



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship **Fourth Sunday of Advent** **December 22, 2019** **9:00 a.m.**

PASTORAL STAFF

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

MUSIC STAFF

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
Alexis Droke, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Soloist/Section Leaders: Hye Eun Choi, Sharon Babcock,
Jason Berger, Brenton Mattox

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chesna Hinkley

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES STAFF

Teisha Fooks, Director of Preschool Ministries
Nursery: Beatrice Taylor, Kristen Wolanski

YOUTH LEADERS

Chesna Hinkley, Tommy Neilson
Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, Emily Knepper, 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.

A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

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

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

Jeff Argus, Roger Atkins, Jenn Blackford, Kyle Carrick, Ron Carrick, Barry Cobb,
Teisha Fooks, Marsha Mah, Hugh Underhill

8:45 – 12:15 p.m. Nursery Care in Preschool Suite D

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. Worship

Children are always welcome in worship. If they prefer, they can follow teachers to classes after the TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN. Please use the identification wristband or stickers in your pew.

- ❖ Ages 2 – 4: **Godly Care**, in *Preschool Suite C*, uses the *Deep Blue* curriculum.
- ❖ K – 6th grade: **Joyful Noise Choir and Sing-to-Praise Choir**, in the *Youth Music Room*, uses the *Growing in Grace* curriculum to learn about the Bible, hymns, and music theory. Both choirs occasionally lead in worship.

10:10 a.m. Education for All Ages

- ❖ Ages 2 – 4: **Childcare** in *Preschool Suite C*.
- ❖ 7th – 12th grade: **Agora**, in *Classroom 7*, meets the first Sunday of every month to discuss a topic related to our walk of faith.

❖ **Educational Offerings for Adults** see page 6

11:15 a.m. Living Mosaics Worship Rodney Chapel

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time Meeting Room

Later Today

6:00 p.m. Clean But Not Straight – NA Club Room

8:00 p.m. AA Club Room

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.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles M. Krick, Jr. and Ann E. Linderman by Sue and Bob Linderman.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Sally Brooks, William Francis and Ronald Shelly.
- ❖ **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 Drennen, Tom Eliason and Nancy and Howard Horne at Stonegates.
- ❖ **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 those suffering from Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

WORSHIP NOTES

Easy-to-use assisted listening devices may be found in the back of the sanctuary and the side entrance off the main hallway.

Worship Resources – You can obtain large print hymnals. 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.



Church Office Holiday Hours

The church office will CLOSE at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 24 and will be closed all day on Wednesday, December 25. The church office will be OPEN on December 26, 27, 30 and 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All donations POSTMARKED on or before December 31, 2019 will be credited to your contribution record as received in 2019, so there is no need to physically drop off donations to receive credit. Also, secure online donations can be made until December 26 for 2019 year-end giving.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

TOWER CHIME

Sue Spilecki

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine my path. Renew my faith so that I may welcome Christ to rule my thoughts and claim my life. Amen.

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

Creator of the Stars of Night

Raymond Haan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Look, O house of David! The Lord will give you a sign:

The young woman shall bear a child;

she shall name him Emmanuel —

‘God is with us’.

Listen, O house of David! The Lord draws near.

With love in our hearts, let us worship God!

(Inspired by Isaiah 7:10–16)

*HYMN NO. 93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jenn and Adam Blackford and their children, Amelia and Sam

The Lord has promised us a sign: A child shall be born for us —

a lowly infant, a holy infant.

And we shall call him

Emmanuel.

This is not an exhibition of power and glory; this is not a display of magnificent strength.

It is a sign of love.

For God will dwell among us —

love we can cradle, hope we can hold close.

See what love the Almighty has for us: that God would share our mortal form

to teach us the ways of peace, hope, joy and love.

Today we light the fourth candle

as we wait in wonder for the Child of Love.

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.

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

*Children through Grade 6 may leave for Godly Care, Joyful Noise and Sing-to-Praise Choirs,
or they may remain in worship.*

ANTHEM

“Ave Maria”

Alfred Fedak

Sharon Babcock, mezzo-soprano

Susan Babcock, horn

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee,
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

New Testament, page 1

SERMON

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 105

“People Look East”

BESANÇON

OFFERING

True generosity lies within the act of giving without the expectation of something in return.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Joseph Barnby
arr. James Biery

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER (page 35 in our *Glory to God* hymnal, using “debts” and “debtors”)

*HYMN NO. 140

“Once In Royal David’s City”

IRBY

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Adeste Fidelis

Richard Purvis

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, Jeanne Checkel, following the service. She is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.



Today's Educational Offerings for Adults

The Art of "A Christmas Carol": Ephemeral

Classroom 5

Presenter: Bob Cox

This class will be a journey through the many forms of artistic expressions used to share the story, characters, and themes of *A Christmas Carol*. Today we will explore the many types of objects inspired by *A Christmas Carol*.

The Mothers of Jesus

Classroom 6

Presenter: Sudie Niesen Thompson

Matthew's Gospel does not begin with a prophetic announcement or a surprising visit from a divine messenger or a picture-perfect manger scene. No, it begins with a list of names – the Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah (Matthew 1:1-17). Sounds boring, right? Well, buried in this list of names are references to four Old Testament women who were grafted into Jesus' family tree. Why does Matthew include these four in his list of male forebears? What makes these women significant? What do their stories teach us about Jesus the Messiah? Join the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson in delving into the (somewhat scandalous) stories of these four matriarchs.

Let's Talk About It

Ruth Christie Room

Facilitator: Sue Linderman

To varying degrees, everyone recognizes that racism and prejudice have a profound impact on our communities and our country. We need opportunities to experience the challenges and benefits that come from bringing racial issues into the light of day. All are welcome to join us in these dialogues as we continue the journey of exploring our national history and our beliefs about race, with openness to differing opinions and respect for one another.

ECHO Giving in the World

An Outreach of Westminster Presbyterian Church – Supporting Mission



Echo Giving provides an alternative to traditional gift-giving, benefiting Westminster-supported missions across our city and around the globe. With your **tax-deductible donation**, the options for helping your neighbors are many – you can feed the hungry at Emmanuel Dining Room, fund families in transition through Family Promise, or support a neighbor's path to homeownership through a Habitat build. Similarly, you can buy clean cook-stoves for Guatemala or Congo, support disaster relief efforts, and help Westminster youth participate in myriad mission opportunities.

An *Echo Giving* table will be set up in Community Hall during the 10:10 education hour today. Stop by to pick up your shopping list, discuss giving options, and decide how you'd like to make a difference during the Christmas season. Make your contribution, and you'll receive an *Echo Giving in the World* card for the loved ones on your list. Shopping lists are also available on the literature tables.

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 after the service.
Ask someone to show you the way!**



CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER 2019

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Tuesday, December 24

Services of Story and Song – 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

These informal, lively services trumpet the joy of Jesus' birth! Both services include stories of the birth of Jesus and singing Christmas carols. 4:00 p.m. spotlights a pageant by our young children. 5:30 p.m. features Westminster Storytellers and our children's choirs. *Child care for infants and toddlers is available in the Preschool Suite for the 4:00 and 5:30 services.*

Candlelight Communion Services – 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Traditional candlelight services with communion (open to all), sermon by Dr. Jones, and music of the Westminster Choir. **Prelude concert at 7:30 p.m.** features music for violin, harp, and organ.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Reception for Paul Fleckenstein following worship

Celebrate with Paul on his last Sunday as Organist/Director of Music at Westminster, and gather in Community Hall following the service to offer him our farewell blessings.