



The Order of Worship
December 10, 2023
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

Welcome to Westminster Church! We are a family of Christians gathered from many traditions and neighborhoods, worshiping here with the goal of connecting faith and life. If you are a visitor, we pray you will feel welcome and blessed by our worship. We invite you to consider making Westminster your church home. Please let us have your contact information so we may be in touch. When the prelude begins let us quietly prepare for the worship of almighty God.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRELUDE (9:00) Partitas X Georg Böhm
(from the chorale partita on Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele)
O My Soul, Be Glad and Joyful
(11:00) Variations on “Veni Emmanuel” Peter Van Eenam
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Handbell Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(9:00) Chuck Wright and Stephanie Lynch-Wright
(11:00) Ken Hughes and Casey Page

CALL TO WORSHIP** Ibbie Muntz

One: How does a weary world rejoice?
All: We sing songs of hope.
We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.
We tell the stories of what could be.
We listen for God’s word.
We resist the temptation to give up or give in.
We remember John the Baptist’s call to repentance.
We gather for worship.
We hope. We hope. Against all odds, we hope.

One: Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making. Let us worship God.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 87 (Glory to God hymnal) Comfort, Comfort Now My People
Genevan 42

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: God of laughter,
God of open front doors
and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.
All: We move through this world
waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.
One: Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.
All: We lean into fear.
We lean into isolation.
One: Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.
All: Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,
and teach us how to throw open our doors.
Show us how to find joy in connection.
Amen.

*KYRIE ELEISON Healey Willan

Upper voices

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lower voices

Lord,_____ have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on____ us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

All

on_____ us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord,_____ have mer - cy up - on us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE Gloria Patri No. 581 (Glory to God hymnal) Henry W. Greatorex

TO EXPERIENCE GOD’S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40:1-11
A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00) Ellen Anderson
Children age 4 through 3rd grade are invited to go downstairs for Children’s Church.

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1-8
SERMON “Love is Born of Restiveness” Rev. Dr. Richard Coble
*HYMN NO. 96 (Glory to God hymnal) On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry
Winchester New

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)**

We believe that faith is a journey
marked by rituals and rhythms.
We come to worship.
We confess our sins.
We pass the peace.
We offer grace.
We hear the Word.
We baptize children.
We break the bread.
And we tell the story of a loving God.
And through these sacred rituals, we are reminded:
we are not alone.
God is near,
and we have work to do.
May this belief
shape the rhythm of our lives. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ... The Lord’s Prayer

During the Prayers of the People there will be a time of silence. You are invited to use this time for personal reflection, confession, thanksgiving, and 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.

THE OFFERING

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle. Your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(9:00) Variations on “Veni Emmanuel” Peter Van Eenam
(11:00) O Come, Emmanuel Peter Paul Olejar
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 you, O Israel!

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s deep shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. (Refrain)
Latin antiphons, c. 8th and 12th centuries, and Henry Sloane Coffin
Jan Barber, Katherine Harmon, Cindy Pearman,
and Cindy Serbin, Handbells

*AT THE PRESENTATION Doxology No. 608 (Glory to God hymnal) Tallis’ Canon
(Sung to the tune of Hymn No. 748 (Glory to God hymnal))
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

*HYMN NO. 357 (Glory to God hymnal) The Days Are Surely Coming Llangloffan

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn No. 105 (Glory to God hymnal) People, Look East Besançon
(Verse 2)

*POSTLUDE Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele Johann Ludwig Krebs

*Please stand in Body or Spirit

**Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation Adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Barbara Froula and Ed Babelay
CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER: All CARE Teams
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS/ HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES: (11:00) Anna and Charlotte Van Beke

GREETERS: (11:00) Rick and Janice Rawe

LITURGIST: Ibbie Muntz

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: (9:00) Handbell Choir; (11:00) Chancel and Handbell Choirs

SHEPHERD’S TEAM: William Gibbons

SENIOR USHER: Ken Hughes

USHERS: (9:00) Suzanne Graham and Stephanie Lynch-Wright
(11:00) Ken Hughes, Janet Drumm, Jan Gross, Rob and Susan McKeehan

OUR THANKS to Bettie and Jim Mason for their notes related to this morning’s offertory anthem at the 11:00 service and the music for handbells: “The “Great ‘O’ Antiphons” are part of an ancient spiritual exercise for the last days of Advent. For some 1500 years, these antiphons have accompanied the Magnificat during worship in the days before Christmas, examining some of the attributes of the King who is coming and is addressed directly in the last antiphon, “O Emmanuel.” While they originated in the Roman Catholic Church, they have continued as a form of devotion in the Anglican, Lutheran, and also Presbyterian traditions. We know them as the inspiration of the Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

MANY THANKS to Jan Barber, Katherine Harmon, Cindy Pearman, and Cindy Serbin for their accompaniment of the Chancel Choir’s offertory anthem this morning.

THE CRAFTING AND THEOLOGY AND WINE & THE WORD CHRISTMAS PARTY hosted by the Gilberts, December 16 at 6pm. Please RSVP by Monday, December 11 to Amy Gilbert, amyccompton@hotmail.com

MEN’S BOOK CLUB will meet Thursday, December 14 at 9:30am. They will be discussing *Good Omens* written as a collaboration between the English authors Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman.

FISH and HEIFER Gift Cards will continue to be available through the Advent Season. Come by the church office any time to purchase gifts for your loved ones while donating to two amazing ministries! A win-win gift!

<p>ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am</p> <p>Adult Bible Study: The Bible Study class is reading and discussing every part of the Gospel of John. We compare many different translations to learn what the words meant to the followers of Jesus and to us now. (McKinnon Hall)</p> <p>Feasting on the Word: Studies scriptures used in Worship (LKH)</p> <p>The Wired Word: Discusses current events with a theological eye (Library)</p>
<p>CHILDREN’S OFFERINGS AT WESTMINSTER</p> <p>During 9:00 Hour - Nursery available for children 0-5 years old</p> <p>During 10:00 Hour - Nursery available for children ages 0-3 years old</p> <p>Sunday School for kindergarten through 5th grade</p> <p>During 11:00 Hour - Nursery available for children 0-3 years old</p> <p>Children’s Church for children preschool through 3rd grade</p> <p><i>Children will be walked to Children’s Church classes following the Time with Children during the 11:00 worship service.</i></p>
<p>YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>WAMS (Westminsters Awesome Middle Schoolers) - 6th & 7th Grades WAMS room.</p> <p>Confirmation Class - 8th & 9th Grades in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.</p> <p>SHOW (Senior Highs of Westminster) - 10th-12th Grades in the SHOW room.</p>

CHRISTMAS CRAFT NIGHT AND CAROL SINGING December 13 at 5:30pm, the three C’s: Catering, Crafts, and Caroling!! Westminster’s Connect Team is providing a meal from Olive Garden, Sophia is organizing awesome crafts to make, and Ibbie is leading us in a carol sing (featuring some musical guests: Good Treble Quartet, Mary Ann Fennell’s studio ensemble, and more!) Choose your own adventure- there’s something for everyone!!

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST will meet Thursday, December 14 at 8:30am in the McKinnon Room. Our speaker will be Roger Stoller who will present a program entitled “Bible Translation in the 21st Century: Why & How.” Buz Johnson will provide the breakfast. Come join the group on Thursday and enjoy an interesting presentation as well as a delicious breakfast.

DECEMBER HIKE Walker Sisters Cabin - Our December hike to the Walker Sisters Cabin will occur on Saturday, December 16. Hike distance is 5.2 miles round-trip and is family friendly. (There will be the option of turning around at the Little Greenbrier School which is 1.4 miles round trip). Please confirm your participation with Cindy Spangler, spangler2@gmail.com. Happy Trails!

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP MEETING The West Hills WPC neighborhood group is planning to meet on Saturday, December 16, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Buckingham Clubhouse, 7303 Manderly Way, Knoxville, TN 37909. Please bring a finger-food type appetizer to share and we will provide the drinks and paper products. Ibbie Muntz play some Christmas music on the piano to help set a festive mood. Please RSVP Anne Crais at 865-360-9008 or Gail Bruner at 865-363-6222.

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST! Sunday, December 17 from 10-10:45am Come enjoy a fabulous pot-luck breakfast with your Westminster family! Sign-up to bring a casserole/main dish, fruit/sweet, meat, bread, or other, please send an email to sophia@wpcknox.org with what you would like to bring or the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Schilling Gallery.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING The Christmas Joy Offering opens doors of opportunity for the leaders who are shaped and supported through our gifts - doors that lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping Communities of Color. Our gifts open doors that lead to relief for church workers and their families when emergency needs arise. You will find offertory envelopes in the Narthex.

LEADERSHIP WEBINAR Recently Gradye Parsons participated in a leadership webinar sponsored by the national PCUSA. The topic was Leading by Listening which Kathy probably thought was ironic. <https://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/leadership-formation-ruling-elders-deacons/year-leader-formation-webinars/>

A GRACE FILLED CHRISTMAS There are a lot of activities and celebrations at Christmas in the church and in our homes. Families gather, children come home from college and traditions are relived. But it is hard to not be mindful of the parts of our families that aren’t here anymore or friends that have moved away. Our friends at the Church of the Ascension have invited us to join them on December 13 at 5:30 in their chapel for a service entitled “A Grace Filled Christmas.” Park in the lot nearest Northshore you can walk straight into the chapel doors. The service is about an hour so you have time to be at WPC for the Craft Night.

*There is balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the wounded Soul*

FINAL 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS as well as any 2024 prepaid offerings need to be in the church office by December 31. All offerings received by December 31 will be included in your 2023 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel.

STEWARDSHIP Many thanks to all of you who have come together to offer your time, talents, and financial resources to the glory of God through the ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church. We have received 155 pledges so far from our 255 family units for a total of \$809,108.00. We need EVERYONE’S participation in order to reach our asking budget of \$1,100,284.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where Faith and Life Connect"

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Rev. Dr. Richard Coble, Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Grady Parsons, Parish Associate

Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus

Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster

Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries, CLP

Sophia Manrod, Director of Children’s Ministries

Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Joanna Warren, Administrative Assistant

Linda Judge McRae, Parish Nurse

Debbie Bendy, Abbey Editor

Arthur Collins, Worship Tech

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 10

9:00am - Sanctuary Worship

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Sanctuary Worship

12:10pm - Choristers

6:00pm - Christmas Play

Monday, December 11

4:30pm - Rainbow Choir

5:15pm - Young Musicians

Tuesday, December 12

10:00am - Staff Meeting

5:00pm - Boys’ and Girls’ Choirs

Wednesday, December 13

4:30pm - Companions in Prayer Room

5:30pm - “Grace Filled Christmas” at Ascension

5:30pm - Christmas Dinner, Craft night and Carol Singing

7:45pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 14

8:30am - Men’s Fellowship Breakfast

9:30am - Men’s Book Club

10:00am - Art Group

1:00pm - FISH

4:30pm - Brass Choir

6:00pm - Recorder Ensemble

7:00pm - Handbells

Friday, December 15

4:00pm - Boys’ and Girls’ Choirs

Saturday, December 16

8:30am - WPC hike to Walker Sisters Cabin

6:00pm - Crafting Theology and Wine and the Word Christmas Party

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER!! Westminster’s children and youth are excited to share their talents with everyone TODAY at 6:00 p.m. They will present The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. Our talented young actors and directors will share the “real” story of Christmas in this hilarious and poignant story of the troublesome Herdman children hearing it for the first time. What a gift! We hope you can join us!

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ADVENT FLORAL DONATIONS are being accepted. There is no set amount for each dedication. A list of donations will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins as well as the *Abbey*. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the office.

I would like to contribute to the Flower Guild for Advent:

\$_____

In memory of/honor of (circle one):

Given by: _____
