



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Baptism of the Lord  
Communion Sunday  
12 January 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Lord God, Thy Holy Word Johann Sebastian Bach

**\*Ringing of the Bell** *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

**\* Call to Worship** (from Isaiah 43)

Leader: Thus says the Lord, 'Fear not, I have rescued you,  
I have called you by name, you belong to me.

People: **When you cross deep waters, I will be with you;  
and the waters shall not overcome you.'**

Leader: God's voice is heard over the waters, the mighty waters.  
God's voice is heard at the baptism of our Lord, saying,  
'You are my beloved child.'

People: **Hear the waters of baptism calling us to be renewed  
and reminding us we are God's beloved children.**

Leader: Let us worship with reverence and joy.

**\*Processional Hymn 10** Sing Glory to the Name of God *Lass tuns Erfreuen*

**\*Prayer of Confession** Holy and loving God, renew us with the flowing waters of baptism that we may hear your voice. A voice that forgives, calls us to serve, and invites us to use our own voices to challenge injustice in our world. Thank you for meeting us where we are and gently embracing us in our uncertainty. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us Hymnal, Back Cover

## **\*Declaration of Pardon and Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

## **\*Response of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, Back Cover

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be  
world without end. Amen.

## **Children's Sermon**

### **Congregational Response**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*Houston*

**I want to walk as a child of the light.**

**I want to follow Jesus.**

**God set the stars to give light to the world.**

**The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 go to Sunday  
School class following the Congregational Response. Youth in  
grades 6 and 7 remain in worship for communion.*

### **First Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 43:1-7

Pew Bible, OT pages 672

### **Second Scripture Reading**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Pew Bible, NT pages 60

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Meditation**

God's Voice

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: "But now thus says the Lord, God who created you, O  
Jacob, God who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have  
redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."*

*Isaiah 43:1*

## **\*Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant**

**Pastor:** Holy and loving God, we give you thanks for nourishing and sustaining all living things by the gift of water. In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life.

**People:** **Through the waters of the sea, you led your people Israel out of bondage into freedom in the land of your promise.**

**Pastor:** You sent Jesus your Son, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Through the death and resurrection of Christ's baptism you set us free from the bondage of sin and death; and give us cleansing and rebirth.**

**Pastor:** We rejoice that in our baptism, you have called us into being, given each of us a name, and claimed us as your own. By your grace we are born anew.

**People:** **Renew us in your Holy Spirit, that we may be empowered to welcome and nourish the children in this faith community.**

**Pastor:** Now God journeys with us, in us, before us, from the place of our baptisms and into the world. Amen.

Let us remember our baptism and be thankful. In the name of our Triune God, Creator, Savior, and Sustainer. Amen.

*(Remain standing and remember your baptism.)*

## **\*Anthem**      Baptized in Water

*Gaelic Melody*

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;  
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise -  
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ our king;  
one with his rising, freed and forgiven  
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our king;  
born of the Spirit, we are God's children -  
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

## **Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts**

*At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass  
the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks*

Offertory Anthem River in Judea

Jack Feldman

\*Offertory Response Doxology

Hymnal, 606

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*The people sing:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty...Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine... Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

## The Lord's Prayer

*Hymnal, page 35*

## Words of Institution

### Distribution of Elements

*The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.*

*Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.*

## Communion Music

### \*Prayer after Communion

O God, as you once claimed us in the Spirit's waters and number us among your own beloved, give us power to do your work, to show your love, to live holy and joyful lives. By your grace, we offer our lives that you may recreate and transform us to be your sons and daughters. Amen.

### \*Hymn 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

*Beech Spring*

### \*Charge and Benediction

### Choral Response

Day By Day

Harold Friedell

## Congregational Meeting

### \*Voluntary

Trumpet Tune

Andrew Carter

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

## SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leaders:** Macklin Metzger
- **Greeters:** Brinton and Susan Wilkey
- **Acolytes:** Kate Bryans and Taryn Barnett
- **Cross and Bible Carriers:** Aerwyna Eastvold and Braden Barton
- **Today's Communion Bread** is Artisan Wholewheat Sourdough and was prepared by Dr. Peter Kieffer
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Judy Knox (Team Leader), John Cross, Joe Fierstos, Rachael Hickman, Gregg Humphrey, Todd Knox, Dave Leonatti, Pat McNutt, Julie Robbs, Mary Ray, Greg Swanson, Eleanor VanDeventer
- **Communion Prep:** Mary Ray, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Julie McDonough, Leigh Milward, Krista Steller
- **Home Communion Delivery:** Melanie and Bud Green, Kathy Kenyon and Bill Schlosser, Mary Ray and Valerie Leonatti
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher), Sophia Choi, Sabrina Holmes, Joyce King, Todd Lafrenz, Bill Schlosser, Susan Shaw, Bernie Wiseman
- **Safety Team:** Todd Knox
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir and Dale Rogers, Organist

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY

- **9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Nursery Guild and Sunday School Teachers Meeting (Parish Hall)**
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story is "God Created So Many Amazing Things" (Creation) *Caregivers: Kara Milward and Maria Lafrenz*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Sunday School Children will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.**
  - **Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** The story is "John Baptizes Jesus" (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22). *Teacher: Meleah Berkowitz*
  - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** The story is "You Are Mine" (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22). *Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)**
- **11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**
  - **Youth Mission Trip Informational Meeting (Second Floor Classroom)** Information about the 2025 mission trip with Ashville Youth Mission will be shared including confirmed dates, intent to participate forms. Deposits will be accepted for this exciting week of service. *Leaders: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Mary Ray*
  - **Adult Education Forum (Parish Hall) "Faith, Art, and Advocacy Part II: Civil Rights.** This class will explore the role of faith, music, art, and advocacy in the civil rights movement. *Dr. Peter Kieffer will lead the class.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS.** We are delighted you have joined us! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org). Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. Our next New Member Classes will be **Sundays, March 2 and 9.**

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION & FELLOWSHIP** - A New Year Celebration will be Tuesday, January 14 at 12 noon in Parish Hall. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets on Monday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom and Lynne O'Shea will lead study Lesson 4 "Water Justice." Call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032.

**MLK SUNDAY, JANUARY 19,** the Rev. Godfrey (Bobby) Musengwa will preach and present a workshop following worship in Parish Hall. Rev. Musengwa serves as Pastor of the Maximo Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg, FL. Bobby was born and raised in South Africa, educated at St. Andrews Presbyterian University (Laurinburg, NC), and received his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. We are honored to welcome Rev. Musengwa to our pulpit.



**THE 50TH ANNUAL MLK BREAKFAST HOSTED BY SPRINGFIELD FRONTIERS** will be held Monday, January 20, 8:30 a.m. at the Crown Plaza. Westminster will be a Gold Sponsor, donating \$1,500. It is symbolic and meaningful for us to have a presence at this community celebration, especially in light of our rich history as advocates for racial justice and equality. If you would like to join the pastors and attend, please contact Jennie Alt at [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org). Justice Lisa Holder White, Illinois Supreme Court, will be the guest speaker.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets Tuesday, January 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the library and Randy Wiseman will lead study Lesson 4 "Water Justice" from the PW Horizons Bible Study. Call Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

**ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION MAKE UP** will be Sunday, January 26 during worship.

**THE APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP** will meet on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. The book for January is titled *After Jesus Before Christianity: A Historical Exploration of the First Two Centuries of Jesus Movements* by Erin Vearncombe, Brandon Scott, Hal Taussig, and the Westar Institute.

# ANNUAL MEETING

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

**8:30 – 9:45 A.M. YOUTH EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER IN PARISH HALL**

Members are invited to enjoy an incredible breakfast served by youth attending the 2025 Youth Mission Trip to Ashville, North Carolina. The Mission participants will prepare and serve a delicious breakfast before worship at 10:00 a.m. Come support the Mission and be well-nourished for the work of the church at the Annual Meeting following worship!

**11:00 – 11:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, January 13

- 12:00 PM Refugee Subcommittee (Conference Room)
- 1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 5:30 PM PNC (Pastor's Study)

### Tuesday, January 14

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting
- 12:00 PM Knitters New Year Celebration Lunch (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM Compass for Kids
- 5:30 PM Family Ministry (Pastor's Study)
- 7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Off site)

### Wednesday, January 15

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning
- 3:30 PM Depression & Bi-Polar Support (Conference Room)
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
- 4:30 PM Fiscal Committee (Pastor's Study)
- 5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
- 5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)
- 6:30 PM D&D Group (Library)

### Thursday, January 16

- 1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
- 4:30 PM Personnel Committee (Pastor's Study)
- 5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Class)
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

### Friday, January 17

### Saturday, January 18

- 11:00 AM Church Mice (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Sunday, January 19

MLK Sunday

- 10:00 AM Worship Service
- 10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K-5 (Tower Classroom)
- 10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
- 11:00 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)
- 11:15 AM Adult Education Forum (Parish Hall)
- 11:15 AM Confirmation Class attends Adult Ed
- 5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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### **WESTMINSTER STAFF**

**The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
Pastor and Head of Staff

**The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop**  
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
Parish Associate

**Dale T. Rogers**  
Director of Music and the Arts

**Mary Ray**  
Director for Youth

**Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz**  
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry

**Katie Moore**  
Director for Children's Music

**Kara Milward, Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinators

**Emily Rowley, Keri Tate**  
Cooperative Preschool Staff

**Ellen Carpenter**  
Parish Nurse

**Pat Hymans**  
Hospitality Coordinator

**Lisa Runkle**  
Financial Administrator

**Jennie Alt**  
Church Administrative Assistant

**Krista Steller**  
Communications Coordinator

**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager

**Braden Barton, James Capler,  
Terry Gietl, Javier Valesquez**  
Part-time Custodians