



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reign of Christ Sunday

November 26, 2023



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 (U.S.A.)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Matthew 25 Church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

TODAY AT WESTMINSTER

8:45 – 12:15 p.m. **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Preschool Suite D

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. **Worship** in the Sanctuary

Time with Our Children (approximately 9:15 a.m.)

The young and young-at-heart are invited to join the worship leader at the front of the sanctuary. Following the TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN, young ones through grade 5 may be escorted to Children's Programming or they are welcome to remain in worship.

Children's Programming (9:20 – 10:00 a.m.)

- Preschool Sunday School: Ages 3 and 4 in the Preschool Suite Room C
- Joyful Noise Choir: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in the Youth Music Room

10:00 – 10:45 a.m. **Holy Toast Café** in Walton Community Hall
Enjoy free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar.

10:10 – 11:00 a.m. **Children and Youth Programming**

- Advent Workshop in Walton Community Hall
(see announcement on page 6)

11:15 – 12:00 p.m. **Living Mosaics worship** in Rodney Chapel

For descriptions of our programs for children and youth, visit wpc.org/children-youth.

The Music: We give our thanks to Kerry Dietz, who is filling in for Tony Thurman this morning as our guest organist and choir director. A graduate of Westminster Choir College, Kerry is a retired church music director and organist and the artistic director of the Wilmington Handbell Ensemble. Save the date! The Wilmington Handbell Ensemble will present a Christmas Concert in our sanctuary on Saturday, December 16, at 4:00 p.m.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and to celebrate the wedding of Ben Fischer and Natalia Mendoza Abujder. Ben is the son of Matt and Jessica Fischer and the grandson of Margo and Gary Ramage. Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event. Please contact Linda Watson at (302) 571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website at wpc.org and clicking the “Donate” button or scan this QR code on your smart phone. → We accept donations by bank withdrawal, credit card, and debit card.



Westminster's Prayer Team prays for the needs of our community. You may submit your prayer request to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com or online at wpc.org/care-support.

New to Westminster? Welcome! We're so glad you're here. If you are joining us for the first time, please introduce yourself via our contact form on the [I'm New](#) page of our website or scan this QR code to get there from your mobile device. We look forward to getting to know you.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

~ Passages in **bold** print may be spoken by all. At the asterisk (*) please stand in body or rise in spirit. ~

TOWER CHIME

Craig Checkel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

KC Morrison and Sara Dubberly

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Paul Manz

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship the One who is and who was and who is to come –
**whose glory shone forth in Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
and the unlikely ruler of the kings of the earth.**

We celebrate today the Reign of Christ the King.

**He had no troops and built no palace,
yet his rule is now boundless.**

He had no earthly throne and wore but a crown of thorns,

yet, as a king, he is without peer.

Let us sing praises to Christ our King!

*HYMN No. 267

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Gracious God,
In your kingdom, the outcast finds welcome,
the sinner finds mercy, and the captive finds release.
In your kingdom, the lowly are lifted,
the hungry are filled, and the lost are found.
Inspire us to share our bread with the hungry
and to open our homes to the homeless.
Show us opportunities to care for the poor
and to satisfy the needs of those who suffer.
May we possess a heart of compassion
and contribute to a commonwealth marked by justice and joy. Amen.**

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN (See "Today at Westminster" on page 2 for more information)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Kennedy Foley

Son of Elizabeth and Patrick Foley

Grandson of Donna and John Carpenter, and great-grandson of Barbara and Carl Ohmott

The congregation is asked to refrain from taking photographs
or video recording during the worship service.

PRESENTATION OF THE PARENTS AND CHILD

Elder Susan McPheeters

OPENING WORDS

As this child is helpless without adults,
may we learn how helpless we are without God.
As this child is curious to explore the world,
may we be curious to explore the ways of faith.
As this child will learn to trust and be open to others,
may we learn to trust God's ways for us.

PROMISES OF COMMITMENT

Elizabeth and Patrick, do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? **We do.**

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith and to teach that faith to your son? **We do.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOLLOWING BAPTISM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:31-46

New Testament, page 25

SERMON

Gregory Knox Jones

*HYMN NO. 270

O Lord You Are My God and King

JERUSALEM

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Healy Willan

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise.
By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.

By him the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring,
The hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.
He filleth with his fullness, all things with large increase;
He crowns the year with goodness, with plenty, and with peace.

Heap on his sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, the souls he died to save.
Your hearts lay down before him when at his feet ye fall,
And with your lives adore him, who gave his life for all.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

KC Morrison

THE 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.**

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2023 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Deadline: Wednesday, December 13



You are welcome to make a contribution toward the beauty of the church for the Christmas season in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. The deadline is **December 13** for memorial/honoree names to be listed in the Christmas Eve worship bulletins. For any form received *after* that date, the names will be listed in the December 31 bulletin. Please complete a paper form (available on the credenza in the guest seating area near the reception desk) or complete it online at bit.ly/WPC-Poinsettias-2023. PAYMENT AND FORM MUST BOTH BE RECEIVED. Please remit payment in one of two ways:

ONLINE (PREFERRED) – Go to wpc.org/donate and click the “DONATE NOW” button. If you have a login/password to our *Realm* system, please select “Sign In” to sign in to your profile first. If you do not have a login/password with our system, please select “Give Online” to make a donation as a guest. Choose **Poinsettias** from the Fund drop-down list.

CHECK – Make check payable to *Westminster Presbyterian Church* (memo: **Poinsettias**) and mail to the church or drop off at the receptionist desk by December 13.

Advent Workshop



TODAY (November 26)

10:10–11:00 a.m. • Walton Community Hall

Come celebrate this season of waiting for the birth of our Lord! Help make cards for our Christmas Box Project recipients and be sure to check out the *ECHO Giving* table of our different mission outreach projects. Advent kits, calendars, and devotionals are available to take home. This event is for all ages. Childcare for infants is available in the Nursery.

ADULT EDUCATION

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3



The History and Origin of Christmas Carols

Presented by
Dr. F. Anthony Thurman,
Director of Music/Organist

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom

Westminster's Director of Music and Organist Tony Thurman will discuss the history of Christmas carols in their historical context and modern-day usage using selections from the upcoming Christmas Concert to highlight specific examples of composition and style. The adult education hour will conclude with the singing of several Christmas favorites.

Dr. Thurman graduated from the Manhattan School of Music with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree and from the University of Louisville with a Master of Music in Organ Performance and Church Music. He has served as Westminster's Director of Music/Organist since August 2020.

ONGOING/WEEKLY

Online Bible Studies

Midweek Manna Bible Study

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom

Facilitator: The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

Contact: sniesenthompson@wpc.org

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Thursdays | 6–7 p.m. | Zoom

Facilitators: Randy Williamson
and Mary Anne Peters

Contact: randywilliamson1@comcast.net

Peace and Justice Thursday Evening Education Event

WFS Nathan M. Clark Foundation
Community Speaker Series: Bryan Stevenson

Founder of the Equal Justice Initiative

November 30 | 7–8 p.m. | Chase Fieldhouse

Westminster's Peace & Justice Work Group invites you to hear Bryan Stevenson speak at the Chase Fieldhouse (401 Garasches Lane, Wilmington, DE). No regular Zoom program.

For full descriptions of our programs and more adult education and small group opportunities, visit WPC.ORG/ADULTS or check our events calendar at WPC.ORG/EVENTS. Select adult education programs are available as a livestream/recording on our [YouTube channel](#).

It's Time for the Christmas Box Project!

We continue this joyful *Christmas Box Project* tradition at Westminster, although “boxes” will be shopping “bags” again this year. Our mission is to provide food for Christmas dinner and the means to buy gifts for the children in the families. Help bring holiday cheer to families in our community – be a part of this wonderful project!

- **Check and Online Donations**

Make a financial donation by **DECEMBER 15** for 2023 year-end giving. Your donations are used to buy ShopRite and Walmart gift cards for the families. You can make a donation by writing and mailing a **CHECK** to *Westminster Presbyterian Church* (memo: Christmas Box) and either place it in a Sunday offering plate or mail to the church **or** by making an **ONLINE** donation at wpc.org/donate (preferred method); click the blue “DONATE NOW” button, click “Give Online” (or “Sign In” if you already have a Realm login), enter the amount, and choose “Christmas Box Project” from the fund drop-down list.

- **Wrap Toys and Pack Bags**

Plan to attend our Christmas Fellowship Dinner in Walton Community Hall on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8**. Prior to dinner, many hands will be needed to wrap coffee cans for Christmas Box cookies, wrap and sort gifts for infants to 12-year-olds, and pack wrapped children’s gifts in shopping bags. Please bring your children!

- **Bake a Batch of Cookies**

Be part of the baking team that makes and packs cookies for the Christmas bags. Join Master Cookie Sergeant Jim Carter in the church kitchen on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- **Bake a Batch of Cookies**

A few helping hands are needed on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 10**, between 8 a.m. and 12 noon for Distribution Day. It’s a joyous time when the Christmas spirit flows with smiles and hugs!

Thank you for your generosity and for sharing the love of Christ!



COMING UP: *Two Christmas Concerts*



CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT Sunday, December 10 | 3 p.m. | Sanctuary *Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*

Starlight and candlelight will enhance this concert of Christmas carols by Jantz Black, Craig Courtney, Dan Forrest, John Rutter, and Mack Wilberg. The Westminster Choir will be joined by Ted W. Barr at our Steinway & Sons concert grand piano, and Dr. F. Anthony Thurman at the organ. A pre-concert Tower Chime recital by Timothy Ohmart begins at 2:30 p.m.



CHRISTMAS HANDBELL CONCERT Saturday, December 16 | 4 p.m. | Sanctuary *Carols Around the World*

Experience the joy and wonder of the season across cultures and continents with the Wilmington Handbell Ensemble, Kerry Dietz, artistic director. A pre-concert Tower Chime recital by Susan Spilecki begins at 3:30 p.m.

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
Rebecca Hughes; Margaret Mezzacappa; Teddy Austin; Jerry Polman, Section Leaders
Emily Haas, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Cole Walker, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Tanner Freeman (lead videographer), Rich Albert, Drew Holmes, George McAllister,
Chip Pfleeger, Roger Reinicker, Aaron Wemhoff and Sophia Wolff

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Dan Weintraub and Jenn Barrington

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES STAFF

Kathleen Kennan, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry
Sydney Walker, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Grace Anderson, 180 Youth Leader
Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries and Beatrice Taylor, Nursery

SUPPORT STAFF

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Mary Clark, Administrative Assistant
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Doug Gerds, Manager of Accounting and Reporting
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Robert King; Daniel Steele; Joan Truitt; John Young, Sextons

SESSION

Taryn Albert, Adam Blackford, Michelle Butler, Clark Collins, Bob Cox, Sara Dubberly, Rob Gooderham,
Laura Holmes, Dick Jolly, Carla Krupanski, KC Morrison, Dave McBride,
Susan McPheeters, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleeger, Todd Piercy, Carrie Saathoff, Laura Scanlan,
Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Karissa Thacker, Gill Timon, Dan Weintraub

BOARD OF DEACONS

Liz Bacon, Lisa Bianchi, Jennifer Blackford, Heather Brooks, Russ Butler, Kyle Carrick,
Beatty Chadwick, Diane Chandler, Jack Coleman, Joe Daley, Tammy Daley, Kendra Gallagher,
Sara Gavenonis, Jamie Hickey, Drew Holmes, Barbara Jobe, Sheran Kegerise, Elaine Lunardi,
Sarah Mentzer, Robert Moore, Gathoni Murugi-Jenkins, Dan McAllister, Debbie McCullough,
Lynne Perkins, Emily Pfaff, Paula Piercy, Rachel Psaros, Patti Ridout, Robin Rosser, Evie Saathoff,
Carol Tatnall, Lois Underhill, Ginger Ward, Sandie Reinicker, Sue Weissinger, Sandra Wermus, Kathy Wissner

TRUSTEES

Rich Albert, Tom Brooks, Nancy Fleming, John Gavenonis, Lou Hering,
Bobbe Hoy, Brock Jobe, Sue Linderman, Robert Love, Tom Preston, Kris Qualls, Stan Stevenson

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

DR Congo – PC(USA) Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inge Sthreshley;
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon – PC(USA) Mission Co-worker the Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker
Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches,
Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band and Wi'am
Guatemala - CEDEPCA, AJPU, the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development,
PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Betsey and Eric Moe

267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

O Lord, You Are My God and King 270

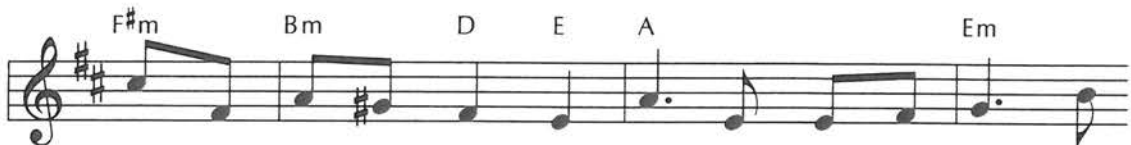
(Psalm 145)



1 O Lord, you are my God and King, and I will
 2 How rich in grace are you, O Lord, full of com-
 3 Your works will give you thanks, O Lord; your saints your



ev - er bless your name; I will ex - tol you ev - ery day, and
 pas - sion, mer - ci - ful, your an - ger al - ways slow to rise; your
 might - y acts will show, till all the peo - ples of the earth your



ev - er - more your praise pro - claim. You, Lord, are great - ly
 stead - fast love you show to all, for you are good in
 king - dom, pow - er, glo - ry know. E - ter - nal is your



to be praised; your great - ness is be - yond our thought; all
 all your ways; your crea - tures know your con - stant care. To
 king - dom, Lord, for - ev - er strong, for - ev - er sure; while



gen - er - a - tions shall tell forth the might - y won - ders you have wrought.
 all your works your love ex - tends; all souls your ten - der mer - cies share.
 gen - er - a - tions rise and die, your high do - min - ion will en - dure.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Although this paraphrase of Psalm 145 is abbreviated (the original psalm has a verse for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet), it maintains the tone of praise that characterizes the final six psalms. In fact, the whole book takes its Hebrew name, *Tehillim* (praises), from them.

273

He Is King of Kings

Refrain

He is King of kings; he is Lord of lords, Je - sus Christ, the

first and last, no one works like him. O he is no one works like him.

1 He built his throne up in the air; and
2 He pitched his tents on Ca-naan ground; no one works like him; and
3 I know that my Re-deem-er lives; and

called his saints from ev - ery - where;
broke op - pres - sive king - doms down; no one works like him. O he is
by his love sweet bless - ing gives;

This African American spiritual is a classic example of how praise of God rises out of human experience. The repeated response "no one works like him" shows confidence that the sovereign, liberating Christ abounds with the very attribute the singers need in order to survive.