

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 10, 2023 |On Demand on Facebook & YouTube|9a & 11:15a



Second Sunday of Advent

Preparation for **Worship**

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Keep our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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.**

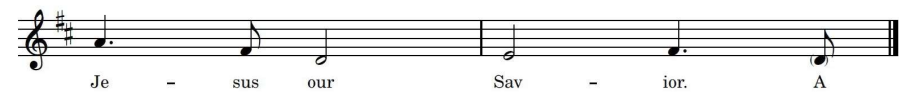
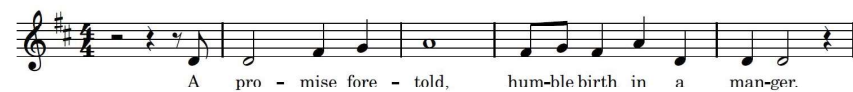
Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a *Jay & Brooke Culclasure, Dargan*
11:15a *Jim & Betsy Bloodworth, Jay and Ben*

Prelude *Lo, How a Rose* arr. Mitchell-Wallace/Head

Introit *Advent Haiku* Monsell

Please join in singing as invited; first in unison, then in Canon.



* Call to Worship *Isaiah 40:4-5*

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low.

People: **The uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.**

Leader: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together.

People: **For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy and gracious God,
we confess that we have clung too tightly
to the values of this world.**

We engage in violence when you ask us to work for peace.

**We strive for status and honor,
but you entered the world humble and in human form.**

**We have made our comfort and security top priority,
but your Son was born so that the hungry would be fed
and the vulnerable would have a home.**

Forgive us, and set us on the right path once again.

**Prepare our hearts for your promised judgment,
strip our lives of every cherished idol,
and remake us into the beloved community
that you created us to be.**

We ask in all in Christ's holy name. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

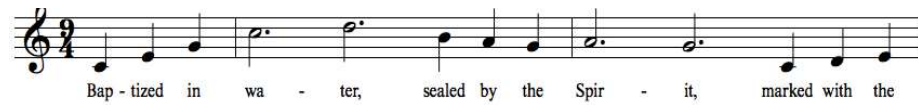
* Gloria Patri, Hymn 581 GLORIA PATRI

***Glorify 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.***

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Sacrament of Baptism 11:15a *Foster Thomas Lordo*

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN



11:15a Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *1 Samuel 2:1-10* p. 214

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 1:39-56* p. 831

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Reversals"

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith *The 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.**

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the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
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and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

Offering

Offertory 9a *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Houkom

Offertory 11:15a *Magnificat* Ferguson

* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDRETH

***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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Hymn 100 STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response 11:15a THE TREES OF THE FIELD

Hymn 80 "You Shall Go Out with Joy"

* Postlude "Suite" from *Christmas Concerto* Corelli

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

LeAnne White (11:15a), *sponsor*

David Golladay (9a), Ben Edwards (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

Chancel Choir (9a)

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Tom Vanderbloemen, *trumpet*

Judy McKenney, *guitar*

Rosemary Hughes, *flute*

Bryan Kelley (9a), Jacob Barker (11:15a), *head ushers*

Toni Paylor, Neil Shurley, Keith Stevenson,

Bill Holt, LeAnne White (9a), *greeters*

Hastings Blumer, Jay Culclasure, Ross Glidewell,

Jara Jones, Meg McKnight (11:15a), *greeters*

Salters Kelley (9a), Gretchen Cleveland, Gray Gault (11:15a), *acolytes*

Worship Notes

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices. The Women's Lounge, located down the stairs from the front office and straight down the hallway on the right, is available for any child caretaker and includes worship livestream, comfortable seating, and a changing table.

WORSHIP BAGS

Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make foundational layers of meaning for faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday. This shift to reusable items demonstrates how we value hospitality and care for creation.

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.

INTROIT TEXT

The text for the Choral Introit "Advent Haiku" was written by the WPC Youth Choirs. The music was written by our organist, Todd Monsell. It was introduced on Advent 1 in the 9a service by the Youth Choir. We continue singing it on Advent 2 and 3 as a way to draw us into worship in this reflective and anticipatory season.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Foster Thomas Lordo*, son of Ross & Emily Lordo.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, November 18, 2023, *Elizabeth Farmer* and *Philip Bryant* were united in marriage in Murrells Inlet.

In Memoriam

Nancy Peacock
(11/30/1933 - 11/28/2023)

*"I am the resurrection and the life."
- John 11:25*



Locate texts for all
choral music online.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Opportunities @WPC

ADVENT GIFT MARKET

Prepare your mind and heart for the coming of the Christ child while exploring Christmas traditions and fair trade gifts in the Christmas Gift Market. On December 10, 17, and 24, there will be a small-scale gift market in the Sanctuary Atrium following worship.

PROJECT HOST

Please consider signing up to volunteer with other members of Westminster Presbyterian Church at Project Host throughout 2024. There is availability for five church members to prepare, serve, and clean up a meal twice monthly at Project Host. This is a meaningful way to serve the community while getting to know other church members. The shifts are from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm every other Tuesday. Please contact Susan Clark at susanhunterclark@gmail.com with any questions. Signups can be found on the church website at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/>.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

FEBRUARY 23-25, 2024
WOMEN'S RETREAT AT MONTREAT
CONFERENCE CENTER

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 12

- Circle 3, at the home of Nancy White (35 Stillwood Dr) at 12:30p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

Wednesday, December 13

- Circle 6, at the home of Liz Einstein (223 Camille Ave) at 9a. Circle Chair: Sherry Tate (sherytate63@gmail.com) and Liz Eintein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com).

CHERUB CHOIR CHRISTMAS

You are invited to join your church family in celebrating the birth of Christ through scripture and song as presented by our Cherub Choir this Sunday, December 10, at 4p in the Sanctuary. A punch-and-cookies reception will follow in the Atrium.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, December 4, we have received \$2,171,926 in pledges toward our 2024 pledge goal of \$2,688,000. 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 Manager, Lynn Bennett, at lbennett@wpc-online.org.

2023 GIVING

2023 Pledges	\$2,412,817
Amount Received	\$1,851,354
Pledges Outstanding	(\$561,463)

Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2023 contribution statement either postmarked by December 30, 2023, you can hand deliver to the Church office on or before December 29, 2023. You can also place your offering in the plate on Sunday, December 31st. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners.

RETIREMENT GIVING

Make Qualified Distributions from your IRAs: Westminster members age 70.5 and older can support the church with a gift from their Individual Retirement Account. Qualified charitable distributions from IRAs may offer tax advantages while benefiting WPC's local and global ministries. Contact the church office for more information.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [wpcgreenville](#) | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS December 10-17, 2023

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent
9:00a Worship Service
Witness & Service Committee Meeting
10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
WestConnect - Leigh Miller
WestConnect - George Howell
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:30p Women of Westminster Advent Luncheon
4:00 Cherub Choir Musical
5:00 Middler Youth Group
5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00 Youth Dinner
6:30 Senior High Youth Group
Middler Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 11

Weekday School Book Fair
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, December 12

Weekday School Book Fair
12:00p Al-Anon
12:30 Circle 3

Wednesday, December 13

Weekday School Book Fair
9:00a Circle 6
10:15 Weekday Chapel
2:15p It's Elementary
3:30 Cherub Choir
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
5:00 It's Elementary Volunteer Christmas Party
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 14

Weekday School Book Fair
10:00a Thursday Bible Study
12:00p Finance Committee Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, December 15

Weekday School Book Fair

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent
9:00a Worship Service
10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
WestConnect - Leigh Miller
WestConnect - George Howell
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service w/ Children's Christmas Musical
12:30p Stated Session Meeting
4:00 Youth Movie Night

Our Vision: Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:

Connect
Serve
Grow

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVII | December 10, 2023 | No. 33

From the Pews, Mary Frances Knapp

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The Christmas season has always been one of my favorite times of year. There is something about the lights, the music, and the decorations that fill my heart with such joy. My husband and I were married in December, in part because we both loved Christmas. As our family has grown and our children get older, it is magical to see Christmas through their eyes. There is something special about celebrating old traditions and making new ones together. What else is it about this time of year, that brings us such joy?

In Luke's Gospel lesson we see two women, both pregnant with miracles. Upon seeing Mary, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy. It is because the baby Mary carries is the Messiah, the Son of God. When Elizabeth asks Mary why she has come to her, Mary responds with praise to God for the blessings that he has bestowed upon them. Blessed are those who believe.

We can all "leap for joy" this Advent season. We rejoice in this special time of year because it was God who sent his only son to us. He has fulfilled his promise to us-truly, the greatest gift of all! When we share that joy with our families, our neighbors, and our friends, we are passing along God's love. Let his love shine through you this Christmas season!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADULT EDUCATION ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

We at Westminster believe that education is essential for discipleship and hope that what you learn in this place will transform your living beyond our doors. This quarter will run each Sunday through January 14 - NOTE: *there will not be Sunday School on December 24 or December 31.* You are welcome to join any class at any point!

1. The Flock Reads
Facilitated by Trey Morrow

Room 212

Join the Flock (an age-and-stage group at Westminster with folks ranging from mid-40s through late 50s) for an in-depth study of a book of the Bible. Each week the group will read and explore a text from the Gospels. This discussion-style class is facilitated by Trey Morrow and other members of the Flock.

2. Characters of Christmas
Taught by Leigh Stuckey

Room 209 and Streaming

Join Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey for this lecture-style class exploring oft-forgotten characters in the Christmas story: Mary & Joseph, the angels, Zechariah and Elizabeth, the Magi, and Simeon. Each Sunday we will explore the text and its context, and consider how the faith of each character can inspire our own.

Advent & Christmas at Westminster

December 9	Magi Market at the Pleasant Valley Connection
December 10	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Women of Westminster Advent Luncheon 12:30p in the Fellowship Hall Cherub Choir Christmas 4p in the Sanctuary
December 17	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9a Worship in the Santuary Children's Musical 11:15a in the Sanctuary
December 24	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> The 63rd Annual Service of Lessons & Carols 10a in the Sanctuary reception following service in Sanctuary Atrium Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship 4p and 6p in the Sanctuary (overflow in the Sanctuary Atrium)
December 31	One Worship Service 10a in the Sanctuary reception following service in Sanctuary Atrium

POINSETTIA/ENDOWMENT/HERITAGE LECTURE MEMORIALS

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in three ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for \$15.00 or you may give to either the Endowment or Heritage Lecture Funds. Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary at the Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve Services. Please fill out the slip below or contact the church office, 232-2424. Donors may pick up their poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service you choose to attend. Orders must be placed by Sunday, December 17.

Donor _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

Poinsettias x \$15.00 = \$_____ Endowment:_____ Heritage Lecture: _____

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