

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
*Second Sunday in Advent*



*Guide our feet into the way of peace.*  
*Luke 1:79*

**You Are Welcome Here:**

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Westminster is a welcoming and inclusive community seeking to grow in faith and understanding and to show God's love to those among us and those around us. We pray you experience our joyful welcome and God's peaceful presence as you worship with us today.

Questions about Westminster? Just ask! Any one of us would be glad to help.

**The Sanctuary is a Place of Reverence and Worship**

In order that our worship might be meaningful to all, please enter the sanctuary reverently. The narthex or courtyard are good places to visit with friends before or after worship. Use the moments before worship to prepare your heart, mind, and body for worship, centering yourself in the space and quieting your heart. It may be helpful to listen quietly to the prelude, find the hymns we will be singing, meditate on the scriptures we will be reading.

**Children at Westminster:**

Children are an integral part of our church family. We are glad when they come to worship God with us. In our midst, children learn our rhythms of worship, become knit into our fellowship, and teach us as surely as we are teaching them.

Please take children to the restroom before worship. If you need to leave the sanctuary during worship, please use the exits at the rear of the sanctuary. Please avoid walking through the courtyard during worship. We ask that families sit together during worship. Please do not let any child move unaccompanied through the building.

After the "Time with All God's Children", children first grade and up (by age or development) are encouraged to remain in worship. Children in kindergarten and younger (by age or development) may depart with our caregivers and teachers for Children's Sunday School or remain with their parents for worship if they choose.

If this is your first visit to Westminster, you are welcome to accompany your child to Children's Sunday School so that you can meet our caregivers and help settle your child in. Children's worship packets are available in the narthex. As is a brochure regarding our Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult protection policy.



**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**A Service for the Worship of God**  
*Second Sunday of Advent*  
December 8, 2024

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Elliot Gargus

**Advent Candle Lighting**

Len Bornemann and John Bacot

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Isaiah 52:7-9

**Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;  
together they shout for joy,  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.**

Break forth; shout together for joy,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

Today we light the second candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace.

Guide our feet, LORD in the way of peace.

**How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace.**

**\*Hymn #82**

**"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

HYFRODOL

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744  
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL  
8.7.8.7.D  
(alternate tune: STUTT GART, 83)

## Call to Confession

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
who looks favorably on his people and redeems them.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Luke 1:68

## Prayer of Confession

**Prince of Peace, we confess that we are not at peace with ourselves, our neighbors, or with you. We are restless and unsettled. We have concerns. We are tired but we cannot sleep. Our efforts don't seem to be bearing much fruit. The gap between heaven and earth, between us and them, between what we are and what we hope to be, seems so wide. We are scanning the horizon for the messengers that bring good news.**

*We pause for personal prayer.*

**By your mercy, Lord, save us from despair. But let us not ever be at peace with injustice or easy answers. Send your Spirit to encourage us. Light the way to the place where your peace reigns. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high breaks upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Know that by God's tender mercy, we are redeemed.  
Be at peace. Walk in the way of peace. **Amen**

## \*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.*

## \*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

## Time for All God's Children

### Prayer of Illumination

### Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Malachi 3:1-4

**3** See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; **3** he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. **4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

### Gospel Reading

Luke 1:68-79

<sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.  
<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his child David,

<sup>70</sup> as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
<sup>71</sup> that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.  
<sup>72</sup> Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors  
 and has remembered his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
 to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
 might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness  
 in his presence all our days.  
<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,  
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup> to give his people knowledge of salvation  
 by the forgiveness of their sins.  
<sup>78</sup> Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
 the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

This is the Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Mighty Savior”

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
 for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.  
 He has raised up a mighty savior for us.  
 Luke 1:68-69*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s 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.**

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Mary’s Little Boy Child”  
*David Bell and Anne-Miller Hyatt*

Hairston

\*Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his 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.**

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

# He Came Down

# 137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

*Leader:* Why did he come?

*Additional stanzas:*

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

TEXT: Cameroon song  
 MUSIC: Cameroon melody; transcr. and arr. John L. Bell, 1986  
 Music Arr. © 1986 WGRC, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

## **\*Charge and Benediction**

### **Postlude**

[\*All stand as they are able.]

### **Serving Today at Westminster**

Organ:	Larry Dozier
Vocalist:	Heather McDonald
Liturgist:	Elliot Gargus
Host:	The Watkins Family
Sunday Study:	Claire Kuhl
Children's Sunday School:	Kathleen Watkins

### **Today at Westminster**

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Choir Room ( <i>Adults</i> )
Sunday School	9:00 am	Children's Wing ( <i>Children and Youth</i> )
Worship	10:00 am	Sanctuary
Children's Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children's Wing
Session Meeting	1:00pm	Holloway Home

### **This Week at Westminster**

Office Hours:	9:00 – 1:00	Monday - Thursday
BEMA Bible Discussion	6:00 pm	Monday Joe Gettys Room
Books & Brown Bags	6:00 pm	Wednesday Joe Gettys Room

### **Next Sunday, December 15, The Third Sunday in Advent**

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Choir Room ( <i>Adults</i> )
Sunday School	9:00 am	Children's Wing ( <i>Children and Youth</i> )
Worship	10:00 am	Sanctuary
Children's Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children's Wing
Sunday Sustenance	11:00 am	Fellowship Hall



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Study Opportunities at Westminster

**Sunday Adult Study:** This Sunday we start our Advent Series: “Incarnation,” by Adam Hamilton. Claire Kuhl will lead our discussion of Chapter 2: Savior & Our Need for Saving.

**Books and Brown Bags** will gather at 6:00 in the Joe Gettys room to continue our discussion of “Life Together,” by Deitrich Bonhoeffer.

**Upper Zoom Prayer Room:** Please send any prayer request updates to the church office. The community gathers on Zoom for prayers Monday at noon. Prayer list and link are sent out Monday morning.

**Calling All Angels!** Once again, Westminster is adopting a Meg’s House family to ensure they feel the love of Christ during this special season. It’s easy to be an angel! Select an ornament from the angel tree in the narthex, shop to fulfill the wish noted on the angel, and then deliver the wrapped gifts back to our narthex on Sunday, December 15. Be sure to note on the package which family member should receive that gift. Make someone’s Christmas merry, indeed!

**Place Your Order for Christmas Poinsettias!** If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the church during Christmas, please fill out the **pink** form which can be found in the narthex and online at <https://www.wpcgnwd.org/>. The cost of each poinsettia is \$20.00. Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on December 15<sup>th</sup> and may be picked up after Christmas Day or from the church office the following week. **The deadline to place orders is Monday, December 9, 2024!**



**Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service:** Christmas can be a painful time for some.

It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. For this reason, Westminster offers a special “Longest Night” or “Blue Christmas” service on December 18 at 6:00pm.

Come and join us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God’s presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle, and that God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome to attend. The short service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** Join us on Tuesday, December 24 at 5:30pm for a special Christmas Eve service. Come celebrate the birth of our Savior with a message of joy and peace as we light the Christ candle on the Advent wreath. We look forward to worshipping together!



“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” *Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain*

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## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*An Inclusive Community of Faith*

*United by Our Belief in and Commitment to Jesus Christ*

Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. – Noon    Office Phone: 864.229.3595

[www.wpcgnwd.org](http://www.wpcgnwd.org)    [wpcgwd1@gmail.com](mailto:wpcgwd1@gmail.com)

Clerk of Session

Steve Kuhl

Treasurer

Len Bornemann

Office Manager

Charleston Warner

### RULING ELDERS

Class of 2024

Kathy Nave Felder

Claire Kuhl

Class of 2025

Tina Corley

Rob Graves

Class of 2026

Richard Wilson

Laine Horowitz

**Rev. Caroline Vinson Dennis, pastor**

317.777.1487

***Sunday Study 9:00 a.m.    Church Service: 10:00 a.m.***

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