Christmas Eve 2019

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) • An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Westminster Presbyterian Church • 1502 West 13th Street • Wilmington, DE 19806 • (302) 654-5214 • www.wpc.org

WELCOME

ON THIS HOLY NIGHT, we immerse ourselves in one of the deep mysteries of our faith. In celebrating Christmas, we try to push away the cares of the moment and the rush of things to do. As we worship, we create a wide, sweet space to listen, to pray, to sing, and to receive the gift of God's presence. No one will ever make sense of how God, the Infinite, was revealed in the finite. So we tell a story and simply wonder at it all. Welcome to a house of wonder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome everyone to Westminster Church for these Christmas Eve Services. We extend a special welcome to visitors and those who return for the holiday. If you live in the Wilmington area and do not have a church home, we hope you will consider uniting with our church family. To learn more about our community of faith, please contact the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson at sniesenthompson@wpc.org or 302-654-5214 ext. 103.

Our Christmas decorations are labors of love by: Linda Watson; Clark and Donna Collins, Kevin and Chelsea Collins and their children Parker, Grayson and Warren; Jill Getty; Mary Field, Ralph Lewis, Linda and Paul McGregor, Jenn Blackford, Tom Freeman, Ralph Lewis, Kris Marvel, Carol Mosher, Lois Underhill, Dan Weber, Sue Weissinger and Susan Williamson. Our deep thanks to all who helped decorate our church for Christmas.

The trees in the Sanctuary, Rodney Chapel, and Pavilion have been decorated with 160 beautifully handmade ornaments called Chrismons (Christ + Monogram). We hope these Christian symbols will prompt you to contemplate Christ and the meaning of Christmas. Handouts with a description of the Christian ornaments are located on the literature table, near the reception desk.

The Chancel flowers this evening 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.

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.

Guest musicians for this evening's services

Robin Mayforth, violin
Anne Sullivan, harp

Cover image credit: "Holy Family" by Heidi Malott (www.heidimalott.com)

This Sunday, December 29, there will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m. Preschool suite will be open.

THE DECREE

And in these days a decree goes out to all the world,
for these are taxing times.
We are all called again to go to Bethlehem,
no matter the state of our health or our world.
We come, obedient and faithful,
for we have heard the message,
we have dreamed the dream
that God will come to dwell among us.
We come, expectant with joy,
pregnant with anticipation,
for God has done great things for us.
We come searching for a sign;
bearing our gifts, we come.
We come, called from the silent hillsides of our hearts,
startled and frightened by the magnitude of light,
we huddle together toward Bethlehem.
We come, one by one,
and yet, as one,
dancing into the Promise.

Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE
8:00 P.M. AND 10:00 P.M.

TOWER CHIME — Craig Checkel

PRELUDE MUSIC (7:30 P.M.)

(Organ)	Scherzo on *In Dulci Jubilo*	T. Frederick H. Candlyn
(Violin/Organ)	Pastorale	Josef Rheinberger
(Vocal duet)	Gesù Bambino (The Infant Jesus) *Hye Eun Choir, soprano* *Brenton Mattox, bass*	Pietro A. Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced,
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.

Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose
Its King of Love and Light.
Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name
The grateful chorus swell.
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.

O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

(Harp/Organ)	I Saw Three Ships	arr. Dale Wood
(Violin/Harp/Organ)	Méditation	Samuel Rousseau
(Violin/Organ)	Benedictus	William Lloyd Webber
(Violin/Harp/Organ)	Le Sommeil de L'Enfant Jésus	Henri Büsser

CALL TO WORSHIP

A child has been born for us!
God's son has been given to us!
Authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Spirit, Prince of Peace!

*HYMN NO. 133 — "O Come, All Ye Faithful" — *ADESTE FIDELES*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE — Tom Preston and Laura Scanlan (8:00)
Members of the Westminster Choir: Sara Dubberly, Mike Enderle, Barbara Steen (10:00)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

The Christ candle is lit.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness will never overcome it!

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

PRAYER OF ADORATION

God of new beginnings and surprising opportunities,
we celebrate your coming into our lives.
By your birth you underscored your love for the world
and the importance of life on earth.
Through your ministry you showed us how to live a God-filled life
and called us to join you in healing the wounds of the world.
Fill our hearts this night with your love and grace
so that we may become conduits of your compassion
for a world yearning for peace.
We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

ANTHEM — A Cradle Carol (Text: Hymn #114) — arr. Richard Purvis

SCRIPTURE LESSON — Luke 2:1-14

*HYMN NO. 113 — "Angels We Have Heard on High" — *GLORIA*

SCRIPTURE LESSON — Luke 2:15-20

ANTHEM — Star Carol — John Rutter

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:
"Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!"

Let us all pay our homage at the manger,
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas Night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

SERMON — "Christmas Message" — Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 119 — "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" — *MENDELSSOHN*

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The entire Christmas Eve Offering is given to those in need beyond our walls. Please see the back cover for information on these ministries. Contributions intended for any other purpose (e.g. 2019 pledge) should be clearly noted.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM — "O Holy Night" — Adolphe Adam
Jason Berger, tenor

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appear'd, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger;
Behold your King! before the lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His Holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is open to all who trust in Christ.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

HYMN NO. 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" *CAROL*
Vs. 1 & 5

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Eternal God…

LORD'S PRAYER (page 35 in our *Glory to God* hymnal, using "debts" and "debtors")

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

This is not just a Presbyterian table;
the Lord's Supper is open to all who trust in Christ.
When you approach a communion server, please take a piece of bread,
the symbol of Christ's love for you, and dip it in the cup, representing your new life in Christ.
If you are unable to come forward, please tell an usher so that you may be served.
For those who have wheat allergies, we provide gluten-free rice crackers with the communion bread.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

(Instrumental) Méditation (Ave Maria) J. S. Bach/Charles Gounod

(Choral) "Sleeps Judea Fair" Hugh A. MacKinnon

Sleeps Judea fair,
Bides the Christ Child there:
Shepherds, haste ye! flocks forsaking,
Swift your way to Him be taking,
Babe, of Israel's prayer,

Christ from God is come,
Choosing earthly home:
Royal pomp and splendor never,
But with love which naught can sever,
He will heal the dumb.

Lowly bend the knee,
Thou from sin set free:
Let the Christ Child, meekly smiling,
Infant-wise, all woe beguiling,
Grant His grace to thee!

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

God of love and light,
on this night when we ponder the nature of your presence on earth,
turn us inward to your Spirit that fills us with peace and joy,
and turn us outward to the needs of this broken, but beautiful world.
We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night!" *STILLE NACHT*

The ministers will light their candles from the Christ Candle
and then pass the light to the end of each pew.
Each person, in turn, shares the light with his/her neighbor.
Following the service, you may keep your candle or deposit it in a box near the doors.

1. **Silent night, holy night!**
   All is calm, all is bright
   'round yon virgin mother and child!
   Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
   sleep in heavenly peace,
   sleep in heavenly peace.

2. **Silent night, holy night!**
   Shepherds quake at the sight;
   glories stream from heaven afar,
   heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
   Christ the Savior is born;
   Christ the Savior is born!"

3. **Silent night, holy night!**
   Son of God, love's pure light
   radiant beams from thy holy face,
   with the dawn of redeeming grace,
   Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
   Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4. **Silent night, holy night!**
   Wondrous star, lend thy light;
   with the angels let us sing
   Alleluia to our King:
   Christ the Savior is born;
   Christ the Savior is born.

BENEDICTION

*HYMN NO. 134 "Joy to the World" *ANTIOCH*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

CHRISTMAS 2019 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:	***Given By:***
Bill Albert	*Taryn and Rich Albert*
Gene and Carol Hopkins	*Taryn and Rich Albert*
Bernie Alexander and Agnes McGheehan	*The Alexander Family*
Maurice and Eleanor Alexander	*The Alexander Family*
Rose and Paul Jones	*Nancy and Bill Barlow*
Russell O. Jones	*Nancy and Bill Barlow*
William C. Deans	*Fay Deans Barnaby*
Teddy Bedrossian	*Ned Bedrossian and Family*
Em and Jim Bercaw	*Walter and Nancy Bercaw*
Jane and Wally Johnson	*Walter and Nancy Bercaw*
Mr. and Mrs. David Bernhard, Grandparents	*Diane M. Bernhard*
Mr. Victor Lawryniuk, Grandparent	*Diane M. Bernhard*
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Becker, Grandparents	*Diane M. Bernhard*
Mr. John R. Becker, Uncle	*Diane M. Bernhard*
Mrs. Marianne Wizgall, Dear Friend	*Diane M. Bernhard*
Charles W. Bickhart, Jr.	*Paul and Amy Bickhart*
E. Braddock Jones, III	*Paul and Amy Bickhart*
Pauline Black and Lewis Black	*Kay and Lew Black*
Our Parents and Other Loved Ones	*Nancy and Herb Boden*
Bud and Betty Bryde	*Gary and Sue Bryde*
Frank and Fay Staats	*Gary and Sue Bryde*
Bob Checkel	*Jeanne Checkel*
Bob Churchill	*His Family*
Inez M. Cobb	*Rosemary and Barry Cobb*
William H. Cobb	*Rosemary and Barry Cobb*
Maury Colbert	*Nancy Colbert*
Mary Colbourn	*Art, Deb, David and Jack*
Mary Joe and Phil Collins	*Donna and Clark Collins*
Art Connolly	*Joan Connolly*
Doris Corner	*Roger and Paula Corner*
Jim Corner	*Roger and Paula Corner*
Janet and Bob Eissner	*The Eissner and Stabler Families*
Richard H. Emerich	*Jennifer Trickey and Rae Emerich*
Sylvester and Betty Wilhelm	*Wes and Beth Emmons*
Wesley Emmons, Jr.	*Wes and Beth Emmons*
Jim Everett	*Gail Everett*
Cerd and Jessie Marsh	*Jerry and Barbara Fedeler*
Floyd, Emma and Esther Fedeler	*Jerry and Barbara Fedeler*

CHRISTMAS 2019 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:	***Given by:***
Robin Flenner	*Alan Flenner*
Margaret McCain Ford	*Tom Ford*
Ethel and John A. Gavenonis, Sr.	*The Gavenonis Family*
Mrs. Minnie Vici	*The Gavenonis Family*
Our Parents	*Tom and Carol Hogue*
Conrad L. Hoover	*Barbara Hoover*
John and Dot Hunter	*Beth, John and Amy*
Sarah and David Frie and son David	*Suzie Hurlock*
Fred Hurlock Jr.; Frances and Fred Hurlock, Sr.	*Suzie Hurlock*
John Jessup	*His Loving Family, Melissa, Paul and Mary*
Our Parents	*John and Dede Johnston*
Robert Jolly	*Charles Ingersoll and Richard Jolly*
Gail Kelley Veith	*Helen Kelley*
Robert Burns Kelley, Jr.	*Helen Kelley*
Our Parents and Grandparents	*Gary and Kitty Knox*
Don Raymond Kuespert	*Cynthia Kuespert*
Stephen Gemmell	*Cathy Lang*
Jerry Lee	*Virginia Lee and Family*
Loved Ones	*Virginia Lee and Family*
E. Wayne Lemons	*Janet M. Lemons and Family*
Amy Michener Lengel	*Katie, Jason, Justin and Eric Lengel*
Devon Lengel	*Katie, Jason, Justin and Eric Lengel*
The Thompson and Lewis Family	*Ralph L. Lewis*
Our Parents, Charles M. Krick, Jr. and Ann E. Linderman	*Sue and Bob Linderman*
Matthew Hammond Mah	*Dennie and Marsha Mah*
Alice, Arnold and Charles Sharpley	*Bunny and Jack Michener*
Amy Michener Lengel	*Bunny and Jack Michener*
Lillian, John and Mildred Michener	*Bunny and Jack Michener*
Barbara Miller	*Frank Miller*
Dr. Johnetta Wade Morrison	*KC Morrison*
Our Parents	*Roland and Mary Lu Pamm*
George R. Patrick, George H. Patrick, Martha Patrick, Raymond H. Peters, Carrie Peters	*The Patrick Family*
Amy Lengel	*The Pfaff Family*
Edward Reese	*The Pfaff Family*
Helen Kelley	*Sonja Pfautz*
Catherine Myers Moore (Mom)	*Cassandra Lloyd Piovoso*
Rachel Davis Myers (Grandmom)	*Cassandra Lloyd Piovoso*

CHRISTMAS 2019 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:	***Given by:***
Relva Reign, Wife and Mother	*Bill Reign and Margo Reign*
Alexandra Scofield	*Bob and Sue Scofield*
Our Parents	*Bob and Sue Scofield*
Our Parents	*David and Jane M. Stabler*
Dorothy L. Steen and Paul D. Steen	*Barbara Steen*
Wayne Suiter	*Jane Suiter*
Helen Kelley	*Susan Kelley Timpson*
L. B. Tolbert and Beloved Grandparents	*Keira and Kristian Tolbert and Kali Kniel-Tolbert*
My Parents	*Linda Budd Watson*
Peter J. Wayne	*His Family*
George David Fleming, Wesley Dudding, Danny Thomas	*Nancy Fleming and Dan Weintraub*
Doris and Vince Wemlinger	*Mary and Vinnie Wemlinger*
Martha and Marvin Bloomsburg	*Mary and Vinnie Wemlinger*
Vincent Wemlinger, II	*Mary and Vinnie Wemlinger*
Barbara W. Wheatley	*Her Family*

In Honor of:	***Given By:***
Westminster Staff	*Peggy Brown*
Benjamin and Scarlett Ferry	*Wes and Beth Emmons*
William A. Francis, III	*Rosemary C. Francis, Ted Francis, James Murphy and Kara Lee Francis*
The Phix-it Corps	*One who appreciates them*
WPC Staff	*One who appreciates them*
WPC Clergy	*One who appreciates them*
Paul Fleckenstein	*Judy and Paul Stoffer*
June Marie Fleming	*Nancy Fleming and Dan Weintraub*

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

MUSIC STAFF
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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

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Nursery: Beatrice Taylor, Kristen Wolanski

YOUTH LEADERS
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Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, Emily Knepper, Molly McPheeters

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Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker, Dr. Mary Mikhael
Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band
Guatemala – CEDEPCA, AJPU, Rosario Diaz and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Dear Members and Friends of Westminster,

Our Christmas Offering bolsters the work of Christ as we shelter homeless families, provide clean water to those who thirst, treat the addicted, welcome the stranger, and work for peace. Every dollar you give goes beyond our walls to ministries that share the love of God with those in need. Your gifts will be distributed to:

- **Church in the World Projects (25%)** – These global programs promote peace in areas of conflict, provide humanitarian assistance for those in poverty, and educate and empower girls and women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, and the Middle East.

- **Friendship House (20%)** – As a partner in its founding more than 30 years ago, Westminster continues its strong support of Friendship House, serving individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness through its emergency shelters, Code Purple winter sanctuary, transitional housing such as our Burton/Daughtry Houses, day centers, empowerment centers and the Clothing Bank.

- **Family Promise (20%)** – Family Promise of Northern New Castle County is a non-profit organization that prevents and ends homelessness for families, enabling them to stay together as they work toward housing independence. Westminster's building and our dedicated volunteers provide temporary shelter and hospitality to these families multiple times each year.

- **TRIAD (15%)** – In the face of the current opioid epidemic, TRIAD Addiction Recovery Services provides free counseling for substance abuse and mental health disorders to thousands of addicts and their families, manages a 24-hour emergency hotline, assists families in conducting interventions, and hosts thousands of 12-step meetings.

- **Westminster Peace & Justice Work Group (15%)** – Our dedicated Westminster volunteers work with a range of local organizations to combat violence in Wilmington and promote racial justice through our community-wide speaker series, Christian education programs, initiatives focused on criminal justice reform and the root causes of poverty.

- **Churches for Middle East Peace (5%)** – Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is a coalition of 27 national church denominations and organizations that works to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote a comprehensive resolution to conflicts in the Middle East with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Church in the World Projects

Family Promise

Westminster Peace & Justice Work Group

Friendship House

TRIAD

Churches for Middle East Peace

Thank you for your generous support of Christ's work!