



Westminster Presbyterian Church



December 18, 2022 | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

This Is Christ the King
To the World, Joy!

Greensleeves
Antioch
Jim Burns, piano
Westminster Ringers

Arr. Brian Childers
George F. Handel

Welcome and Announcements

*Share the Peace of Christ

*Introit

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 7

VENI EMMANUEL

*Candle Lighting (*Isaiah 7*) 8:30 - Laura, Mark, and Eleanor Rhoa; 11:00 - Douglas Florey and David Lloyd

Leader: We are preparing ourselves for the days
People: **when the Lord will give us a sign.**
Leader: Look, the young woman is with child
People: **and shall bear a son,**
Leader: and shall name him Immanuel, God-with-us.
People: **We will follow the way of the Lord.**

*Opening Hymn No. 147

The First Nowell

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *(Refrain)*
- 4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. *(Refrain)*
- 6 Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. *(Refrain)*

***Prayer of Confession**

Dear God, the nights are long. As we watch and wait for the coming of your son into the world, we decorate our lives with the glitz of tinsel and tree. We let their beauty distract us and celebrate the things we have made instead of preparing to receive your son.

Forgive us for such small-mindedness. Have mercy on us for not doing the things that make for peace, that pave the way for his presence in our hearts and the world. Gather us in your mercy.

(A time of silence for personal confession)

***Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

***Sung Response No. 92**

While We Are Waiting, Come

Cason

While we are waiting, come *(repeat)*;

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come *(repeat)*;

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

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.

Choral Response

Sevenfold Amen

Lutkin

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hope Blooms in Dreams

Jo Forrest

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

Offertory Carol of the Drum Katherine K. Davis

***Doxology** OLD HUNDREDTH
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**

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

***Closing Hymn No. 116** The Snow Lay on the Ground VENITE ADOREMUS

1 The snow lay on the ground; the stars shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

4 And thus that manger poor became a throne;
for he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host
to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** Away in a Manger, *verse 3* arr. Wilberg

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Postlude *In Dulci Jubilo* J.S. Bach

***Please rise in body or in spirit.**

Leading in worship: Jo Forrest, Louise Rogers, Jim Burns, Lorraine Milovac, the Quartet, Chancel Choir, Jim Marshall and the Westminster Ringers.

Prayers of Concern and Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the youth who have participated in the Confirmation Class: Alyvia Baculik, Nolan Daniele, Mackenzie Langlois, Danny Shanholtzer, Ellie Shanholtzer, Max Thomas, Alex Zimmerman, and Nate Zimmerman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit the church's website at www.westminster-church.org for additional details on any event or activity listing and to view a complete church calendar, located under the "Events" menu item.

Today

Isaiah 'Twas Foretold It with Steven S. Tuell

Sunday, December 18, 9:45 a.m.

in Galbreath Chapel/Zoom

The seminars will NOT meet on December 25 or January 1.

The Advent seminar series guides the waiting and preparation that will end with our joyful celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas. Details here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/westminster-seminars>



Christmas Joy Offering

Purple envelopes will be in the pews Dec. 18-Jan. 1 to collect for this special offering.

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church - past, present and future. 50% of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Worthy Notes and Upcoming Events



Sunday School Unplugged

Second Sunday of the month starting January 8 at 9:45 a.m. in Room 283

Remember MTV Unplugged? If so, this gathering might be for you—both your generation and desire to listen to the melody of faith in a fresh way. Over a cuppa we will talk about faith, scripture, and life, and let the spirit move within us. No homework or lecture! Contact Jo Forrest for more information.



From The Westminster/Bair Foundation Team

As year eleven of Westminster's support for local foster children wraps up, we would like to thank the congregation for their continued participation in our Christmas gift project sponsored by the Outreach commission. This year, over 330 children (our largest number yet) received gifts aligned with their own personal wish list. We thank you for your generous donations and ask for your continued prayers for these children and their circumstances. See you next year!

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Volunteer Opportunities



Street Moms Meals & More

Sunday, Dec. 18
Following 8:30 worship
Rm. 276 (Youth Lounge)

We are going to be supporting Street Moms, a community outreach non-profit, designed to meet the needs of women experiencing homelessness in Wheeling, West Virginia.

On December 18, help us pack personal care items. Details here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/serving/opportunities-to-serve#community>



Christmas Eve Ushers

Saturday, Dec. 24
Ushers are needed for the
5:00 & 11:00 services

When people walk in the door looking for God, especially this time of year, it might be a one-time opportunity to help them feel welcome and at home. I figure God got them here; we better be at our best in the handoff.

Just come a little early to the service you were planning to attend!

To volunteer for the above opportunities, contact Jan Baumann at baumann@westminster-church.org 412-559-1034

Christmas Eve AT WESTMINSTER

5:00 pm
Family Service
Sanctuary

7:00 pm*
Contemporary Service
WROC &
YouTube livestream

9:00* & 11:00 pm*
Lessons and Carols
Sanctuary & YouTube
livestream @ 9:00 p.m.

Children of all ages are welcome to attend any of the Christmas Eve worship services along with their families.
*Candlelight service

Christmas Day Worship Service | December 25
10 am – Sanctuary

New Year's Day Worship Services | January 1, 2023
9:45 am – Contemporary Worship (WROC) / 11 am – Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

Giving @ Westminster

Christmas Eve Loose Offering

December 24
All worship services



The loose offering from all services this evening will go to **The Lazarus Fund of Pittsburgh Presbytery**. The Lazarus Fund assists our neighbors who have short-term economic difficulties including help with rent, mortgage payments, and paying utilities. The Lazarus Fund is currently depleted due to the high volume of applicants for funds in 2022. Through your donations to the offering this Christmas Eve, we will be better able to help our neighbors. *Thank you for your generosity!*



Offering Envelopes

If you indicated on your pledge card that you would like to receive offering envelopes for 2023, you may now pick them up in the Narthex. Please notice the new number this year. If you have not requested 2023 envelopes and would like to receive them, please contact Anna Hiner at hiner@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630x207.

We Need Your Help!

As we continue to celebrate the advent season and prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ take a moment to reflect on what he has meant in your life and what you can return of the gifts he has bestowed on you. Your support will allow your church to continue its ministry to our families and communities. We continue to fall short of our goal with only 79% of the families that pledged last year having offered their pledge for 2023.

Pledged to Date	Goal	% of Goal	Pledges to Date	Goal	% of Goal
\$1,235,418	\$1,700,000	73%	275	400	69%

Year-End Giving Reminder

For your contributions to be tax deductible in 2022, it must be received in the church or **postmarked by December 31, 2022**.

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2022 tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be 100% tax deductible.

The 2022 contribution statements are anticipated to be mailed to you around the third week of January 2023.

If you have any questions regarding year-end contributions, please contact Jane Zacchero, Accounting Assistant, at 412-835-6630 x202 or Carol Webber, Director of Finance/Operations, at x201.

THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

DEC 19 - 25, 2022



Scan here for complete church calendar



Scan here for a full WROC schedule & information

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

12:00	AA	Rm. 176
7:00	The Grace - Westminster Book Club	Zoom

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00	Tuesday Morning Men's Group	Rm. 238
10:00	Staff Meeting	Rm. 238
6:30	Centering Prayer	Zoom
	AI Anon	Rm. 131
7:30	Scout Troop 366	Rm. 107

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

4:45	Cherub Choir (Gds. K-2)	Rm. 176
	Junior Choir (Gds. 3-6)	Rm. 268
	Little Ones & Loved Ones	Rm. 194
5:30	Wednesday Food & Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
6:00	JAM - Youth Group (Grades 5-6)	North Entry
	Kids' Connection (3rd & 4th Grds)	Rm. 176
	Kids' Connection (PreK-2nd Grds)	Rm. 233
	Veritas Youth Group (Grds. 7-12)	Youth Dept.
7:30	Westminster Ringers	Rm. 268

Wednesdays @ Westminster have something for everyone! From children's choirs to Children's & Family Ministry programs, Food & Fellowship, Veritas Youth Group, Bible studies, and more, make plans to be here. Visit our website or scan the QR codes below for details.

A Quick Holiday Note

There will be no Sunday School on December 25 or January 1. There will be no Wednesday Food & Fellowship or Wednesday children & youth programs on Wednesday, December 28.



Children's & Family Ministry



Food & Fellowship fall menu



Music & Choirs

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:00	Chancel Choir	Rm. 268
	Nar Anon	Rm. 131
7:30	NA	Rm. 107

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Church Office Closed
WECEP Closed - Christmas Break

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00	Christmas Eve Family Worship	Sanctuary
	Wiggle Room - Christmas Eve	Rm. 239
	Family Worship	
7:00	Christmas Eve	WROC
	Contemporary Worship	
	Wiggle Room - Christmas Eve	WROC Fitness
	Contemporary Worship	
9:00	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Worship	Sanctuary
	Wiggle Room-Christmas Eve	Rm. 239
	Lessons & Carols Worship	
11:00	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Worship	Sanctuary
	Wiggle Room - Christmas Eve	Rm. 239
	Lessons & Carols	

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00	Christmas Morning Worship	Sanctuary
	Wiggle Room -	Rm. 239
	Traditional Worship	

*Sunday School - 9:45 a.m., dismissed from worship after children's message; 11:00 a.m., report directly to Room 233. A time for children in PreK through 4th grade to explore the Bible, enjoy fellowship together, and grow in their faith.

**Wiggle Room - 9:45 - Upstairs WROC Fitness Room; 8:30/11:00 - Room 239. Available to families with children from birth through age 3 who would prefer a separate space to step away while listening to the worship service. Please see an usher if you need help finding the Wiggle Room.

STAFF PROGRAM/MINISTRY CONTACTS

Jo Forrest, Senior Pastor, Head of Staff, forrest@westminster-church.org

Louise Rogers, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, rogers@westminster-church.org

Jan Baumann, Volunteer Coordinator, baumann@westminster-church.org

Christine Hestwood, Director of Music, hestwood@westminster-church.org

Faith Kemmler, Director of Children's & Family Ministry, kemmler@westminster-church.org

Kathy Long, Director, Westminster Recreation & Outreach Center, long@westminster-church.org

Ed Sutter, Director of Youth Ministry & Family Counseling, sutter@westminster-church.org

Carol Webber, Director of Finance & Operations, webber@westminster-church.org



Giving to Westminster

ONLINE: <https://www.westminster-church.org/give>

TEXT-TO-GIVE: Text WPCUSC to 73256. Standard text messaging rates may apply.



Westminster Staff Contact Information

We would love to hear from you. Give us a call, drop us an email, or stop by the church office.



[Westminster.Pittsburgh](https://www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh)



[wpc_pgh](https://www.instagram.com/wpc_pgh)



[WestminsterUSC](https://www.youtube.com/WestminsterUSC)



veritalk.podbean.com

Westminster on Social Media

Watch worship videos, listen to the Veritas podcast, share Westminster events, find prayers, scripture, and more to like and share!

Photos/Videos at Westminster: We would like to make you aware that by participating in Westminster Presbyterian Church worship and activities, you may be photographed and/or videotaped and therefore assign and authorize the producer, Westminster Presbyterian Church, all rights to reproduce, copy, exhibit/publish, and distribute any such videotape and photography. If you have any concerns, please contact Anna Hiner, Communications & Database Manager, at hiner@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630x207.



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

A PC(USA) Congregation

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