



The Order of Worship

December 22, 2024
11:00 A.M.

FOURTH 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 Noel Étranger Louis-Claude Daquin
CALL TO WORSHIP Alyciana Applin

Leader: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

People: The time of excited anticipation of new life.

Leader: Now is the season of hope enfolding.

People: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.

Leader: Let us come before God with loving hearts and willing spirits.

People: May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

All: Rejoice! Let all the world rejoice! Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 140 Once in Royal David's City IRBY

Stanza 1: Choir Alone Stanzas 2-4: All

All Children aged 4 through 5th grade are invited to follow the procession to the front for the Time with Children.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Emily Gustafson

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE Salsbery & Yates Families

Micah 5:2-5a

Children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to go downstairs for Children's Church.

CAROL Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light ERMUNTRE DICH
Text by Johann Rist; Music by Johann Schop, Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach
Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning.
O shepherds, greet that glorious sight,
Our Lord a crib adorning. This child, this little helpless boy, shall be our confidence and joy, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ... The Lord's Prayer Richard Ward
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.

***CAROL HYMN NO. 129** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ES IST EIN' ROS'

LESSON Luke 1: 26-35; 38 Lucy Gilbert
The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CAROL The Angel Gabriel Richard Shephard
Text from *Basque Carol* para. Sabine Baring-Gould

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he thou lowly maiden Mary,
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers fore-told,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

LESSON Luke 1:39-55
Mary visits Elizabeth and sings her song of praise.

***THE MAGNIFICAT** Please see insert *Sung by All*

HOMILY Barbara Adamcik

LESSON Luke 2:1; 3-7 Daja Gary
St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

CAROL Ding, Dong Merrily Gerald Near
Ding dong, merrily on high! In heav'n the bells are ringing;
ding dong, verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.
Refrain: Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, And io, io, io, by priest and people sungen. *Refrain*

Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; may ye beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers. *Refrain*

LESSON Luke 2:8-16 Bobby Manrod
The shepherds go to the manger.

***CAROL HYMN NO. 117** While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night WINCHESTER NEW

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 In the Bleak Mid-Winter Harold Darke
Text by Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone: snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day, a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay: enough for him whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb, if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

***AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH
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**

***HYMN NO. 119** Hark! the Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Noelle Suisse Louis-Claude Daquin

*Please stand in Body or Spirit

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Kathryn Oakes and Ken Hughes
CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER: CARE Team
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS/ HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES: Caroline Anglin and Jason Birdwell

GREETERS: Darlen and William Milam

LITURGIST: Alyciana Applin, Richard Ward, Lucy Gilbert, Daja Gary, Bobby Manrod

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Chancel Choir, Treble Choir, Brass Choir, Timpani: Bob Adamcik; Children's Choir Assistant: Ruth Ann Bendy

SHEPHERD'S TEAM: Bryan and Rachel Powell

SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel

USHERS: Elizabeth and Josh Birdwell, Nancy Lowe, Tom Byerley and Ken Hughes

MUSICAL NOTE Although the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols has been popularized by the choir of King's College, Cambridge in the past century, the first service of Lessons and Carols took place in Truro Cathedral in 1880. The Bishop of Truro at that time was concerned with the number of people in pubs Christmas Eve and he desired to provide a sacred alternative. Today's service incorporates five lessons and music from a variety of countries. The prelude and postlude are French Noels by eighteenth-century composer Louis-Claude Daquin while *The Angel Gabriel* is a carol that hails from the Basque region. *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* is a German Chorale harmonized by J.S. Bach. Other carols in the service have origins in both England and America.

PRAYER LIST (Please keep the following names in your prayers this week)

Juanita Campbell, Sonja Jones, Judy and Joseph Moon, Lalla Phillips, Kitty Rasa, Doris Solomon, Vicki Chapman, Jonah McCollum, Karen and her son Brian, Anne Hector (Mary Jo Mann's niece), Janice Jennings, Salma Alami, Becky and Cathy Cagle (Gloria Borum's dear friends), Rob Elliot (Brenda Seip's brother), Rhys "Bebes" Claiborne (Julia Whipple's mother), Rev. Dan Park.

Advent and Christmas Opportunities SAVE-the Date

TODAY - Service of Lessons and Carols, 11:00am (one worship service)

TODAY - Carol Sing Along (Lunch provided by Connections Team) LKH, Noon
December 29 - 10:00am service

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY is today from 6:00-8:00pm. We're doing that Sneaky Santa gift exchange, so bring a gift to swap! (Not more than \$20 in value.) Also, we will have a meal with a special dessert!!

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 partnering with 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.

FINAL 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS 2024 contributions as well as any 2025 prepaid offerings received in the church office through December 31 will be included in your final 2024 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel (renee@wpcknox.org or 865-584-3957 ext 100.) Thank you!!!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00pm Family Oriented Service: We will have costumes in the Schilling Gallery ready for the children as we tell and enact the Christmas Story together! There will be carols. There will be a manger, shepherds, Magi, angels, and the Holy family too! Of course, all are invited! Children and youth, please arrive by 4:30pm to select your costume. We will need teenagers on hand to help direct our youngest members!

8:00pm Traditional Communion Service: This will be a traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service with the choir, a sermon, communion, and lots of beautiful music and celebration. The service will start with a medley of familiar carols as an organ prelude. The Chancel Choir will be augmented with alumni and members of the Treble Choir. They will sing David Willcocks's *Sussex Carol* along with *Coventry Carol* and other Christmas anthems.

2 Quick Notes:

- There is no childcare available for either service. We hope children of all ages will attend and participate in the 5:00pm service!
- Both services will end with singing by candlelight in the courtyard (weather permitting!).

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Rev. Gradye Parsons, Parish Associate

Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus

Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries, CLP

Dr. Edie Johnson, Music Director/Organist

Allie Brewington, Interim Director of Children's Ministries

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 22

11:00am - Service of Lessons and Carols

12:00pm - Christmas Carol Sing along and lunch

6:00pm - Youth Christmas party

Monday, December 23

7:00pm - Chancel Choir

Tuesday, December 24

5:00pm - Family Oriented Christmas Eve Service

8:00pm - Communion Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday December 25-Friday December 27

Church Office Closed

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My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

Magnificat

John Robinson, 1682-1762

1 My soul doth magni - fy the Lord, {and my spirit hath rejoiced in} God my Sav - ior.
3 For be - - - hold, from henceforth all generations shall call me bless - ed.
5 And God's mercy is on them that fear him, throughout all gener - a - tions.
7 {God hath put down} the mighty from their seat; and hath ex - alted the humble and meek.
10 {Glory be to the Fa-} ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost;

2 For he hath re - garded the lowliness of his Ser - vant
4 {For he that is} mighty hath magni-fied me, and ho - ly is his name.
6 God hath showed {strength} with God's arm; {God hath scattered} the proud in the imagi- na - tion of their hearts.
8 {God hath filled the} hungry with good . . . things; and the rich he hath sent . . . empty a-way.
9 {God remembering God's} mercy, hath holpen Is - ra - el, {as God promised to} our forefathers, seed for - ev - er.
11 {As it was in the be-} ginning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. . . . A - men.