WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Prelude in E — Alexander Scriabin

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 Bethl'hem's manger stall.

***Ringing of the Bell** *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We come to prepare the way.
People: The way for Christ.
Leader: Christ's hope, Christ's peace
People: to enter our world, and to enter our hearts.
Leader: Christ promises us peace that passes all understanding.
People: We remember the wholeness of God's shalom, which touches every part of our lives with healing.
Leader: We believe in God's power to bring peace between people and within people, so we cry out together in the wilderness.
People: The kingdom of heaven has come near!

***Processional Hymn 105** People, Look East — *Besancon*

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Righteous One, we ask forgiveness
for settling for false peace, peace maintained by division and fear, instead of empathy and trust.
Teach us to be dissatisfied with anything but your true peace. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

During this silence, worshipers are asked to offer individual 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
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end, Amen, Amen.

Children's Sermon & Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

How Do We Prepare This House, Our Church, for the Coming of Jesus?
I Want to be Ready
Child of God
Joy to the World
Christ is Born
Angels We Have Heard on High
Jesus, What a Wonderful Child
(The Second Advent Candle is lit.)

Congregational Response

Come Savior, Quickly Come (Sung three times)

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

Children in Pre Kindergarten - Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes. Youth in Grades 6-7 go to Confirmation Prep following the congregational response.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 11:1-10 Pew Bible, OT pages 640-641

Second Scripture Reading Romans 15:4-13 Pew Bible, NT pages 163-164

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Dreaming Up Peace Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Anthem Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning Spiritual

***Affirmation of Faith** Excerpt from *The Confession of 1967*

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of our life. It is the will of God that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. 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 Noël Étranger — Louis-Claude Daquin

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light, and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

***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**

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives.

***Hymn 104** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You — *Valet Will Ich Dir Geben*

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming — Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

***Voluntary** People, Look East — Christina Langlois

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

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. Sarah A. Bishop and Paislee Reich
- **Advent Candle Lighter:** Eva Volle
- **Acolytes**: Harper and Reese Huston
- **Greeter:** Jess Weitzel
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher). Christian Kennerly, Todd Lafrenz, Claudia Nash, Bill Schlosser, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, Cathy Yokley
- **Safety Team:** Charlie King
- **Music:** The Advent Singers: Harper and Reese Huston, Maria Lafrenz, and Lily Swanson. The Westminster Children's Choir: Benji, Juniper, and Sam Berkowitz, Everard Carlson-Eastvold, Teddy Ekstedt, Chandler and Paislee Reich, Eva and Mae Volle, Meleah Berkowitz, Director. The Westminster Choir, Bob Blythe, drums, and Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Videographers:** Bill Deemer, Krista Steller
- **Liturgy** written by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. *Caregiver: Kara Milward, Linda Caupert*
- **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 following the Congregational Response.
  - **Preschool - Ages 3-5 (Preschool Classroom lower level)** *Teachers: Sarah and Abigail Eldridge*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Chelsea Ekstedt*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Cathy Brower*
  - **Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** Students in Grade 6-7 will study Session 9: "Jericho". *Teachers: Meridith Bryans and Cara Barnett*
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
  - **Parish Nurse Ministries (Church Office)** Marilyn Rigney will take blood pressures and provide health advice.
  - **Advent Celebration (Parish Hall)** All are invited following worship to create ornaments, sing carols, and enjoy festive refreshments.
- **12:00 Noon Junior and Senior High Youth Shopping for Contact Ministries** Youth gather in West Narthex for a shopping trip to purchase gifts for local youth using money raised at Spud Bake.

THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO
WESTMINSTER MINISTRIES ARE WELCOME TO SCAN HERE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about us 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 Westminster, speak with one of the pastors.

2026 STEWARDSHIP Pledges for 2026 are still being accepted. Please complete the pledge card and place it in the offering plate today. Pledges can also be made online at www.wpcspi.org.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS Members and friends are invited to make a suggested donation of $25 to support Westminster's decorations funds, which includes the poinsettias and/or music fund. You may send a check or go online at www.wpcspi.org to donate. Please submit your donations with your desired wording and dedications by **Monday, December 15**.

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

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING is an annual special collection of the Presbyterian Church. It supports church workers and their families in times of need and funds scholarships for racial/ethnic students. 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. **PREPARE THE WAY** is this year's theme.

CONTACT MINISTRIES ADOPT A FAMILY This Christmas season, Westminster has again sponsored the nine families living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter, providing Christmas gifts as they work their way toward independence. **All gifts are due at the church today, December 7.**

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR will present music and readings to interpret and accompany the lighting of the Advent wreath, chancel swag, and Chrismon tree as a part of the Advent Celebration in today's worship service. The Children's Choir will have rehearsals on Wednesdays, December 10 and 17 as they prepare music for the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet for a Christmas Gathering on **December 8 at Noon** at Mario's Pizza (3073 E. Clear Lake Ave). Please RSVP to Eleanor VanDeventer.

JOINT SESSION AND DEACON MEETING will be **Wednesday, December 10 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. All currently serving and new elders and deacons are invited.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST meets **Thursday, December 11 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Dan Pietroburgo, Managing Director of Investments with Pietroburgo Edward's Wealth Management, will be our speaker. Please RSVP on our website or contact the church office. All ages of friends and church goers are welcome to join the group.

ADULT ED FORUM ON DECEMBER 14: REGIONAL MINISTRY IN ASHEVILLE Join Westminster youth and Rev. Bishop as they share their summer mission journey to Asheville in more detail.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet **Tuesday, December 16 at Noon** for a Christmas luncheon in Parish Hall. Please RSVP to Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

Advent at Westminster

Second Sunday of Advent: December 7

An Introit will be presented by our Advent Singers.

Children's Choir sings during 10:00 a.m. service

Advent Celebration at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall

Third Sunday of Advent: December 14

Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 21

Westminster's Chancel and West Narthex will be filled with red poinsettias. Following the service the Board of Deacons will deliver the poinsettias to bereaved members.

Sunday School Procession during 10:00 a.m. service

Christmas Vespers at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Westminster's Christmas Vespers program will be presented by Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's Sisters, with Mu-Chi Hseih, Violin, and Dale Rogers, Organist. Music of Sir John Rutter will be featured.

Christmas Eve at Westminster ~ Wednesday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant The Confirmation youth and Bridges children will narrate the Christmas story in a costumed pageant with special music by the Children's Choir. All children participate as shepherds, angels, and lambs.

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Annual Christmas Eve Dinner Hosted by the Board of Deacons Don't miss this special event which includes traditional Christmas dinner. Adults are $26.50, children 6-12 are $15.00 and children ages 5 and under are no charge. Reservations and payment must be made no later than Friday, December 19. Please send your payment and number attending to the Church Office or visit the reservation link on our website or sign up in the West Narthex following today.

7:30 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. Marshall will give the meditation. In ancient times, the bells of churches were silenced during the season of Advent. Yet, at the singing of the angel's song, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" the bells were rung. We follow that tradition by ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, December 8

1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:00 PM Safety Team Meeting Zoom Call
5:30 PM WCP Holiday Party (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, December 9

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
7:00 PM SHS Winter Concert (Sanctuary)
7:30 PM St. Andrews Sisters (Off site)

Wednesday, December 10

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Conference Room)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:30 PM Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons (Parish Hall)

Thursday, December 11

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Friday, December 12

1:00 PM Helping Hands Lunch Prep (Kitchen)

Saturday, December 13

Sunday, December 14

Holy Communion

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5) (3rd Floor Chapel and Classroom)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Off site)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Anne Marshall
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

Dr. Aaron Berkowitz
Education Coordinator

Mary A. Ray
Director for Youth

Meleah Berkowitz
Director for Children's Ministry, Westminster Cooperative Preschool and Music Assistant

Keri Tate, Becky Nika
Cooperative Preschool Teachers

Kara Milward, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

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, Francis Gyebi, Jerry McCullum
Part-time Custodians