



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Second Sunday of Advent
4 December 2022 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Cantilena

James Biery

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 72, Romans 15

Leader:

Blessed be God who does such wondrous things!

People:

**We give thanks to God,
whose glory fills the whole earth with healing and hope.**

Leader:

Praise the Lord, all the peoples, praise the Lord!

People:

Let us glorify our God together in one voice.

Leader:

Come, let us draw near to God in faith.

People:

**Let us prepare our hearts to receive
the wondrous gifts of God. Amen.**

***Hymn 93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy and Loving God, we long for the fullness of your peace and wholeness in our midst. Forgive us when the way we live our lives adds to the hurt, pain, and brokenness in this world. Give us the imagination and vision to see the signs of your reign breaking into our lives. Hear now our silent prayers of confession, in the name of the One who came to us as a child.

***Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

***Passing of the Peace**

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

Hanging of the Greens

How Shall We Prepare This House?

Light One Candle
There's a Star in the East
Mary Had a Baby
Go Tell it on the Mountain
Joy to the World

Westminster Choristers
Westminster Children's Choir

Children (Pre-K-Grade 5) are invited to come forward for the Advent Candle Lighting and to present their Sunday School offering.

**Lighting of the
Second Advent Candle**

Vonnie Hinesley and Roy Werhle

Leader: People of God, come,
for the light of peace calls us together.
People: **The Lord has spoken through the mouth of the holy prophets of old.**
Leader: We have been given knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.
Come, people of God, let us follow this new light.
People: **Let us listen to the voice crying out preparing the way, inviting us to travel the journey of this Advent season.**
Leader: The lights of hope and peace are lit in our midst – God will use these lights to show us the way.

(The First and Second Advent Candles are lit.)

**Congregational
Response**

**Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, come, Savior, quickly come.**

*Children in grades Pre-K-5 go to Sunday School class following
the Congregational Response.*

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Pew Bible, OT pages 640-641

Second Scripture Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Pew Bible, NT page 163-164

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Tree of Life

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*The text: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a
branch shall grow out of his roots. Isaiah 11:1*

Anthem

Magnificat

Thomas Atwood Walmisley

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in
God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from
their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the
hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He, remembering his mercy hath helped his servant Israel as he
promised to our forefathers Abraham and his seed forever.

The Church at Prayer

Choir:

Surely the presence of our God is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of God is in this place.

Pastor:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And with your spirit.

Pastor:

Let us pray.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

The Presentation of our Gifts

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

Offertory

What Child is This?

Searle Wright

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

*Prayer of Dedication

**Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to
bring good news to the poor and to seek your truth by
traveling to unknown places. Fill us with gratitude that
we may share life and love in praise to you. Accept these
gifts given toward that end in the name of Christ. Amen**

*Hymn 87

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Genevan 42

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Heaven and Earth Are Ringing

Giovanni Gastoldi

*Voluntary

Joy to the World

Phil Lehenbauer

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

CHORISTERS

Lucy Bassett
Caroline Bryans
Lily Hill
Harper Huston
Reese Huston
Lilly Swanson

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Junie Berkowitz
Sadie Berkowitz
Diana Choi
Roscoe Ekstedt
Luke McNutt
Charlotte Moore
Eva Volle

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are given in honor of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. William M. Cross by his son John Cross.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Worship Leader:** Ben Bassett **Acolytes:** William Affrunti and Macklin Metzger
- **Advent Candle Lighters:** Vonnie Hinesley and Dr. Roy Wehrle
- **Greeters:** Kathy Moore
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher) Mervice Alah Abung, Rich Canady, Terry Haynor, Mary King, Julie McDonough, Bruce Strom, Brinton Wilkey
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford, Brad Steller
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, The Westminster Choristers, The Westminster Children's Choir, Katie Moore, Director of Children's Music, Dale Rogers, organist

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon** **Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "Rufus and the Very Special Baby." *Caregivers: Leigh Milward, Caroline Haynor*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children Kindergarten – Grade 5** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Peace All Around" (Isaiah 11:1-10). Teachers: *Cathy Brower, Kate Morthland*
- **11:15 a.m. Advent Celebration (Parish Hall)** will follow worship and include a festive brunch, the singing of Christmas Carols, the creating of ornaments, the preparing of paperwhite bulbs, and the decorating of Christmas cookies.
- **11:15 a.m. Fair Trade (West Narthex)** Equal Exchange items available for sale.
- **11:15 a.m. Youth Mission Team Informational Meeting (Second Floor Classroom)** Beginning plans for the 2023 Mission Trip Tentatively scheduled for July 9-15 will be discussed.
- **11:15 a.m. Mission and Community Service Committee (Youth Room)** Members will gather to organize Adopt-A-Family gifts which will be delivered to Contact Ministries on Monday.
- **12:30 p.m. Youth Contact Ministries Shopping (West Narthex)** Youth will gather following the Advent Celebration to shop for gifts to be distributed to local youth through Contact Ministries. The money raised at the Spud Bake provide funds to purchase gifts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining, please speak to one of the pastors.

WI-FI HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM has been installed in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with instructions to install the app for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids, lanyards and hearing amplifier packets for those with regular hearing aids, and earing amplifier packets and disposable earbuds for those without hearing aids. Please return the lanyards and hearing amplifier packets at the end of worship. For assistance, ask an usher.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE - As of Thursday, December 1 we have received **212** pledges for a total of **\$780,224**. This is **92%** toward our \$848,800 goal. Thank you to all who pledged. If you have not made a pledge, please do so soon. Pledges can also be made online at www.wpcspi.org.

CHRISMON BOOKLETS outline the history and meaning of the ornaments displayed on Westminster's Chrismon Tree located in the Chancel and can be found in the pew pockets.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY GIVING TREE – Thank you to everyone who has purchased a gift for the seven families in Contact Ministries Transitional Housing. The Mission and Community Service Committee will gather in the Youth Room following worship to organize the gifts which will be delivered on Monday.

MITTEN GIVING TREE - Members are welcome to place mittens/gloves on the tree through January 1.

TOYS FOR TOTS box is in the West Narthex through January 1. Place *unwrapped gifts* for children between the ages of 1 - 16. This outreach is sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS - Members and friends are invited to donate \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund and \$25 to support Westminster's decoration fund. **Please submit your donation with your desired wording and dedication by December 12.** You may go online at www.wpcspi.org to donate and let us know how you want this to be listed in the bulletin. If you wish to pay by check, please indicate this online.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING assists current and retired church workers and their families who are in financial need, also makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please look for the offering envelopes to give toward this special fund and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets **Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Judy Knox (2004 Mary Knoll Pl, 62704) to discuss Lesson 3 "Sabbath and Sunday."

NEW MEMBERS will be received **Sunday, December 11, 9:15 a.m.** at a Special Session meeting in the Ziegler Library and recognized during worship.

ADULT ED FORUM: No Room at the Inn: Homeless Ministries resumes **Sunday, December 11** as we welcome Rev. Margaret Ann Jessup, Executive Director for Wooden It Be Lovely.

CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION will take place at the Contact Ministries Main Building (100 E Adams St, Springfield, IL 62703) on **Wednesday, December 14**. If you are able to serve, please call coordinator of Contact Ministries at (217) 753-3939 ext. 12.

SESSION AND DEACON JOINT MEETING is **Wednesday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. We welcome new and thank outgoing elders and deacons. Following the joint meeting, church officers and their significant others are invited to a festive reception at the Kieffer Home.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS POTLUCK PARTY will be Sunday, **December 11 from 5:00 p.m. – 7 p.m.** at the Pound Home (100 Pinehurst Drive, 62704). The Senior and Junior High are invited to bring a dish to share and a \$15 white elephant gift.

ADULT ED FORUM: No Room at the Inn: Homeless Ministries meets Sunday, December 18 we welcome Susan Carrigan, Community Outreach Manager, Habitat for Humanity who will partner with Dr. Todd Knox in presenting the impetus, inspiration, and specifics for the 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat House. We will also welcome and meet Paris and James Capler and their children, who will make 626 S. Glenwood their home.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 4

10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

HANGING OF THE GREENS MUSICAL PRESENTATION - The morning includes a special musical presentation of the "Hanging of the Greens" by Westminster Choristers (Grades 3-5) and the Children's Choir (Grades K-2) under the direction of Katie Moore, Director for Children's Music during the worship service.

ADVENT CELEBRATION - A reception in Parish Hall will follow worship and include a festive brunch, the singing of Christmas Carols, the creating of ornaments, the preparing of paperwhite bulbs, and the decorating of Christmas cookies. Children who were not in Sunday School on November 27 will have the opportunity to create an advent wreath for home.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 11

10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION will be celebrated as we continue our Advent journey.

WESTMINSTER AT FOUR: CHRISTMAS VESPERS - 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Music for this service will be presented by The Westminster Choir, St. Andrew's Sisters, with Dale Rogers, Organist. Seasonal music of Willan, Lloyd Webber, Forrest, Thiman, Walmisley, Chilcott, and choral settings of Christmas Carols.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 18

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT - The Sunday school classes will come together to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity. The children will process through the Sanctuary during the final hymn in costume and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the benediction.

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This is a short service filled with spontaneity and delight! The children will act out the Christmas story as it is read by the Confirmation Class of 2023. We will sing many favorite Christmas hymns.

6:00 P.M. FESTIVE CHRISTMAS DINNER IN PARISH HALL

Enjoy a delicious meal. Reservation forms are in the bulletins during December. RSVP and make payment online at www.wpcspi.org no later than Tuesday, December 20.

7:30 P.M. WESTMINSTER'S CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The Westminster Choir will provide music and our high school seniors will read the Christmas Story in the Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. Bring your bells to ring in the Festival of Christmas.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 A.M. CHRISTMAS DAY CAROL SERVICE

The Westminster family will gather for a joyful celebration of Christmas Day. Worship will include a brief meditation, the singing of favorite Christmas carols, and special music.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 A.M. NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNION SERVICE

On New Year's Day, we will gather for one service of worship at 10:00 a.m. and partake in the Sacrament of Communion.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, December 5

9:30 AM Garden Club of Springfield (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, December 6

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
12:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 Christmas Luncheon (Parish Hall)
3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Music Room)

Wednesday, December 7

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
4:00 PM Bridges (Kitchen)
4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:30PM Mission and Community Service (3rd Floor Classroom)
5:30 PM Adult Ed Committee (Pastor's Study)
7:00 PM Ruth and Naomi Circle (Off site)

Thursday, December 8

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)
6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:30 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, December 9

5:00 PM Meal Delivered to Helping Hands Shelter

Saturday, December 10

9:30 AM Vesper Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 11

Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
9:30 AM Session Meeting to receive new members (Library)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Chapel)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
11:15 AM Confirmation Class Pageant Practice (Sanctuary)
4:00 PM Christmas Vespers (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Youth Christmas Party (Pounds Home)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465
<http://www.wpcspi.org>

WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

Karen Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry

Leigh Milward
Nursery Coordinator

Caroline Haynor
Nursery Worker

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Director

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

Terry Gietl
Bill Hibbert
Eddie Hubbard
Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians