



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 First Sunday of Advent

A Service of Worship

and Hanging of the Greens

November 30, 2025

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Music for Ascension Pt. 3

Composed in celebration and memory of Len Bornemann

Welcome and Announcements

Robyn Agnew

Advent Candle Lighting

Paul and Robyn Agnew

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

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

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

Isaiah 11:1-10

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 awe of the LORD.

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

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

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

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

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

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

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

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

Prayer of the Day

***Hymn #100**

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that even as we hope and wait with eager longing for your return, we fail to see you right in front of us.

But there you are, hoping and waiting too. Hoping for us to recognize you in the eyes of the hungry and the thirsty, the stranger and the immigrant, the unhoused and the poorly dressed, the sick and the imprisoned. You are waiting for us to give you something to eat and something to drink. You are waiting for us to welcome you, shelter you, clothe you, care for you, visit you.

We pause for a time of personal confession.

Forgive us, Lord. Give us eyes to see you, hearts open wide to welcome you, and hands ready to serve you. For the sake of the One who is, and was, and will be our hope. 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.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for All God's Children

Prayer of Illumination

Gospel Readings

Matthew 1:1-17

1 An account^[a] of the genealogy^[b] of Jesus the Messiah,^[c] the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram,⁴ and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon,⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,^[d]⁸ and Asaph^[e] the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah,⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos,^[f] and Amos^[g] the father of Josiah,¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel,¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.^[h]

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah,^[i] fourteen generations.

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Christ in Front of Us”

*And the king will answer them,
‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’*

Matthew 25:40

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 #113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.
 MUSIC: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937
 Music © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr.
 (admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)

GLORIA
 7.7.7.7 with refrain

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Joy to the World!". It consists of two staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics: "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in G major, 4/4 time, providing harmonic support for the vocal line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for church services.

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

ANTIÖCH
CM with repeat
(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

***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 #757**

“Today We Are Called to Be Disciples”

KINGSFOLD

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

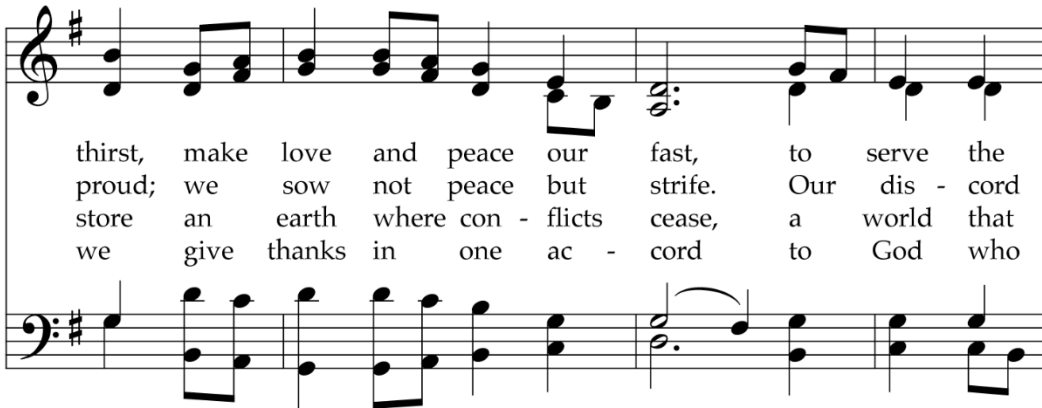
1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

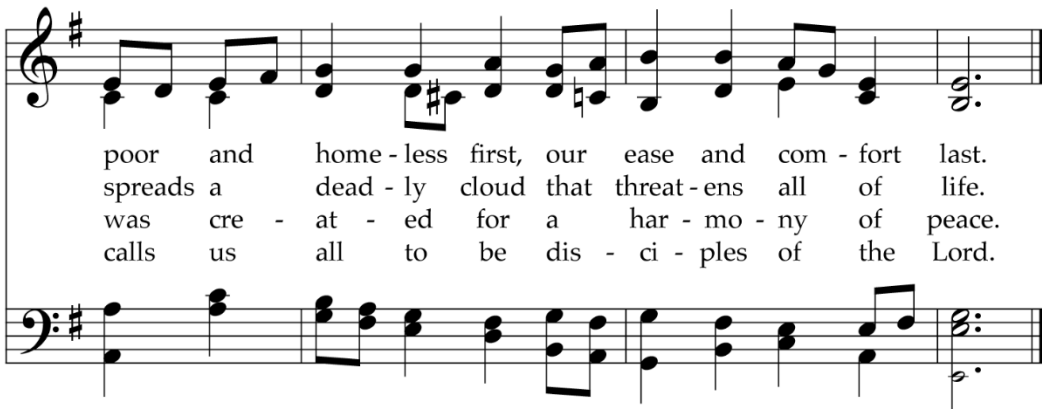
plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION



thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who



poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude in C Major BWV 870 J.S. Bach

*The sanctuary flowers this Sunday are given by Kathleen Watkins
in honor of Sam & Irene White.*

Serving Today at Westminster

Piano:	Benjamin Watkins
Liturgist:	Robyn Agnew
Host:	Tim and Mary Rogers
Sunday Study:	Beth Hammond

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
Brown Bags and Books	6:00 pm	Wednesday Joe Gettys Room

Next Sunday, December 7, 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 and Communion	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 add chrismsons to our tree, 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: Beth Hammond will lead us this Sunday as we start our Advent Series: "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton.

Books and Brown Bags will gather at 6:00 in the Joe Gettys for a reading of "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote and a sharing of our own Christmas Memories.

Presbyterian Women's Circle is meeting on Tuesday, December 2nd 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. 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 **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 7, 2025!](#)



Benjamin Watkins, D.M., son of Kathleen Watkins, is leading worship at the piano today. Watkins, a Greenwood native, attended the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, and is a recipient of the Blocker Award and the South Carolina Governor's Citizenship Medal. He was educated at Northwestern University and Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. He is president and music director of Bloomington Chamber Opera, and he is currently the music director at United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Bloomington, IN. Benjamin is a versatile musician who believes in the power of artistic collaboration to transform lives and communities.

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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
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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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