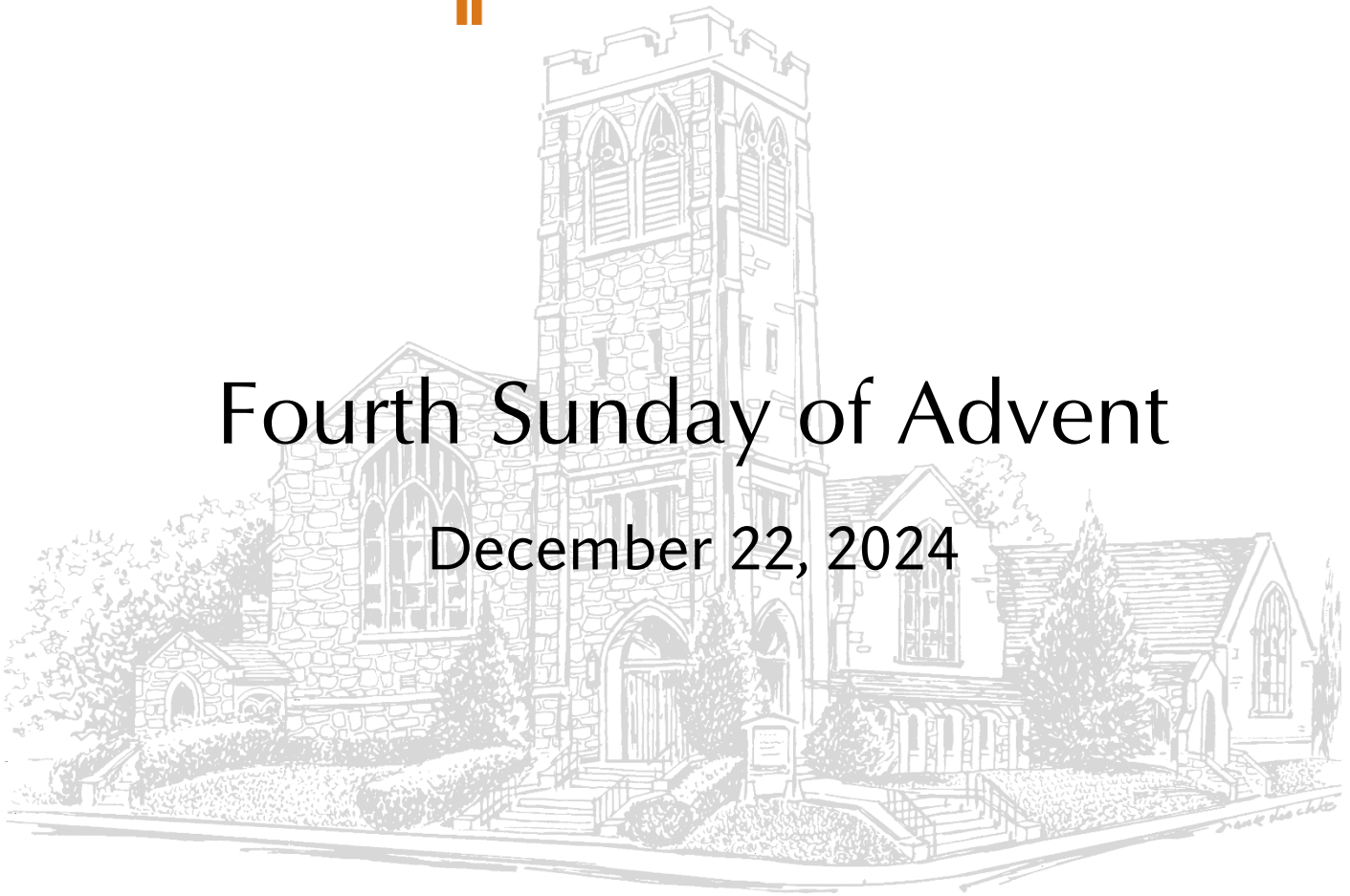




WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024



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

9:15 – 11:45 a.m. **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Preschool Suite D

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Worship** in the Sanctuary

Time with Our Children (approximately 9:45 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 fifth grade may be escorted to Children's Programming or they are welcome to remain in worship.

Children's Programming (9:45 – 10:30 a.m.)

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

10:40 – 11:30 a.m. **Adult Education** (see page 6)

Holy Toast Café – Join us for complimentary coffee, tea, treats and time with new and old friends in Rodney Chapel.

Children and Youth Programming

- Nursery Care: Age 4 and under in Preschool Suite D
- Rehearsal for Children's Pageant in Preschool Suite

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Piffaro Concert** (see page 8)

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

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The Music: The Magnificat (Song of Mary or Canticle of Mary) is one of the most ancient Christian hymns. The text is found in the Gospel of Luke. Countless composers have set the text to music, including the contemporary British composer, Andrew Carter. The composer has more than 50 works in print through Oxford University Press. The Nine Lessons and Carols service at King's College, Cambridge, has included several of his carols, including *Mary's Magnificat*, which is sung by the Westminster Choir today.

We are also joined by our Joyful Noise Choir: Stella Baddorf, Amelia Blackford, Sam Blackford, Jack Burkhardt, Kaylea Donaghy, Crosby Downing, Hudson Downing, Penn Gnade, Zetta Gnade, Garrett Hoopes, Quinn Kelly, Charlie McAllister, Ezra Mier, Hezekiah Mier, Fionn Murphy, Cooper Wemhoff, and Griffin Wemhoff.

The chancel flowers 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. Please contact Linda Watson at (302) 571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com.

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

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.



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 Susan Spilecki

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please sign and pass the friendship pads.) Gregory Knox Jones

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL INTROIT *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* German Carol

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Sara, Kaylea and Charlie Donaghy

Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth,
to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.
Mary went to a place called Bethlehem,
to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love.

As we light our fourth Advent candle,
we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.
Come now, O Child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Love.

*HYMN No. 98 *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary* ANNUNCIATION
(Hymnals are located beneath the pew in front of you.)

ADVENT PRAYER

**Loving God, we open our lives to you this season.
As we light these candles, light our lives with your vision for the world.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Fill us with a joy that cannot be contained but must be shared.
Magnify your love within us,
and prepare our lives to be transformed by you,
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

ANTHEM *Go Tell It on the Mountain* Spiritual
Joyful Noise Choir

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN (See "Today at Westminster" on page 2.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:39-55 New Testament, page 49

SERMON "Singing Mary's Song" Randall T. Clayton

*HYMN No. 99 *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* MORNING SONG

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Mary's Magnificat
Rebecca Hughes, Soprano

Andrew Carter

Softly a light is stealing,
sweetly, a maiden sings,
ever wakeful, ever wistful,
watching faithfully, thankfully,
tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify,
Doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced,
Rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Mary her song to Jesus
Softly, serenely sings:
"I will love you, I will serve you,
May my lullaby glorify,
magnify my King of kings."

Lullaby, lullaby.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

*HYMN No. 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach

NEW TO WESTMINSTER? Welcome. We are glad you are here. We hope that you will join us following worship in Rodney Chapel for refreshments and fellowship. There will be a member standing near the blue "Welcome Visitors" sign at the entrance of Rodney Chapel who can answer any questions you might have about Westminster. The Friendship Pad will be passed during the service. We hope you sign it and give us your email or home address so that we might welcome you with a follow-up contact. Gender-neutral, accessible restrooms are located between the pulpit transept and the tower entrance.

Please see the "I'm New" page of our website at wpc.org for more information about us.

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CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2024

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



Our Christmas Offering bolsters the work of Christ as we empower our brothers and sisters worldwide, shelter and support individuals and families experiencing homelessness or moving from transitional housing, and work for peace in the Middle East. Every dollar you give goes beyond our walls to ministries that share the love of God with those in need. See the [letter](#) we mailed for more information on how your gifts will be distributed.

Please mail your gift to the church or place it in the offering plate at one of our worship services in December. Or, use our online giving option on the Westminster website – visit wpc.org/donate and click the DONATE NOW button. Please choose “Sign In” if you have a login with our *Realm* system or “Give Online” to continue as a guest; then select Christmas Offering from the fund drop-down list.

If you have questions, please contact Colleen Falasco at cfalasco@wpc.org or (302) 654-5214 ext. 131.

ADULT EDUCATION

TODAY, DECEMBER 22

The Themes of Advent

Presented by Bob Cox

10:40–11:30 a.m. | Classroom 5

Each week of Advent we light a candle and celebrate the coming of Jesus. These candles represent four themes: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Join Bob Cox to investigate these themes and explore ways to embrace them this Christmas.



Bob Cox has been a member of Westminster for 38 years. He's a cybersecurity architect for a major bank and enjoys studying history, especially biblical history. He and his wife Linda have a son, Josh, and a dog, Bailey.

DECEMBER 29

No Adult Education. Classes resume on January 5.
Happy New Year!

ONGOING/WEEKLY

Online Bible Studies

Midweek Manna Bible Study

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom

Contact: Robin Rosser (rlrosser@aol.com)

No Midweek Manna on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Thursdays | 6–7 p.m. | Zoom

Facilitators: Randy Williamson

(randywilliamson1@comcast.net)

and Mary Anne Peters

No Bible Study on December 26.

Peace and Justice Thursday Evening Education Event

**No Peace and Justice Event on
December 26 or January 2.**

Join us for our next Zoom event on
Thursday, January 9, at 7 p.m.

Zoom link: bit.ly/peace-justice-zoom

Hosted by our Peace & Justice Work Group.
zoom.us/join | Meeting ID: 860 2752 1655

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](#).

PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
The Rev. Dr. Randall T. Clayton, Bridge 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
Marjorie Eldreth, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Madelyn Testa, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Deanna Sparling (lead videographer), Rich Albert, Chip Pfleegor,
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
Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries
Ava Herring and Beatrice Taylor, Nursery Caregivers

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 Gerdts, Manager of Accounting and Reporting
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
John Jordan, Robert King, Joan Truitt, John Young, Sextons
Craig Checkel, Office Support and Security

SESSION

Taryn Albert, Adam Blackford, Michelle Butler, Sally Buttner, John Carpenter, Clark Collins,
Bob Cox, Sara Dubberly, Rob Gooderham, Laura Holmes, Carla Krupanski, Daniel Malzhan,
KC Morrison, Dave McBride, Susan McPheeters, Carol Neff, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor,
Todd Piercy, Roger Reinicker, Laura Scanlan, Karissa Thacker, Dan Weintraub

BOARD OF DEACONS

Susan Baddorf, Liz Bacon, Lisa Bianchi, Jennifer Blackford, Heather Brooks, Russ Butler
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Sue Weissinger, Barbara Welch, Sandra Wermus, Linda Williams, Kathy Wissner, Sophia Wolff

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Rich Albert, Tom Brooks, Gary Bryde, Nancy Fleming, John Gavenonis, Lou Hering,
Brock Jobe, Sue Linderman, 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, Conserv Congo: Adams Cassinga
Middle East (Syria, Lebanon, Palestine) - Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches (Syria, Lebanon)
PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker Elmarie Parker (Syria, Lebanon);
Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center in Bethlehem (Palestine)
Guatemala - CEDEPCA, AJPU, the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development,
and PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Betsey and Eric Moe

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER

PIFFARO: THE RENAISSANCE BAND WITH NEW YORK POLYPHONY *Nova! Nova!*

Sunday, December 22 • 3 p.m. • Sanctuary

In person only. For tickets, visit piffaro.org.

The stunning singers of New York Polyphony join Piffaro in a program of English music for the Christmas season. Ethereal polyphony from the Eton Choirbook and jaunty 15th century carols will be bookended by music from the 12th and 13th centuries and two pieces by 21st century composer Andrew Smith written just for New York Polyphony.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24 • Sanctuary

Children's Pageant • 4 p.m.*

This lively service featuring a living crèche and our children's choir will be no silent night! All young children are invited to participate in the pageant. Participants gather for costumes in the Preschool Suite at 3:30.

Service of Story and Song • 5:30 p.m.*

Our storytellers will bring new life to ancient scriptures while Westminster's professional soloists, brass, and percussion will trumpet the joy of Jesus' birth! We will celebrate communion (offered to all) and sing by candlelight.

Candlelight Communion Service • 8 p.m.*

Our traditional candlelight communion (offered to all) service will include a stirring sermon by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones and anthems by the Westminster Choir accompanied by organ, piano, and percussion.

Join us in person or online! Events with an asterisk (*) will be livestreamed/recorded at WPC.ORG/WATCH and on Westminster's [YouTube channel](#).