

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

Advent Candle Lighting

Luke Christie McCarson Family A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, Isaiah 11:1-3

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.

3

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93



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.

"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

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

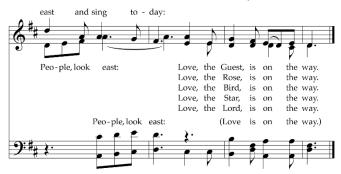


This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

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

8.7.9.8.8.7

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



Hymn #134 "Joy to the World!" Antioch



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.

*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.

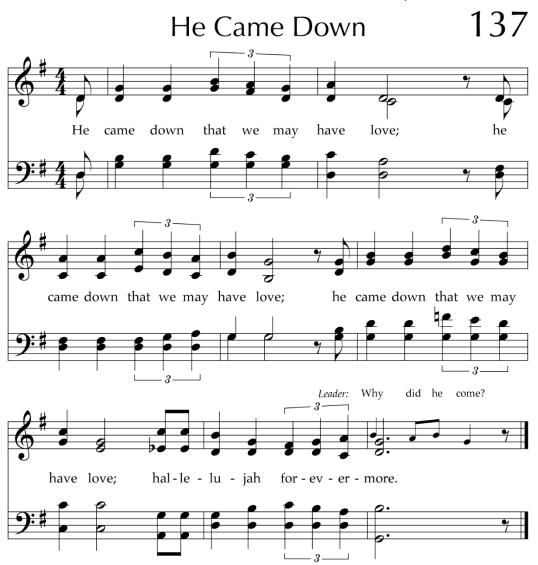
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power 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



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 8^{th} 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 (Adults)

Sunday School 9:00 am Children's Wing (Children and Youth)

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 (Adults)

Sunday School 9:00 am Children's Wing (Children and Youth)

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 Deitrich 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!



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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 www.wpcgnwd.org wpcgwd1@gmail.com

Clerk of SessionTreasurerOffice ManagerSteve KuhlLen BornemannCharleston Warner

RULING ELDERS

Class of 2024Class of 2025Class of 2026Kathy Nave FelderTina CorleyRichard WilsonClaire KuhlRob GravesLaine 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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