



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. 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
Communion Sunday
December 7, 2025

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

Chiming the Hour

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Beth Hammond

Advent Candle Lighting

David and Luann Bell

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

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

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Isaiah 2:2-5

Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

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

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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

*He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forever more.
Hymn # 137*

Candle Lighting Prayer

God that is the love and peace between us. May we see you this week in places where two or three are gathered in your name. As much as it depends on us, may we live at peace with all. And may your peace come to reign over all the earth. Amen.

***Hymn #88**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(verses 1, 6, and 7 only)

VENI EMMANUEL

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | <p>6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |
| <p>7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | |

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

Prayer of Confession

God of Peace, we confess that we often follow our own understanding, alienating ourselves from one another rather than allowing ourselves to be united by your will towards the fulfillment of your promised reign of peace and justice. Forgive us.

We pause for personal prayer.

Turn our hearts toward your instruction. Open our eyes to the way you have prepared for us, that we may walk together on the path of peace. 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.*

*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

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17a

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. ¹⁷ The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25, 18:20

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

Communion Meditation

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Christ Between Us”

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.
Matthew 18:20*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Grateful Response

**“Our Angel Tree”
Beth Hammond**

Call to Offering

***Offertory Hymn #133**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

***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 Dedication**

***Affirmation of Faith**

Nicene Creed

I 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 men 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 sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, 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 spake by the prophets.

I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I 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

Today we will come forward to receive communion. Please receive your elements and return to your seat. When all are served, we will all partake together. If you need the bread and juice brought to you, please remain in your seat and our servers will serve you there. Please note that there is a gluten free option if you need it.

Communion Anthem

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Prayer after Communion

***Hymn #340**

“This Is My Song”

FINLANDIA

340

This Is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king - doms:

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–2, Lloyd Stone; stanza 3, Georgia Harkness, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

Text St. 1–2 © 1934, ren. 1962 The Lorenz Corp.; St. 3 © 1964 The Lorenz Corp.

Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 The Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

FINLANDIA
 11.10.11.10.11.10

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:

The first system of the musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal melody on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a half note G2, a half note B1, and a half note D2. The system concludes with a double bar line.



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal melody on the treble staff features a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a half note B4, and a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment on the bass staff includes a half note G2, a half note B1, and a half note D2. The system ends with a double bar line.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

[*All stand as they are able.]

Serving Today at Westminster

Organ:	Claire Kuhl
Vocalists:	Elizabeth Watkins and Bill Kimler
Liturgist:	Beth Hammond
Host:	Beth and David Hammond
Sunday Study:	David Grier

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 & Communion	10:00 am	Sanctuary
Children's Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children's Wing

This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 – 12:00	M-Th	
Zoom Prayer Time	NOON	Monday	Zoom
BEMA Discussion Group	6:00 – 7:00	Monday	Joe Gettys Classroom
Books & Brown Bags	6:00 pm	Wednesday	The Puppet Place

Next Sunday, December 14 – Third Sunday of 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
Session Called Meeting	11:30 am	Joe Gettys Room
Ellery's Class Shower	3:00 pm	Fellowship Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Study Opportunities at Westminster

Sunday Adult Study: Adult Sunday Study continues its faithful track through the book of Hebrews. Beth Hammond is our teacher today.

Books and Brown Bags will be caroling and carousing at Suzy Holloway's Puppet Place starting at 6:00 P.M., 502 Reynolds Avenue. Toast marshmallows at the firepit, savor snacks, and share stories. Bring a snack to share!

Advent Devotional Make sure to employ your Advent Devotional Booklet to remain with our scripture texts for each week as you look for Christ In Front of Us, Christ Between Us, Christ Above Us, and Christ Before Us. Report your discoveries by email to wpcgwd1@gmail.com or on Our WPC Facebook Page. A selection of your Christ sightings will be published each week in the Come Sunday email.

Place Your Order for Christmas Poinsettias! If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the church during Christmas, please fill out the **red** 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 14th and may be picked up after Christmas Day or from the church office the following week. **The deadline to place orders is Monday December 8, 2025!**



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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