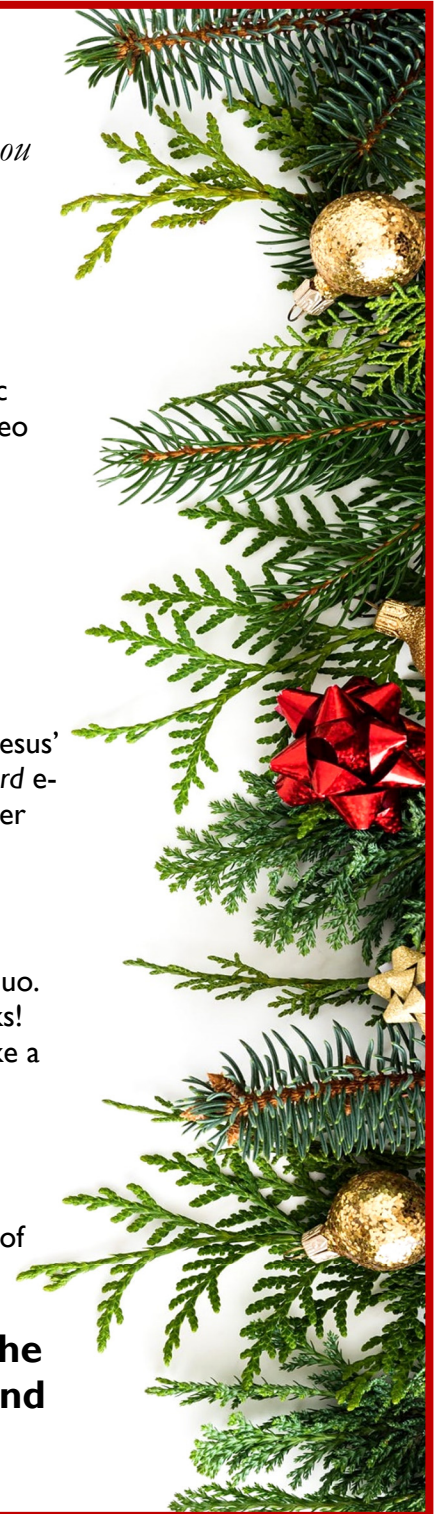
Traditional "Sharing the Light" Service – 8:00 p.m.

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

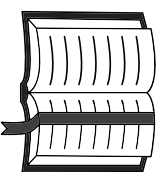
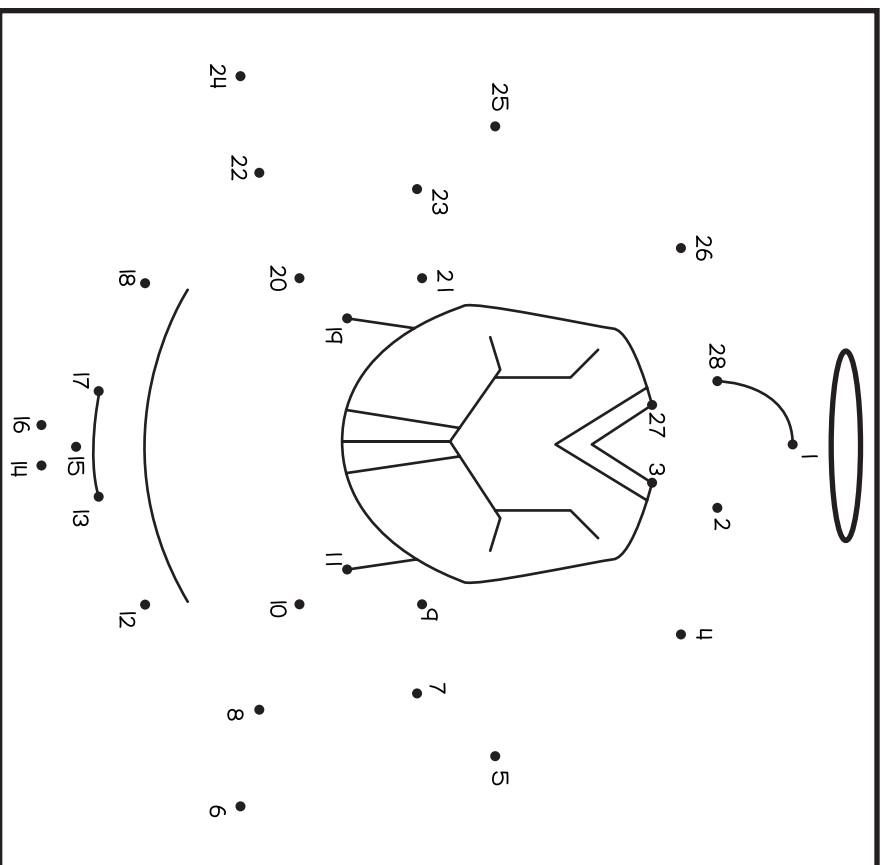
Did you miss the handbell Christmas concert on December 12? A recording of the concert is available on [YouTube](#). Check it out!

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.



CONNECT the DOTS

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.

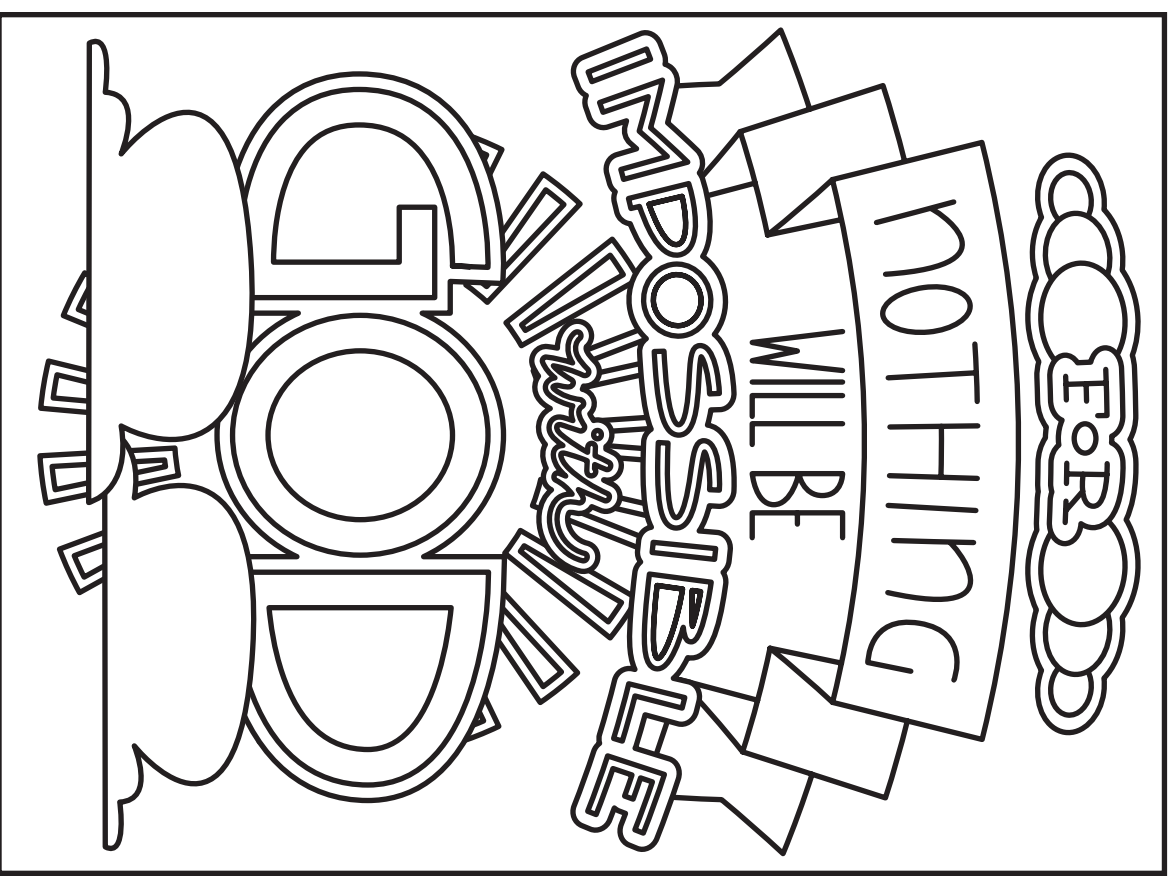


Illustrated
MINISTRY

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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:26-38.





DRAW IT

Luke 1:26-38 shares the amazing experience Mary had when the angel, Gabriel, came to tell her she would be Jesus' mother! Draw what you imagine this looked like.

WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from 2 Samuel 7 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

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

KING	SHEPHERD	PLANT
HOUSE	PEOPLE	PLACE
LORD	ISRAEL	JUDGE
NATHAN	SERVANT	KINGDOM
DAVID	GREAT	FOREVER
TENT	NAME	THRONE