



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
First Sunday of Advent
27 November 2022 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

Contact Ministries

Cindy Drum

Voluntary

Veni Emmanuel

Noel Rawsthorne

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Lighting of the
First Advent Candle**

Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell

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

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

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

All: **From our solitude, we are called into community,
From our brokenness, we are called into wholeness.**

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

All: **Let us take the hand of God and carry this light together.**
(The First Advent Candle is lit.)

***Processional Hymn 88**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

Verses 1-4

***Prayer of Confession** Holy God, in a world full of hopelessness, you sent your beloved Son to redeem us and to be a beacon of hope for us. Rather than trusting in your promises in hope, we are inclined to look at the low valleys and stony roads of life. Forgive our doubt, fill us and reassure us of the promised hope that will be the light of the world in the midnight hours of waiting. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***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

Children's Sermon

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 2:1-5 Pew Bible, OT pages 631-632

Second Scripture Reading Romans 13:11-14 Pew Bible, NT page 162

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Hope is on the Way Rev. Christian K. Choi

Text: "Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us than when we became believers." Romans 13:11

Anthem Rejoice, O Jerusalem Healey Willan

The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Behold, the Lord shall come and all the saints with him; and in that day the light shall be great. Rejoice, O Jerusalem, behold, thy King cometh. Alleluia!

***Affirmation of Faith**

from The Westminster Confession of Faith

God in infinite and perfect love, having provided in the covenant of grace, through the mediation and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, a way of life and salvation, sufficient for and adapted to the whole lost race of humanity, doth freely offer this salvation to all persons in the gospel.

In the gospel God declares God's love for the world and God's desire that all persons should be saved; reveals fully and clearly the only way of salvation; promises eternal life to all who truly repent and believe in Christ; invites and commands all to embrace the offered mercy; and by God's Spirit accompanying the Word pleads with all persons to accept God's gracious invitation.

The Church at Prayer

Choir: Surely the presence of the Lord 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

Come, Savior of the Nations

J. S. Bach

***Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication**

We give you thanks and praise, O Holy One, for all your gifts, especially for your wondrous love shown through Christ Jesus. As we respond to your mercy and grace, turn these offerings and our lives to bring hope and peace to the whole world. Amen.

***Hymn 97**

Watchman Tell Us of the Night

Aberystwyth

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Heaven and Earth Are Ringing

Giovanni Gastoldi

Heaven and earth are ringing; join in the angel's singing.
Sing noel for Christ is born. Come, sing, for Christ is born.

***Voluntary**

Sleepers Awake, for Night is Fleeting

Robert Hobby

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgists:** Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
- **Greeters:** Sarah and Bob Zerfas
- **Acolytes:** Juliet Boutelle and Abigail Eldridge
- **Advent Candle Lighters:** Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell
- **Ushers:** Alyssa Haaker (Head Usher), Bud Green, Melanie Green, Richard Leary, Jim Rigney, Camille Massey, Mike Sundquist, Jess Weitzel
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Eleanor VanDeventer, Soprano, 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: "The Lost Sheep and Coin." *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 and Light" (Isaiah 2:1-5). Teachers: *Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Adult Education Forum** (Parish Hall) presents "No Room at the Inn: Homeless Ministries." In the second session of this series, we welcome Cindy Drum, Executive Director for Contact Ministries. WPC was one of their founding congregations, provided financial support of \$10,000 in 2022, and members purchase gifts for their nine families in transitional housing each Christmas.
 - **New Member Class** (Pastor's Study) led by Dr. Kieffer

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.

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.



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE - As of Tuesday, November 22 we have received **207** pledges for a total of **\$770,144**. This is **91%** 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.

ST. JOHN'S BREADLESS BREADLINE FUNDRAISER brought in \$586 last Sunday. Thanks to all who gave.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY GIVING TREE - Westminster is sponsoring families in the transitional housing of Contact Ministries. Families and their wish lists are posted on the homepage of our website. Please sign up for gifts and place under the Giving Tree unwrapped by Sunday, December 4. Please put a tag with the family and gift number on returned gifts.

MITTEN GIVING TREE - Members are welcome to place mittens/gloves on the tree during Advent.

TOYS FOR TOTS box is in the West Narthex where it will be until **December 22**. 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.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE HOSTS A CHRISTMAS GATHERING on **Friday, December 2 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** at the Village (3301 Robbins Rd) for tea sandwiches, salads, and desserts with a musical program by the St. Andrews Sisters, accompanied by Dale Rogers.

YOUTH MISSION TEAM INFORMATIONAL MEETING is next **Sunday, December 4 at 11:15 a.m.** in Second Floor Classroom. **YOUTH CONTACT MINISTRIES SHOPPING** will follow the Advent Celebration. The money raised at the Spud Bake provide funds to purchase gifts for local youth in need.

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."

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.

2023 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR HABITAT BUILD - Calling all members and friends to join in the 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build. On **Sunday, December 18 at 11:15 a.m.** Susan Carrigan of Habitat and Todd Knox will lead the Adult Education Forum in Parish Hall. We will meet the Capler Family who will make 626 S. Glenwood their home, and welcome others in the community with whom are partnering. The tentative **BLITZ WEEK** dates are **March 27-April 1**. Mark your calendar and plan to be flexible as all is weather dependent.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: NOVEMBER 27

10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

THE ADVENT WREATH - We begin the season of Advent, the time of waiting and preparing with the lighting of the Advent Wreath by new members. Elizabeth and Mark Luttrell will participate today.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 4

10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

ADVENT CELEBRATION – 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary and 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall

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) during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. **A reception in Parish Hall** will follow and includes a festive brunch, the singing of Christmas Carols, creating of ornaments and the decorating of Christmas cookies.

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 of roast turkey, baked ham, cheese potatoes, gravy, vegetables, garden salad, rolls, and fresh fruit pies. Adults are \$21.50, children 6-12 are \$12.50 and children ages 5 and under are at no charge. RSVP and make payment online at www.wpcspi.org on the front page no later than Tuesday, December 20. Reservation forms will be in December 4, 11, and 18 bulletins.

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, November 28

9:30 AM King's Daughters Board (3rd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, November 29

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 Mission (2nd Fl. Classroom)
3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Music Room)

Wednesday, November 30

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
4:00 PM Chorister/Children's Choir Practice
5:00 PM Membership Committee (Pastor's Study)
5:30 PM Preschool Long-Range Planning (Conf. Room)

Thursday, December 1

2:00 PM Early-Stage Memory Loss (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:30 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, December 2

11:00 AM PW Board Meeting (Conference Room)
1:00 PM Women's Christmas Tea (Off site)

Saturday, December 3

Sunday, December 4

Parish Nurse Ministry (Church Office)
Fair Trade (West Narthex)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Sanctuary)
11:15 AM Mission Trip Informational Meeting
(2nd Floor Classroom)
11:15 AM Mission Trip Informational Meeting
11:15 AM Adopt-a-Family Organization Meeting
(Youth Room)
11:15 AM Advent Celebration (Parish Hall)
12:30 AM Youth Contact Ministry Shopping
(West Narthex)

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<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