



HELLO, SUN  
IN MY FACE.

HELLO, YOU WHO  
MADE THE MORNING

AND SPREAD IT  
OVER THE FIELDS...

WATCH, NOW,  
HOW I START THE DAY

IN HAPPINESS,  
IN KINDNESS.

+ MARY OLIVER

**You Are Welcome Here:**

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. 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. We ask that families sit together during worship and that no child move unaccompanied through the building.

Children's worship packets are available on the front pew and are given out after *The Time With All Gods 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.

A brochure regarding our Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult protection policy is available in the narthex.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**A Service for the Worship of God**  
*Epiphany Sunday*  
January 4, 2026

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

**Chiming the Hour**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

David Hammond

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

Beth and David Hammond

John 8:12, Matthew 5:14-16, 28:19-20

Today, from the eternal light of Christ, we light candles of hope, peace, joy and love.

**Christ is the light of the world!**

*From the Christ Candle, we relight the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.*

I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness  
but will have the light of life.

**Christ is the light of the world!**

You are the light of the world.

A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket;  
rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**We are the light of the world!**

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit  
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.  
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

**Christ is with us here and now!**

**Christ is with us always.**

*\*He came down that we may BE light (3x)  
hallelujah forever more.*

**\*Prayer of the Day**

God who makes all things new, step with us into this new year as the light within us. Shine from these vessels made by your hands, that our good works empowered by your Spirit might bring glory to you.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn #147**

**“The First Nowell”**

THE FIRST NOWELL

## 147

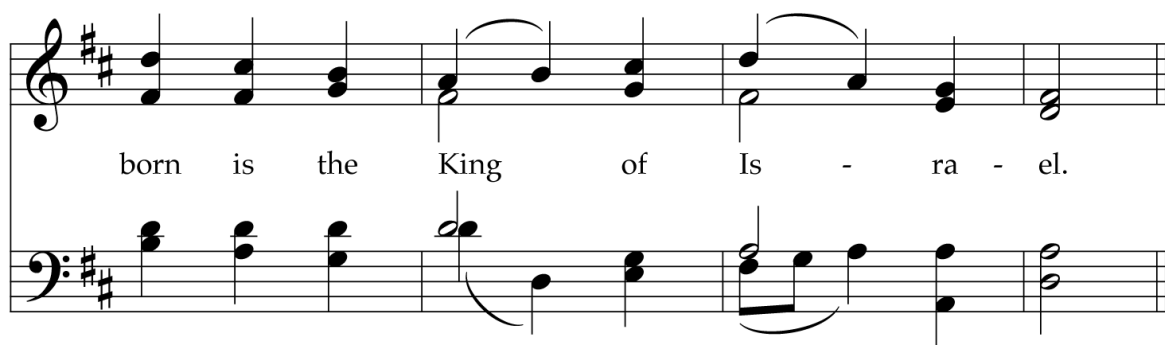
## The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth-le-  
 shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun-try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop  
 their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.  
 in-tent, and to fol-low the star wher-ev-er it went.  
 and stay, right o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.

## Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus* / *né*) as well to "news" (*nova* / *nouvelle*).



- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.  
 frankincense. *Refrain*

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Light of the World, we confess that we have not let you guide us into the life you have intended for us or for our world. Forgive us.

*We pause for personal prayer.*

By the power of your Spirit, teach us not only to follow your light but to welcome your light to live in us and shine from us, that we might see the dawn of your beloved community, even here, even now. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

#### \*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

#### Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:14-20

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

This is the Word of the LORD.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Communion Meditation**

*“Christ, the Light Within Us”*

Caroline V. Dennis

*“In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”  
Matthew 5:16*

Call to Offering

\*Offertory Hymn #314

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

THE CHURCH

# Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

## Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

*Refrain* G C G Em Bm Em



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G



church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

**\*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 Dedication**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one GOD, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of GOD, begotten of the Father before all worlds. GOD of GOD, Light of Light, very GOD of very GOD, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made: who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again, with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**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.**

**Communion of the People**

**Prayer after Communion**

**\*Hymn #150**

**"As with Gladness, Men of Old"**

DIX



## As with Gladness Men of Old 150

1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,  
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;  
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last

so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.  
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav-en-ly king.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

[\*All stand as they are able.]

### Serving Today at Westminster

Organ:	Claire Kuhl
Vocalist:	Elizabeth Watkins
Liturgist:	David Hammond
Host:	Beth and David Hammond
Sunday Study:	Beth Hammond

### Today at Westminster

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Joe Gettys Room ( <i>Adults</i> )
Sunday School	9:00 am	Children's Wing ( <i>Children and Youth</i> )
Worship & Communion	10:00 am	Sanctuary
Children's Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children's Wing
Undecorate the Church	11:15 am	Sanctuary

### This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 – 1:00	Monday – Thursday
Prayer Time Meeting	NOON	Monday Zoom
BEMA Group	6:00 pm	Monday Joe Gettys Room
Presbyterian Women	11:30 am	Tuesday Joe Gettys Room
Better Together Wellness	5:15 pm	Wednesday Fellowship Hall
Books & Brown Bags	6:00 pm	Wednesday Joe Gettys Room

### Next Sunday, January 11

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Joe Gettys 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	11:15 am	Joe Gettys Room

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **Study Opportunities at Westminster**

**Sunday Adult Study:** Today we begin our study of C.S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity" with a discussion of the first two chapters led by Tim Rogers. Books are available in the office or in the Sunday School classroom.

**Books and Brown Bags** will resume on January 7, 2026 with our study of "How to Know a Person," by David Brooks. Please procure your own book and read through chapter 3.

**Presbyterian Women** will meet on Tuesday, January 6, at 11:30 A.M. in the Joe Getty's Room. Bring your lunch and beverage, and join us for a brief time of fellowship followed by Lesson 5 in our Bible Study from "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." Gloria Christie will lead the lesson, "The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor." All women are welcome—January is a great time to enter this caring circle of faithful fellowship!

**Sanctuary Flower Dedications** Our sanctuary is made even more beautiful by the presence of floral arrangements. If you would like to sponsor the flowers on a Sunday that is special to you and your family in honor or memory of a loved one, please call the church office to select a date or see the flower chart outside the office and specify your dedication message for the bulletin. The cost is \$75.



## **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*is called by God to be an inclusive community of faith, abiding in God's love and committed to enjoying God, following Jesus, and growing disciples.*

Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. – Noon    Office Phone: 864.229.3595  
www.wpcgnwd.org    wpcgwd1@gmail.com

Clerk of Session

Claire Kuhl

Treasurer

David Hammond

Office Manager

Charleston Warner

### **RULING ELDERS**

Class of 2025

Tina Corley

Rob Graves

Class of 2026

Laine Horowitz

Richard Wilson

Class of 2027

Luke Christie

Bill Kimler

**Rev. Caroline Vinson Dennis, pastor**

317.777.1487

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

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