



Westminster Presbyterian Church

December 31, 2023 | 10:00 a.m.

THE *Celebration* OF *Worship*

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Welcome and Announcements

***Share the Peace of Christ**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Every year we celebrate Christmas.

People: **Every month we break bread.**

Leader: Every week we gather for worship.

People: **Every day we count our blessings.**

Leader: Every minute God is near.

People: **Yes, every minute God is near.**

Leader: These are the rituals of our faith.

People: **Let us worship Holy God.**

***Opening Hymn No. 145**

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

*Prayer of Confession

God of rhythms, we confess:
our faith would not be what it is without rituals.
Unlike you, we depend on bread and water.
We have to return to this space again and again
to hear old, familiar stories.
For if we stopped,
we know it would not take long before we lost our way.
Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us
ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto.
With grateful and humble hearts we pray,
amen.

(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

Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

Prayers of the People

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.

Congregational Response

THREEFOLD AMEN

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:21-38

New Testament, page 26

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rhythms for Life

Faith Kemmler

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

Offertory Anthem

Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen

*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. 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*Benediction

Leading in worship: Faith Kemmler, Christine Hestwood, and Lauren Moore.

OUR PRIORITIES

LOVE GOD AND **NEIGHBOR**

Accept **EVERYONE
WITH LOVE**
seek **JUSTICE, WITHOUT
EXCEPTION**

Inspire **WONDER AND
MEANING**
Energize **THE NEXT
GENERATION**

Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church, a community of faith committed to bringing people to Christ through worshipping God, teaching the faith, and serving in mission. We grow together in the trials and joys of life with laughter and mutual support.

At Westminster, children and families are essential members of our community, and we encourage all ages to participate in worship. As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, we invite your family to wiggle, sing, dance, color, and make a joyful noise with the congregation. Coloring sheets and a family restroom can be found in the lobby.

If you'd like a little more space to wiggle while you worship, the Wiggle Room provides a safe space for families to step away and listen to the service.

Whether you are visiting for the first time or a longtime member, we are blessed to have you join us on this holy evening. We invite you to return often and consider making this your church home.

STAFF PROGRAM/MINISTRY CONTACTS

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Kathy Long, Director, Westminster Recreation & Outreach Center, long@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.

GET CONNECTED!



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



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



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

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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