



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Preparation for **Worship**

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.”
Isaiah 9:7

Gathering and Preparing for **God’s Word**

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a Randall & Kate Fowler and Milo
11:15a Stan & Tricia Pendergrass

Processional Hymn No. 140 “Once in Royal David’s City” IRBY
Stanza 1 – Solo: Lillian Threatt Stanza 2 – Choir only
* Stanzas 3 & 4 – Congregation

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

Offering

Offertory "People, Look East" arr. Tucker
*Doxology
*Prayer of Dedication

Children in K5–first grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

61st ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

At the conclusion of each reading, the reader will say, “*The Word of the Lord.*”
The congregation will respond by saying, “***Thanks be to God.***”

Call to Prayer "A Great and Mighty Wonder" Praetorius

Bidding Prayer

First Lesson - *God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.* Genesis 3:8-15
Reader – Cooper Ray
Carol – “Lo, How a Rose” arr. Culloton

Second Lesson - *God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.* Genesis 22:15-18
Reader – Anna Sanders
* Congregational Carol No. 133 ADESTE FIDELIS
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Third Lesson - *The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.* Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Reader – Mac Gilliland
Carol – "Glory Hallelujah to the Newborn King" Butler

Fourth Lesson - *The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.* Isaiah 11:1-9

Reader – Paige Cizon
Carol – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Pederson

Fifth Lesson - *The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.* Luke 1:26-33, 38

Reader – Bob Runnion
Carol – “Fum, Fum, Fum!” Wilberg

Sixth Lesson - *Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.* Luke 2:1-7

Reader – Becky Waldrep
* Congregational Carol No. 123 CAROL
"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Seventh Lesson - *Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.* Luke 2:8-16

Reader – Carl Muller
Carol – "Today in Bethlehem Hear I" Cox

Eighth Lesson - *Magi from the East are led by the star to Jesus.* Matthew 2:1-11

Reader – Nancy White
Carol – "The First Noel" arr. Forrest

* Ninth Lesson - *John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.* John 1:1-5, 14

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

* Congregational Carol No. 134 ANTIOCH
“Joy to the World”

* Charge & Benediction
* Choral Response “O Holy Child of Bethlehem” Traditional
* Postlude Flourish on *Joy to the World* arr. Limbaugh

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*
Mark Kemp, *Music Director*
Nancy Smith, *organist*
Westminster Sanctuary Choir
Rosemary Hughes, *piccolo*
Craig King, Jason Ray, *trumpets*;
Mark Britt, *trombone*; Connor Lynn, *tuba*
Brandon Coker (9a & 11:15a), *head usher*
Keith Stevenson, Kevin Lancaster, Susan Jones,
Jeff Beck, Scott Clark, (9a), *greeters*
Ben Edwards, Becky Warth, Lisa Mangione,
Keith Stevenson, Toni Paylor (11:15a), *greeters*

WORSHIP NOTES

CAROL "Lo, How A Rose"

The carol "Lo, How a Rose" was made possible in part by a gift in memory of the Reverend Vernon Miller by his family.

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

During worship, children in K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children’s Church. Parents can pick their children up in the Children’s Church room across from the library following worship.

CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER

Looking for ways to be involved? Please complete a Connection Card from the Ritual of Friendship pad and place it in the offering plate to express interest or sign up for an opportunity.

WELCOME TO WPC!

Please fill out a name tag and find more information about WPC at the Welcome Table in the Atrium. First time visitors are also invited to take home a WPC mug.

We Remember in Prayer

Jennifer Shurley on the death of her mother, Anne Boroughs, in Greenville – 12/7/2021.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to a Christmas season offering. Fifty percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports the eight Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council. Joy Gift Christmas Offering envelopes are available in the Ritual of Friendship.

FILL THE FOOD PANTRY

In this season of abundance, practice generosity by donating the following items to the United Ministries food pantry: canned fruit and vegetables, soups, pastas, canned meat, peanut butter, and powdered milk. Items may be left in the marked wall cabinets in the Friendship Court.

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, December 13, we have received \$1,996,937 in pledges toward our 2022 budget goal of \$2,520,968.
For your convenience, you may pledge via our website at wpc-online.org/pledge-today, you may mail in your pledge, or send your pledge by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens, at sherri@wpc-online.org.



THE 2021 WESTMINSTER INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

During the Sunday School hour on December 19, you’re invited to the International Christmas Festival, a churchwide event! All ages can explore traditions from various countries as we prepare our hearts this Advent. Visit the different countries in classrooms to learn about the origins of some of your favorite traditions and how people around the world celebrate the coming of the Christ child. There will also be an alternative gift market with gift ideas from local mission partners and fair trade items from around the world. There are also lots of ways to give your time to help make this event a success! If you’re interested in helping with this event, learn more and sign up using the link on our website.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 9, 2022, immediately following the 11:15 a.m. worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is threefold:

- a) To vote on the proposed terms of call for 2022 for our pastoral staff;
- b) To receive the 2022 operating budget;
- c) To elect 12 elders (Class of 2025) to the Session and 1 trustee.

The proposed slate being presented by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

- Elders: Jacob Barker, Marian Carpenter, Lindsey Donlan, Carroll Farmer, Zach Freeman, Susan Grier, Nikki Grumbine, Bill Holt, Ginny Reed, Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen, Parks Workman
- Trustee: Sue Inman, Class of 2027

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLES

Tuesday, December 21
Circle #7, at the home of Gaye Sprague (10 Grey St., 29605) at 6p. Beth Messick, Executive Director for Jasmine Kitchen, will speak on their mission. Catered meal \$10/pp. Circle members are asked to bring one: appetizer, dessert, or beverage. No Bible study lesson in December. RSVP to Gaye Sprague (gayesprague@cs.com). Circle Chair: Talitha Allen (bewt29617@bellsouth.net).

FINANCIAL MINISTRY
2021 BUDGET UPDATE

2021 Pledges	\$2,329,470
Amount Received	\$1,941,380
Pledges Outstanding	(\$388,090)

Our auditing firm has informed us that we must close our books on December 31. Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2021 statement in by December 31, 2021. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners. Thank you.

RETIREMENT GIVING

For those 70 and 1/2 years of age or older, you can make a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Though you will not get a charitable deduction, the withdrawal can serve as your required minimum distribution. The money will not be taxed and will not count toward your adjusted gross income. If you have any questions, please contact Sherri Owens, the church’s Financial Secretary.

THE HARBINGER
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 19 – 26, 2021

Sunday, December 19	
Fourth Sunday of Advent	
9:00a	The 61st Annual Service of Lessons & Carols
10:00	International Christmas Festival
11:15	The 61st Annual Service of Lessons & Carols

Monday, December 20	
2:00p	Youth Open Gym

Tuesday, December 21	
12:00p	Al-Anon Meeting
6:30	Circle #7

Friday, December 24	
3:00p	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
5:00	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 26	
First Sunday after Christmas	
11:15a	One Worship Service

Advent & Christmas at Westminster

December 19	
Fourth Sunday of Advent	
The 61st Annual Service of Lessons & Carols	
9 & 11:15a	(Sanctuary)

The 2021 International Christmas Festival	
10a	(the SS hour)

December 24	
Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship	
3p, 5p, 7p	(Sanctuary)
(overflow in the Atrium and Fellowship Hall)	

December 26	
One Worship Service	
11:15a	(Sanctuary)

the HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Sarah Matthews

This week’s scripture comes from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah has been called the “fifth gospel” by many in the way that it preaches the Advent and Christmas gospel. While many chapters in this book detail the terror of sin and injustice, this chapter emerges as a light. The prophet Isaiah offers resolute hope in the coming of the messiah and his peaceable kingdom. Just the opening of the chapter alone offers a visual of hope and new life. “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse, from his roots a branch will bear fruit.” Life emerging from death, such a lasting and iconic message to start out our passage.

The next few verses of chapter 11 begin to discuss what type of person this promised messiah will be. The messiah will be someone who is wise and understanding, powerful, and advocates for the poor. All of the promises made to Israel will be fulfilled in a human being that embodies Israel’s values and traditions. Not only will the messiah be a mere human embodying these many values, but the harmony that will ensue is unprecedented. The meek will be advocated for, the wicked persecuted, and enemies will live in harmony. What a remarkable reign to live in.

But where does this existence where violence ends and harmony ensues exist? How do we get to Isaiah’s peaceful kingdom? The writers of the Bible did not pretend that pain did not exist then, nor can we deny it today. But the message that Isaiah was sending the people of Jesus’ time and to us now is a vision of who God is and where God is taking his people. So let’s unite together as God’s children and anticipate this kingdom. Come in faith because it is God’s promise. Choose to live now in the freedom of God’s promise.

The past year has taught us that the world is compromised. Take courage and invite God’s promise to take hold into your life in the present. Cling to a new vision of creation where we care for one another and love each other. The kingdom told to us by Isaiah can be ours - present and future. The messiah is coming. The messiah is here, friends - hallelujah!

2021 Poinsettias continued

Liz McClenaghan
in memory of **Bill Ellis**

Blair & Jon Miller and family
in memory of **Paul Miller**

Blair & Jon Miller and family
in memory of **Hazel Austin**

Stephanie & Rob Morgan
in memory of **Robert Luce**

Stephanie & Rob Morgan
in honor of **Mary Kathleen Duncan**

Russ & Leslie Nuttall and Emily
in memory of **Carl Nuttall**

James & Anna Nuttall and Elli Grace
in memory of **Carl Nuttall**

Jason, Elizabeth, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in memory of **Adam Carlisle Bean**

Jason, Elizabeth, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in memory of **Creighton Edwards Likes, Jr.**

Jason, Elizabeth, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in memory of **Judy Burton**

Jason, Elizabeth, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in honor of **Lud & Jean Weaver**

Jason, Elizabeth, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in honor of **Barbara Stoop**

Jason, Elizabeth, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in honor of **Mary Kathleen Duncan**

Jason, Elizabeth, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in honor of **The Westminster Staff**

Bryant, Cara, Anna, Claire, and Charlie Puntch
in memory of **Bubba Puntch**
and in honor of **Kathy Puntch**

Bryant, Cara, Anna, Claire, and Charlie Puntch
in honor of **Michael & Ann Blanton**

Kathy Puntch, Bryant, Cara, Anna, Claire, and Charlie Puntch,
Emily, Travis, Emma Kate, Hayes, and Reece Hudson
in memory of **Bubba Puntch**

2021 Heritage Lecture Fund continued

Kay Kelly
in memory of **Peggy Phillips**
and in honor of **Hal Phillips**

Margaret Rich
in honor of **Circle 5, Kelly Moorhead,
Libby & Meg Holleman, and Charles Gentry**

Gaye & Joel Sprague
in memory of **Ben Sprague**

Gaye & Joel Sprague
in memory of **Marian Sprague**

Buffie Taylor
in honor of **JustFaith Group Leaders,
Bill Holt and Meg McKnight**

Musette Stern, Amanda & Frank Stern,
and Allie & Matt Schroth
in memory of **Frank & Musette Williams**

2021 Endowment Fund

In both facilities and ministry, we are surrounded by a great
cloud of witnesses, those who have gone ahead of us,
and with their gifts of time, talent, and treasure
have provided for our continual growth and maintenance of our facility.

John Elingburg
in memory of **Joyce Kemp**

Ingrid Erwin
in memory of **her father, Frank Blackwelder
and her sister, Julie Blackwelder**

Mike & Ellen Hall
in memory of **Edna & Elmer Johnson,
Martha & Floyd Hall,
Patsy Taylor, and Peggy Phillips**

Lydia Kellett
in memory of **Bill Kellett**

Kay Kelly
in memory of **her parents, Pat & Don Taylor**

McCrae and Sadie Mattice
in memory of **Susu, Rip Harris, and Phil Cox**

Anne Nuttall
in memory of **Carl Nuttall**

Margaret Paylor
in memory of **John Hill Paylor, Jr.**
and in honor of **her four children, eight grandchildren,
and three great-grandchildren**

2021 Poinsettias

The beautiful poinsettias in the sanctuary
have been given by the following:

Kathryn Algary
in honor of **Amanda Hill**

Kathryn Algary
in honor of **Gary Hill**

Kathryn Algary
in honor of **Henry, Garrison, and John Hill**

Talitha, Bill, Emily, and William Allen
in memory of **Jimmy L. Rogers**

Talitha, Bill, Emily, and William Allen
in memory of **William K. Allen**

Tony & Jean Atkins
in memory of **Bill Atkins** and
Howard & Ouida Nickles

Tony & Jean Atkins
in honor of **Clay, Collin, and Cameron**

James & Sarah Brice
in memory of **Dave Edwards**

James & Sarah Brice
in memory of **Howard Boyd**

James & Sarah Brice
in memory of **Carl Nuttall**

Duff & Margaret Bruce
in memory of **Ducky & Tom Gower**

Duff & Margaret Bruce
in memory of **Ben Sprague**

Christopher & Angie Carsten
in memory of **Gerald Keith Carter**

Christopher & Angie Carsten
in memory of **Chris Carsten, Jr.**

Katy and Spencer Cox
in memory of **their grandfather, James Phillip Cox**

Kim, Trey, Ellie, Cara, Jack, and Ben DuBose
in memory of **Bo Caraway**

Kim, Trey, Ellie, Cara, Jack, and Ben DuBose
in memory of **B.H. Caraway**

The Edwards Family
in memory of **Dave Edwards**

John Elingburg
in memory of **Joyce Kemp**

2021 Poinsettias continued

Madeline & Allen Freeman
in honor of **Becca & Bill Donohue and family**
and **Mandy & Mark Pruitt and family**

David & Elaine Golladay
in memory of **David A. Golladay, Sr.**

David & Elaine Golladay
in memory of **David & Helen Hadden**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Park & Jon McKnight**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Meg McKnight**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Mary & Stuart Jackson and family**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Gaye & Joel Sprague and family**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Cathy & Ward Stone and family**

Amy Grace
in honor of **The Giguere Family**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Thomas Tallon, Andrew Tallon, and Merritt Grace**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Dawn & Lee Lucas and family**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Cathy & Pat Grills**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Jenna & Josh Howard, Avery, Caroline, and Anna**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Ingrid Erwin**

Amy Grace
in honor of **WPC Pastors and Staff**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Josie & Russ Williams**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Mary & Ted Gentry and family**

Amy Grace
in honor of **Susan & Paul Grier**

Merritt Grace
in honor of **Joe Grace**

Merritt Grace
in honor of **Erika & Joseph Grace and Fiona**

2021 Poinsettias continued

Justin & Heather Raney and Captain
in memory of **Tim Raney and Jerry Davis**
and in honor of **Renie Raney and Barbara Davis**

Margaret Rich
in memory of **her husband, James D. Semans**

Margaret Rich
in memory of **her mother, Margaret C. Williams**

Margaret Rich
in memory of **her father, Braxton H. Williams**

Jim & Susan Robbins
in memory of **Bill & Nancy Patterson**

Carolyn Sems
in memory of **David Sems**

Andrew Tallon
in memory of **Matthew Hall Christie**

Kristin Timmerman
in memory of **her grandmother, Nancy Timmerman**

Dick & Becky Toohey
in honor of **Stan & Roz Smith**

Sam & LeAnne White
in memory of **Marge Sik**

Sam & LeAnne White
in memory of **Laurie Jeanes**

Sam & LeAnne White
in memory of **Margaret Bishop**

2021 Heritage Lecture Fund

The Heritage Lecture Series is a long-standing tradition of Westminster’s which seeks to expand the religious horizons of our community by inviting world-class lecturers to teach and preach one Sunday per year.

Jay & Noel-Carol Bitner
in memory of **Gene & Cindy Ennis, George & Rita Ennis, David & Susan Ohlson, and Rick Boryszeski**

Paul, Caroline, Charlotte, and Trixie Clark
in memory of **Catherine McCabe Dunn**

Sam & Sue Inman
in memory of **John Lile and Gini Lile Roland**

2021 Poinsettias continued

Merritt Grace
in honor of **all present and former WPC basketball coaches**

Paul & Susan Grier
in honor of **Hayward and Elizabeth Grier**

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in memory of **Dr. & Mrs. John Miller Grier**

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in honor of **Elizabeth Guritz**

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in memory of **David Guritz**

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in honor of **Westminster's Staff**

Pat & Cathy Grills
in memory of **George & Helen Grills**

Pat & Cathy Grills
in memory of **Robert & Marian Whitehill**

Brad & Amy Hawkins
in memory of **their grandparents**

Annette Hull
in memory of **Margaret Hull**

Sam & Sue Inman
in honor of **Sam IV, Jamie, Nate, Rachel & Munish**

Sam & Sue Inman
in honor of **John, Amy, Andrew, and Katherine Inman**

Jara Jones, Hunt and Meredith
in memory of **Dr. John M. Bolinger**

Jara Jones, Hunt and Meredith
in honor of **Marcella Bolinger**

Lydia Kellett
in memory of **Bill Kellett**

Brad & Sarah Lucas Family
in memory of **Brad Whitlock**

Brad & Sarah Lucas Family
in memory of **Tommy Sinn**

