



We are 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

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.

A Service for the Worship of God
The Third Sunday of Advent
A Service of Worship
December 14, 2025

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Karl Schwarzmenn

Advent Candle Lighting

Karl Schwarzmenn & Tory Miller

Today we light the third candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy.

Christ is the Joy that is here, that is now.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1-6

² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Christ is the Joy that is here, that is now.

*He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forever more.*

Hymn #137

Prayer of the Day

God of night's bright stars, draw us toward your light. May we see you this week illuminating even the darkest of places. May we be bearers of your light wherever we go. Amen.

***Hymn #105**

"People Look East"

BASANCON

105

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928, alt.
 MUSIC: French folk melody; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928
 Text © 1960 David Higham Associates, Ltd.
 Music Harm. © 1928 Oxford University Press

BESANÇON
 8.7.9.8.8.7

east and sing to - day:

Peo-ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo-ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, your wonders are all around us! But we confess that we often forget to look up from our labors, set aside our fears, and forget our selfish desires in order to give attention to the person in front of us, gaze at the wonder above us, or relish the joy around us. Forgive us.

We pause for a time of personal confession.

Awaken us God to joy. Help us look beyond ourselves. Bring us close to you that we might wonder at your presence here and now. And having seen, send us home by a different way. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Response of Praise

VENI EMMANUEL

***O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
 to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

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

Time for All God’s Children

Prayer of Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

² In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Christ Above Us”

*When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.
Matthew 2:10*

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

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

Johann Sebastian Bach

Arr. Jennifer Eklund

***Doxology**

VENI EMMANUEL

*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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.!*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Confession of Faith**

The Apostles Creed

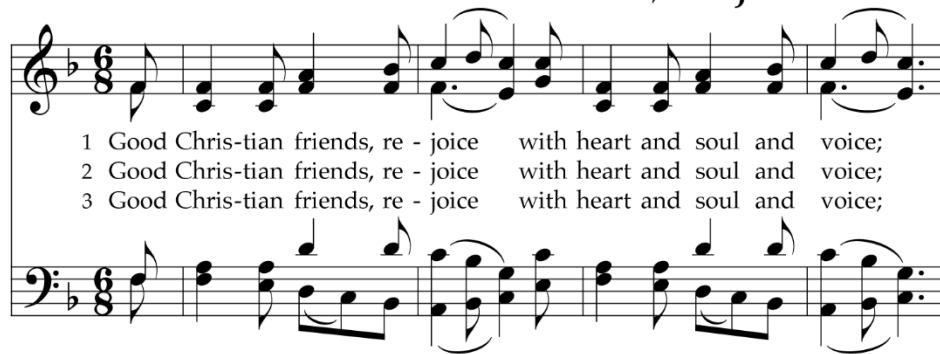
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; 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 Spirit the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn #132**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DUCI JUBILO

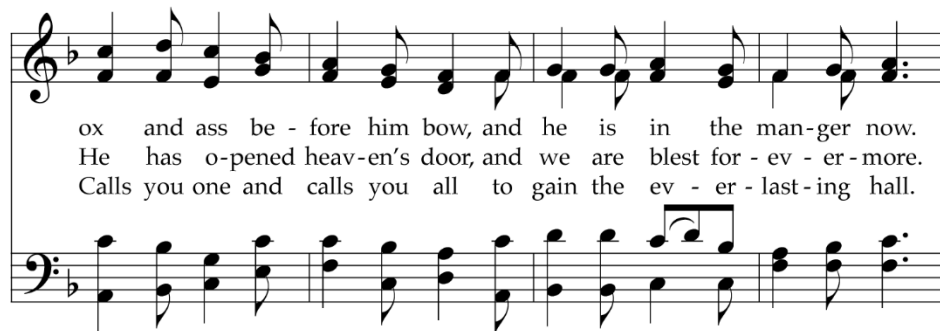
132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

TEXT: Medieval Latin; trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.
 MUSIC: German folk melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953
 Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

IN DULCI JUBILO
 6.6.7.7.8.5.5

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Serving Today at Westminster

Organ:	Claire Kuhl
Vocalist:	Clint McInnes
Liturgist:	Karl Schwarzmans & Tory Miller
Host:	Watkins Family
Sunday Study:	Brian Purcell

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 Called Meeting	11:30 am	Fellowship Hall
Stock Ellery's Classroom	3:00 pm	Fellowship Hall

This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 – 1:00	Monday - Thursday
Zoom Prayer Time	NOON	Monday Zoom
BEMA Bible Discussion	6:00 pm	Monday Joe Gettys Room
Caroling at NHC	10:30 am	Thursday NHC
Caroling at Wesley Commons	2:30 pm	Thursday Wesley Commons
PFLAG Meeting	6:00 pm	Thursday Joe Gettys Room

Next Sunday, December 21, The Fourth 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	11:15 am	Fellowship Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY! Pictures by the Christmas Tree! Let us snap your picture by the tree right after worship! We'll send you the photo for your Christmas greetings and employ your photo in our digital church directory at [Instant Church Directory](#). If you're not already using this app on your phone, we encourage you to give it a try – you'll have emails, phone numbers, addresses, birthdays and anniversaries all at your fingertips! Digital natives will be present on Sunday at the tree to show you this amazing resource!

Study Opportunities at Westminster

Sunday Adult Study: Brian Purcell will lead us this Sunday as we continue our Advent Series: "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton.

Books and Brown Bags will resume on January 7, 2026, with a discussion of "How to Know a Person," by David Brooks.

Caroling in the Community Please join us as you are able for Caroling at NHC Skilled Nursing Center at 437 E Cambridge Ave. at 10:30 am Thursday AND/OR at Wesley Commons Assisted Living at 1110 Marshall Road at 2:30 pm Thursday. Voices and instruments are welcome! Please contact Joyce and Spears Alexander for more information and to let them know to expect you.

Sunday Sustenance is our meal after worship on third Sundays. Join us next week for a delicious church family meal prepared by Chef Rob and his team. All are welcome. The meal is free, but donations are encouraged. This month your freewill offering will go to support the work of Megs House.

Be an Angel for Meg's House Westminster is once again adopting a Meg's House family to help share Christ's love during this special season. Meg's House provides safe housing and supportive services for those impacted by domestic violence. We rejoice that all tags have been claimed! If you claimed a tag, please return your wrapped gift to the narthex by **December 19**. Please place the paper angel on the wrapped gift. Thank you for giving generously!

Celebrating the Perfect Gift: December 21 Special Offering The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. This offering supports two vital ministries: the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides financial care to church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that equip communities of color through education and leadership development. Westminster has proudly supported this important work for many years. Thank you for your continued generosity.



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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