



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Thanksgiving Sunday
19 November 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Now Thank We All Our God

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Ringing of the Bell

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*Call to Worship

Psalm 90:1, 2

Leader:

Lord, you have been our dwelling place for all generations.

People:

You have been our home throughout the ages.

Leader:

You were there before the world was made.

People:

From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Leader:

Come, let us worship God with joyful and grateful hearts.

*Processional Hymn 336

We Gather Together

Kremser

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you have given us so much. All that we need, your hand has provided. You have blessed us with skills and talents, intending that we use them for the sake of others and your glory. Forgive us if we lack the confidence to share what you have given us. Forgive us when we lack the courage to take risks with one another. Forgive us when our fear and uncertainty about who you are prevents us from becoming all we can be. 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. Amen.

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri Hymnal, Back Cover

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response God welcomes all, strangers and friends.
God's love is strong, and it never ends.

*Children in grades Pre-K-Grade 5 go to Sunday School and Youth in
Grades 6-7 go to Confirmation Prep following the Response.*

First Scripture Reading Psalm 90:1-6, 12 Pew Bible, OT page 547-548

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 25:14-27 Pew Bible, NT page 28-29

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

Sermon Confident Gratitude Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
*Text: ...so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the
ground. Matthew 25:25a*

Anthem When Rooks Fly Homeward
When rooks fly homeward and shadows fall,
When roses fold on the hay-yard wall,
When blind moths flutter by door and tree,
Then comes the quiet of Christ to me.
When stars look out on the children's path,
And grey mists gather on carn and rath,
When night is one with the brooding sea,
Then comes the quiet of Christ to me. Joseph Campbell

***Affirmation of Faith**

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason, we bow our knees before God, the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. We pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. We pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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 our 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

Et Misericordia

Johann Sebastian Bach

And God's mercy is upon them that fear God,
throughout all generations.

***Offertory Response** Doxology Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication** Holy and loving God, you are our home and dwelling place forever. Bless the talents in which we invest and the gifts we offer this day. With them may we share your love with others and honor your presence in all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn 367** Come, Ye Thankful People, Come *St. George's Windsor*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response** Forth in Thy Name Orlando Gibbons

***Voluntary** Now Thank We All Our God Sigfried Karg-Elert
(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Greeter:** Aerwyna Eastvold and Braden Barton
- **Worship Leader:** Macklin Metzger
- **Acolytes:** Juliett Boutelle and Juliana Eastvold
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Melanie Green, Chris Hickman, Richard Leary, Coleman Moore, Jim Rigney, Susan Shaw, Jess Weitzel
- **Safety Team:** Rich Canady
- **Music:** Westminster Choir, Diane Dietz, soprano, Jim Kontio, tenor, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:15 a.m. Congregational Care Committee (Library)**
- **9:45 – 12 noon Nursery (lower level)** Infants and toddlers begin in the Nursery. Preschoolers begin in worship with their families and leave during the Congregational Response. Today's Bible Story: "Jesus Knows Us and Calls Us By Name." *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Priscilla Kluge, Lynn McMenamin*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Sunday School (Third Floor Chapel)** Children Kindergarten – Grade 5 begin in worship with their families & leave during the Congregational Response Today's Lesson: "Parable of the Talents" (Matt. 25:14-30). Teachers: *Sophia Choi, Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz*
 - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children's Sermon for Lesson Seven: "Exodus" of the Echo Curriculum. *Teachers: Mary Ray and Joe Fierstos*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Confirmation (Conference Room)** Grade 8 meet for Lesson Seven: "Corruption, Division" from Church History, *Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and Mary Ray*
 - **Adult Education Forum (Parish Hall)** This Adult Education Forum is the first in a two-part series. It will explore Reinhold Niebuhr, one of the great reformed theologians of the 20th century. *Led by Dr. Roy Wehrle*
- **5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group Fellowship and Dinner (Parish Hall)** will include fellowship, games, and Bible study. Dinner: Lisa Metzger *Ministry Partners: Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Mary Ray, 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 at 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 a pastor.

TODAY'S BREADLESS BREADLINE FUNDRAISER is for St. John's Breadline, which serves hot food 365 days a year. This year, we will once again host the "Breadless Breadline Sunday." WPC members are encouraged to provide additional donations marked for St. John's Breadline.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM begins a two-week session today on Reinhold Niebuhr at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Dr. Niebuhr was raised in Lincoln, IL, earned his Master of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary and became one of the great reformed theologians of the 20th century. The two-session course will be led by Dr. Roy Wehrle.

2024 STEWARDSHIP THEME: GROWING IN GENEROSITY – ROOTED IN FAITH. As of Thursday, November 17, 2023 we have received 204 pledges for a total of \$806,704. This is 95% toward our dollar amount goal of \$850,000. Stewardship brochures and pledge cards are located in the pew pockets. You are also welcome to pledge online. Please pledge as soon as possible.

ADOPT A FAMILY GIVING TREE GIFT LIST is available on the church website! Westminster will again sponsor nine families living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter. We have added Westminster's anticipated refugee family as the tenth family whom we will help transition as we prepare a home for them. Please sign up for gifts on our website and return gifts to the church unwrapped by Sunday, December 4. Place a tag with the family and gift number on returned gifts.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets **Tuesday, November 21** at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler library. Carolyn Beatty will host and lead lesson 3 “A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir.

ST, ANDREW’S SUNDAY will be celebrated **Sunday, November 26**. Westminster will continue the rich tradition with a flourish of bagpipes and drums presenting traditional Scottish music. The Little Entry is the opening procession of the service. Along with the pipers and drummers, the pastors and youth will enter with the Bible to underscore the importance of the Word of God in Reformed liturgy, and the cross to highlight its centrality in our faith.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS go up on **Monday, November 27** at 10:00 a.m. in anticipation of the first Sunday in Advent, December 3. If you would like to help, please contact Dale Rogers.

LEGACY OF FAITH PLANNED GIVING RECEPTION on **Tuesday, November 28** from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. the Support and Endowment Committee, chaired by Todd Wise, will host a Legacy of Faith Planned Giving Reception at the home of Christy and Karl Pound (100 Pinehurst Drive, 62704). The purpose of the gathering is to thank those who have remembered Westminster in their will and to invite others to consider this opportunity. All are welcome. Please RSVP with Jennie Alt by November 26.



APOSTLES’ READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP on **Tuesday, November 28** from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Nine Black Robes: Inside the Supreme Court’s Drive to the Right and Historic Consequences by Joan Biskupic. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

LYDIA CIRCLE HOSTS A CHRISTMAS GATHERING **Friday, December 1 from 12:00 - 2:00 P.M.** All women of Westminster and their guests are invited to the Village at 3301 Robbins Rd. We will enjoy an afternoon of tea sandwiches, salads, and desserts with a musical program by the St. Andrews Sisters, accompanied by Dale Rogers. The minimum number required is 50 attendees. Please reserve your spot on our website, the church office, or with Nancy Canady. The cost is \$16 and pre-paid reservations are required by November 20 (non-refundable) with checks payable to Nancy Canady.

ADVENT CELEBRATION on **Sunday, December 3**. During the Worship Service in the Sanctuary, Children’s Choir will present special music under the direction of Katie Moore, Director for Children’s Music. Following the service, members and friends gather in Parish Hall to create ornaments, sing carols, and enjoy a festive brunch.

FAIR TRADE SALE (West Narthex) on **December 3 following the 10:00 worship service**. Shop for the holidays. Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate and tea will be available for purchase to support just, environmentally sound products, and small producers. Coordinators: Jeanne VanGieson and Becky Martin

CHRISTMAS VESPERS on **Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m.** Westminster’s Christmas Vespers program will include choral music and carols sung by the Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew’s Sisters, with Dale Rogers, Organist. Vespers will include the seasonal music of Adelman, Friedell, Forrest, Purcell, Halls, Rawsthorne, Bach, Spirituals, and more.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 3

10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM will be celebrated as we begin our Advent journey.

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL MUSIC - The morning includes a special music by Westminster Children's Choir (Grades K-5) 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, and the decorating of Christmas cookies. Children who were not in Sunday School on November 26 will have the opportunity to create an advent wreath for home.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 10

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 will include the seasonal music of Adelman, Friedell, Forrest, Purcell, Halls, Rawsthorne, Bach, Spirituals, and more.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 17

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PROCESSIONAL 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

10:00 A.M. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This is a service filled with spontaneity and delight! The children will present the Christmas story with narration and speaking parts by Bridges children and Confirmation youth.

5:00 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 19.

7:00 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 31

10:00 A.M. NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

On New Year's Eve, we will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m. Another year has come and gone. Yet Jesus, our Immanuel is ever with us. "Surely I am with you always to the very end of the age." (Mt.28:20)

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, November 20

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
11:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)

Tuesday, November 21

- 9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Compass for Kids
7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters Rehearsal (Off site)

Wednesday, November 22

- 1:00 PM Warming Center Meal (Kitchen)
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support
(Conf. Room)

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Church Office Closed

Friday, November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday
Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 25

Sunday, November 26

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School K – Grade 5 (Chapel)
11:00 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
11:15 AM 2024 Youth Mission Trip Informational
Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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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

Mary Ray
Interim Director for Youth

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

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

Millie McNutt, 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

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert,**
Part-time Custodians