



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
First Sunday of Advent
29 November 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Of the Father's Love Begotten

T. Frederick H. Candlyn

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Lighting of the
First Advent Candle**

Kayla and Jess Weitzel

Soloist: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

In a world where so many despair,
God lights a candle of hope in our hearts.

**We wait together for a Savior,
who will be Emmanuel, Christ the Lord**

People of God, the light of hope calls us together.

**From our solitude, we are called into community;
From our brokenness, we are called into wholeness;**

Soloist: O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

People of God, come, for the light of hope calls us together.

Let us take the hand of God and carry this light together.

The First Advent Candle is lit.

***Hymn**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

***Invitation to Confession
and Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

Holy God, you are with us even in the Advent time of waiting for you, yet we confess that you sometimes seem far away. We do not always seek to draw closer to you, but turn away to distraction, temptation, or despair. Save us from our captivity to the world, and give us eyes to see you always. Guide us in acknowledging our sin, turning our backs on it, and live in faith. Make us ready. Prepare us for your presence, as we offer now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

***Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response of Praise Gloria Patri

Sacrament of Baptism *Erica and Andrew James present their daughter, Cora Ann.*

Baptismal Response

Waterlife

I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong;
I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for that God.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

Second Scripture Reading Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he^[a] is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Sermon Awesome Deeds We Did Not Expect Rev. Trajan I. McGill

“When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for that God.”
Isaiah 64:3-4

Solo Sonata in E-flat: Siciliano Johann Sebastian Bach

The Church at Prayer

Soloist: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels’ wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

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.

Introduction to the Offering

***Offertory Response** Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication** Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts, and increase generosity in us, we pray, as we await the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn** The Days Are Surely Coming *Llangloffan*

The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.

The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.

The days are surely coming when we will know at last
the fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Come Now, Savior of the Nations *Johann Sebastian Bach*

(*) The congregation is invited to stand

**Flowers in the Chancel are given in loving memory of Roxie and David Reid
by their daughter and son-in-law, Heather and Norm Hoback.**

IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn Jensen 11/22/2020
United with Westminster 03/30/1969

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Dr. Elvin G. Zook 11/24/2020
United with Westminster 02/10/1974

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
Karen H. Sherrick, Director for Children's Ministry
Kayla and Jess Weitzel, Lighting of the Advent Candle Wreath
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts
Krista Steller, Oboist Lyle VanDeventer, Bass
Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers
Rich Canady, Safety Team