



Westminster Presbyterian Church
First Sunday in Advent

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.



A Service for the Worship of God

*The First Sunday of Advent
A Service of Worship, Communion
and Hanging of the Greens
December 1, 2024*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Luke Christie

Advent Candle Lighting

McCarson Family

Isaiah 11:1-3

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

Today we light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope.

The promises of God are the root of our hope.

Stand up! Raise your heads! Our redemption is drawing near!

***Hymn #93**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.*

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin as though there were no justice. We live in fear as though there were no grace.

We pause for a time of personal confession.

Forgive us. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in truth and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. 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

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

Communion Mediation

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Sprout”

“In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”

Jeremiah 33:15

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Call to Offering

Offertory Hymns

We sing together as we make our sanctuary and our hearts ready to welcome Christ.

Hymn #105

"People, Look East"

BESANCON

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

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

BESANCON
8.7.9.8.8.7

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

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.
 (Love is on the way.)

Hymn #134

“Joy to the World!”

ANTIOCH

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

***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**

***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.

The Sacrament of the 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.

Prayer after Communion

***Hymn #137**

"He Came Down"

HE CAME DOWN

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

... that we may have light
 ... that we may have peace
 ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

*The sanctuary flowers this Sunday are given by David & Beth Hammond
in honor of Ford Hammond's 8th birthday.*

Serving Today at Westminster

Organ:	Claire Kuhl
Vocalist:	Denise Waldrep
Liturgist:	Luke Christie
Host:	Heather, Curtis, Roman
Sunday Study:	Caroline Dennis
Children's Sunday School:	Kathy Gillespie

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

This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 – 1:00	Monday - Thursday
BEMA Bible Discussion	6:00 pm	Monday Joe Gettys Room
Presbyterian Women	11:00am	Tuesday Home of Beth Hammond

Next Sunday, December 8, The Second 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greening of the Church During worship today, the First Sunday of Advent, we prepare our sanctuary for the Christmas season. Together, we will adorn the church with decorations, symbolizing hope and the anticipation of Christ's birth. Let this special time inspire us to ready our hearts for the coming of our Savior.

Study Opportunities at Westminster

Sunday Adult Study: This Sunday we start our Advent Series: "Incarnation," by Adam Hamilton.

Books and Brown Bags will gather at 6:00 in the Joe Gettys room to continue our discussion of "Life Together," by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Upper Zoom Prayer Room: Please send any prayer request updates to the church office. The community gathers on Zoom for prayers Monday at noon. Prayer list and link are sent out Monday morning.

Presbyterian Women's Circle is meeting on Tuesday, December 3rd at Beth Hammond's home: 504 Eagle's Harbor Drive, Hodges, S.C. Pause your holiday hustle and enjoy brunch and study Lesson 4 with your PW friends at 11:30. Please RSVP to Beth. Meet at the church at 11:00 to carpool to the Hammond residence.

Place Your Order for Christmas Poinsettias! If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the church during Christmas, please fill out the **pink** 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 13th 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, 2024!



“Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates” *Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain*

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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Inclusive Community of Faith

United by Our Belief in and Commitment to Jesus Christ

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

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Clerk of Session

Steve Kuhl

Treasurer

Len Bornemann

Office Manager

Charleston Warner

RULING ELDERS

Class of 2024

Kathy Nave Felder

Claire Kuhl

Class of 2025

Tina Corley

Rob Graves

Class of 2026

Richard Wilson

Laine Horowitz

Rev. Caroline Vinson Dennis, pastor

317.777.1487

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

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