



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Third Sunday of Advent
New Member Recognition
15 December 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

In Dulci Jubilo

Franz Liszt

Introit

O come, O come, Immanuel,
Come now to earth and with thy people dwell,
The world awaits from heaven a holy sign,
O come and show to us the light divine.
O come, O come, Immanuel,
As age to age the prophets did foretell;
Redeemer come to save us one and all,
Be born again in Bethlehem's manger stall.

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Lighting of the Third Advent
Candle and Call to Worship**

One: People of God, come, for the light of joy calls us together.
All: **Come, let us follow this light into Advent,
into the wonder and heart of God's love.**
One: God's love is rain in a dry land,
and water in the deserts of our lives.
All: **And so the desert shall rejoice,
and be filled with beauty and abundance.
All the wilderness will sing together in joy.**
One: People of God, come, for the light of joy calls us together.
All: **Come, let us follow this light in our worship.**
(The First, Second, and Third Advent Candles are lit.)

***Processional Hymn 100**

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Star of the County Down

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we hear your call to repent and to become people of justice. Reveal to us the ways we compromise your justice to seek and secure our own comfort. You tell us what is expected of us. Gather us in, forgive us, renew a right spirit within us as we seek to do your will. 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

Come, Savior, quickly come; come,

Come Savior, quickly come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, come, Savior, quickly come.

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

Isaiah 12: 2-6

Pew Bible, OT pages 641-642

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 3:7-16

Pew Bible, NT pages 60

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Filled with Expectation

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

Text: "the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts..." Luke 3:15a

Anthem **If Ye Would Hear the Angels Sing** Dutch Carol
Stephen Mager, arr.

If ye would hear the angels sing, "Peace on earth,
and mercy mild," think of him who was once a child,
on Christmas Day in the morning.
Rise, and hear the angels sing, O, Rise, and let your
voices ring, Remember the Child, the heavenly King,
on Christmas Day in the Morning.

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

***Prayer of Welcome**

We, as a church of Jesus Christ, lovingly receive you to our communion. We welcome you to this fellowship with us, in the blessings of the gospel, and we promise to treat you with Christian affection, to watch over you with tenderness, and to offer our prayers on your behalf.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn** **We All Are One in Mission** *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*

**We are all one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.**

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

Comfort Ye, My People George Frederick Handel
Comfort ye my people. saith your God. Speak ye
comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her
warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.
text: Isaiah 11: 1-3

*Offertory Response

Doxology Hymnal, 606
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

**Holy and loving God, surely you are the one that saves us.
We present these offerings with a deep sense of gratitude
for the honesty, consideration and kindness of a God who
would speak to us with the frankness of John and then
come to us in the gentleness and mystery of the Christ
Child, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*Hymn 116

The Snow Lay on the Ground *Venite Adoremus*

*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

On This Day, Earth Shall Ring David Spicer

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Acolytes:** Lucy Bassett and Cara Bryans
- **Greeter:** Pam Innis
- **Advent Candle Lighters:** Linda Andrews and Claudia Nash
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, Organist, Harper and Reese Huston, Maria Lafrenz, Lily Swanson, Advent Singers, and Adam Miller, Tenor
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Mervice Alah Abung, Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Sabrina Holmes, Greg Humphrey, Melanie Humphrey, Julie McDonough
- **Safety Team:** Alan Schuermann
- **Videographers:** Bob Fox and Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:20 a.m. Special Session Meeting (Zeigler Library)**
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, two - three-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "Little Children can do Big Things" (David and Goliath)
Caregivers: Kara Milward, Maria Lafrenz, Lynn McMenamin
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 and youth in Grades 6 - 7 begin in worship & go to Sunday school and Confirmation Prep following the Congregational Response.
 - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** Story: "Isaiah Praises God" (Isaiah 12:2-6)
Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Sara Eldridge
 - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** Story: "Celebrate Salvation" (Isaiah 12:2-6) *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Lindsay Boutelle*
 - **Grades 6-7 (Conference Room)** Lesson 27 "Jesus' Encounters" from the Echo curriculum.
Teachers: Mary Ray and Joe Fierstos
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
 - **Grade 8 Confirmation Class (Conference Room)** Nine: John Calvin Reforms and Ten: John Knox in Scotland. *Teachers: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Mary Ray, and Rev. Sarah Bishop*
 - **Deacon Poinsettia Pick-up and Delivery (West Narthex)**
 - **Mission and Community Service Committee (Youth Room)** Pack Adopt a Family gifts to be delivered to Contact Ministries
 - **Nominating Committee (Pastor's Study)**

2024 CHRISTMAS MUSIC FUND

In memory of Irma & Glenn Nash and John Bliven by Linda Andrews and Claudia Nash

To the Glory of God and in thanks for Dale Rogers by Anonymous

In memory of Donna Wolaver by Sandy Bellatti

In honor of Dale Rogers for wrangling the choir, The Walnuts, and St. Andrews Sisters

by Bob and Julie Blythe

In loving memory of our nephew James Blythe, whom we miss every day,
by Bob, Julie, Brian, and Sarah Blythe.

In loving memory of Heather Huitt, whom we miss every day,
by Julie, Bob, Brian, and Sarah Blythe

In loving memory of Jennie Davis Moy, dear friend and sister, gone too soon,
by Bob, Julie, Brian, and Sarah Blythe

In honor of Nolan Young by Rance and Ellen Carpenter

In memory of Morris D. Cooper, Sr. by Virginia Cooper & family

In honor of Louise and in loving memory of Art Cragoe by Cathy Cragoe

In appreciation and in honor of the WPC staff by Meg and Jim Kontio

In memory of our parents by Mary & Robert Leffler

In memory of Joyce Washburn by Valerie and Dave Leonatti

In loving memory of loved ones by Jeanne Pittman and family

In honor of Dale Thomas Rogers and the Westminster Choir by Bill Post

In memory of our parents by Linda and Bill Schlosser

Susan R. Shea

For the glory of music and in honor of Dale Rogers by Eleanor & Lyle VanDeventer

2024 CHRISTMAS DECORATION FUND

In memory of Robert Bellatti by Sandy Bellatti

In loving memory of Fred and Betty Blythe by Bob, Julie, Brian, and Sarah Blythe

In loving memory of Ken and Lois Davis and Kathy Stittsworth by Julie & Bob Blythe

In loving memory of Aunt Viola by Julie Blythe

In memory of our grandparents by Meridith & James Bryans

In honor of Babi & Grandpa Swanson from Kate & Caroline Bryans

In honor of Riley Young by Rance and Ellen Carpenter

In memory of Mary Lou by the Art Cochran family

In memory of Cathryn Gordon Huff by Virginia Cooper & Family

In loving memory of Tony Leone, Jr. by Cathy Cragoe

In loving memory of our loved ones who are no longer with us on earth

by Dee Dee and Rick Duffy

In memory of Bill Irvine, The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Volzke, Edith Pierce, and brother Fred
with love Marci Irvine

Barbara Stewart

In memory of Lionel S. Stirrett from his loving wife Becky and his children Cindy and Doug

In loving memory of Heather Huitt, Dan VanDeventer, Dave, Marilyn, and LeRoy Tungett
by the Manning, Tungett and VanDeventer families

Brinton Wilkey

Charles Wilkin

2024 CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUND

In memory of Roger Lawson by Katrina Archer

In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison and Jeanette and L.B. Beatty
by Carolyn and Keith Beatty

Carolyn and Richard Berning

In memory of Benjamin Black and Maggie Moore by Katie Moore Black

In memory of Christopher Caupert by Linda & Ed Caupert

In loving memory of Elder Grady M. Chronister by his family

In memory of David Gaines Coontz and David Matthew Coontz by Deb & Drew Coontz

In memory of my parents, William & Ruth Cross by John Cross

With appreciation and thanks to Dale Rogers for his expertise in music by Sue Cull

Bill Deemer

Peg and Lou DiFonso

In loving memory of my mother, Norma Newson Kneer, a long-time member, serving well
by Robin Foster

In loving memory of Carolyn Dungan, Bill and Mary Schnirring and Henry and Darleen Germeraad
by Kathy and Randy Germeraad

Melanie and Bud Green

In memory of Gerry Hale by her loving family

Ann and Keith Hamilton

Terry Haynor

In memory of Faye & Paul Hildebrand by Pat Hildebrand-Culler

Sharon and Matthew Gilmore

In memory of Scott Hoff by Elaine Hoff

Georgina Hudspeth

In loving memory of our parents by Blythe & Peter Kieffer
Mary & Charlie King

In memory of loved ones by Kathy Kenyon

In memory of our parents by Priscilla & Tim Kluge

Judy and Todd Knox

Eleanor & Richard Leary

In memory of Janet & Bob Massey and Earl Tucker by Camille & Tom Massey

In memory of Lois Volk and Joe Volk by Joyce Matthews

In loving memory of John McNutt by Pat McNutt

In memory of William Meriwether, Charley & Neille Bale, Lyman & Glenna Meriwether
by Kathy Meriwether

In loving memory of Linda, Kathryn, and Edward Culver by Kathy Culver Nickell & family

In memory of a dear friend, Thelma Tate by Sharon and Larry Reynolds

In memory of our families by Marilyn & Jim Rigney

In memory of our loved ones by the Robbs family

In memory of Harold and Rosella Rogers by Dale Rogers

In memory of loved ones by Betsy Ruklick

In memory of our parents by Nancy & Lon Scott

Susan & Michael Shaw

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Dick Maldaner and Jane Smith
by Anne and Andrew Smith

In loving memory of our parents by Krista and Brad Steller and family

In honor of our family by Judy & Harvey Stephens

In memory of Lois Strom by Bruce Strom

In memory of our parents by Marty and Alan Stutz

Julie & Mike Sundquist

In memory of our parents by Carolyn and Brad Swanson

With wishes for Grace and Peace by Jeanne and Pete Van Gieson

In memory of Grace and Bernard Reeder by Carol Volle

In memory of Martha Havey from her loving family Meredith, Darren, Eva and Mae Volle

In memory of JoAnn Wehrle and Walter Hinesley and Luanna Hinesley
by Vonnie Hinesley and Dr. Roy Wehrle

In memory of Dr. Elvin Zook by Sharon Zook

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 a pastor.

NEW MEMBER received this morning at a Special Session meeting. We welcome:

Dr. Brian J. Richardson by Reaffirmation of faith. He is a practicing clinical psychologist working at a women's prison, Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln, IL, for the past 10 years. Previously he worked in private practice since 1988. Brian was married for 28 years, divorced in 2008 and has 3 children and two grandsons. Brian sings in the Springfield Choral Society and the Westminster Choir. His sponsor is Dr. Peter Kieffer.

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.

POINSETTIA DELIVERIES - The Board of Deacons will deliver Christmas poinsettias today to members who are shut-in and who have lost loved ones since Easter. Deacons may pick up their assignments in the West Narthex either before or following worship.

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 and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT PRACTICE is next Sunday, December 22 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chancel.

LESSONS AND CAROLS PRACTICE is next Sunday, December 22 at 12:00 noon in the Chancel.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, December 17 at 12:00 Noon for a Christmas luncheon in Parish Hall. Please RSVP to Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT The Confirmation youth and Bridges children will speak in the Christmas pageant with special music by the Children's Choir and Advent Singers. We welcome Kelly and Edison Zohfonyi with newborn son Jace as our Holy Family. All children are invited to participate as shepherds, angels, and lambs.

CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS - The Westminster Choir will provide the choral music and our Senior High will read the Christmas Story in this Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. We follow the tradition of ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo."

CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT & INSTALLATION - On Saturday, January 4, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, Elders and Deacons will gather for the Church Officer Retreat. On Sunday, January 5, our newly elected Church Officers will be ordained and/or installed during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT PNC

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 5, immediately following worship, to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) that will recommend a candidate for Co-Pastor who will transition to Head of Staff. A congregational gathering will follow the meeting in Parish Hall to provide an opportunity for input from members.

Nominations for the PNC are currently being accepted through Sunday, December 22. Please submit the person's name and their WPC involvement to churchoffice@wpcspi.org or Eleanor VanDeventer, Nominating Committee Chair at ehuitt@yahoo.com.



Christmas Vespers

Sunday 22 December 4:00 p.m.

Westminster Choir
The St. Andrew's Sisters
Lucy Yockey, Oboe
Dale Thomas Rogers, Director of Music

Music of Mathias, Walther, Forrest, Whitacre,
Haydn, Morricone, and Carols

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 South Walnut
Springfield, Illinois
wpcspi.org

CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT WESTMINSTER

PRIOR TO THE 7:00 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for the
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER
IN PARISH HALL
SEATING 5:30 P.M.
DINNER IS SERVED AT 5:30 P.M.



A traditional meal will be served including roast turkey, gravy, baked ham, cheese potatoes, green beans, a garden salad with choice of dressing, rolls w/butter, and fruit pies for dessert.

PRICE: Adults \$25.00
 Children (6-12) \$14.50
 Age 5 and under, no charge

Christmas Eve Dinner Reservation: This year we are limiting the gathering to 100. You may return this completed form or go to our website front page at www.wpcspi.org for the link to submit the online form. Payment can be made by check or online. Reservations and payment must be delivered to the church **by Thursday, December 19**. *Sorry, no refunds if cancelled.*

NAME: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of Adults: _____ \$ _____ (ea. \$25.00) Total \$ _____

Number of children ages 6-12: _____ \$ _____ (ea. \$14.50) Total \$ _____

Number of children ages 5 and under _____ (free)

Total Due: \$ _____

Payment: Check # _____ (Online convenience fees: \$1.00/adult, \$0.50/child)

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 12:00 PM Lydia Circle Christmas Luncheon (Parish Hall)
- 3:00 PM Compass Christmas Party
- 7:00 PM St. Andrews Sisters rehearsal (Off site)

Wednesday, December 18

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 3:30 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group (Conference Room)
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
- 6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)

Thursday, December 19

- 1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
- 4:30 PM Personnel Committee (Pastor's Study)
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, December 20

Saturday, December 21

- 9:30 AM Choir Practice (Music Room)

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School Pre-K to Grade 5 (Tower Classroom and Chapel)
- 10:15 AM Confirmation Prep Gr 6-7 (Conf. Room)
- 11:00 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Chancel)
- 11:15 AM Nominating Committee (Pastor's Study)
- 12:00 PM Sr. High Lessons Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 PM Christmas Vespers (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 PM Choir Dinner (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut St.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
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 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