



# How does a weary world rejoice?

An Advent series in Luke's Gospel

Westminster Presbyterian Church



December 10, 2023 | 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

## THE Celebration OF Worship

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

### WE GATHER TOGETHER

**Prelude**

Magnificat Primi Toni

Dieterich Buxtehude

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Share the Peace of Christ**

**\*Introit**

Light One Candle  
*Cherub Choir*

Natalie Sleeth

**\*Candle Lighting (8:30: Brittany, Matt, and Halle Kikta; 11:00: Emily and Chris Moore)**

**Leader:** How does a weary world practice peace?

**People:** **By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to;**

**Leader:** By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor;

**People:** **By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.**

**Leader:** There are a million ways to practice peace.

So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

People: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn No. 93**

Lift, Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

**\*Prayer of Confession**

God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news. We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us. Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity. We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared. Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open the doors to our lives. Show us how to find joy in connection.

*(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**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
*verse 7*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Anthem**

The Snow Lay on the Ground  
*Junior Choir*

arr. Sowerby

**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

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**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD**

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**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Lesson**

Luke 1:24-45

New Testament, page 26

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

I Am the Lord's Servant

Ed Sutter

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**WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE**

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**Offertory Anthem**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming with  
Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. Rouse

**Prayer of Dedication**

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**WE GO OUT TO SERVE**

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**\*Closing Hymn No. 88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
*verses 1,5, and 6*

VENI EMMANUEL

**\*Liturgy of Sending (11:00)**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

**Postlude**

Magnificat Sexti Toni

Heinrich Scheidemann

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**Leading in worship:** Ed Sutter, Jo Forrest, Sara Kyle, Lorraine Milovac, Lana Kipp, Beth Ketterman, Holly Jones, Cherub, Junior and Chancel Choirs.

## Prayers of Concern and Thanksgiving

Recent surgery, hospitalization, or illness; John Michael

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Worthy Notes and Upcoming Events



### Westminster Seminars

#### A Brief History of Mary, the Mother of Jesus

TODAY & December 17 | 9:45 a.m. | Galbreath Chapel

The series will guide us through how Mary was portrayed in the New Testament and beyond. We'll learn how Catholics came to their views on Mary, and in doing so affirm our Protestant understanding of her. More information and the Zoom link on the church website. Speaker: John E. Wilson, *Professor Emeritus of Church History Pittsburgh Theological*



### Writers of Westminster

Sundays, TODAY & December 17 | Cost: \$10; \$13 if mailed.

Before and after all services in the Welcome Center

The Writers of Westminster are selling copies of their most recent publication. Stop by their table in the Welcome Center to meet some of the writers and get a "must have" autographed copy for yourself and to give as gifts. Checks should be made out to Westminster Presbyterian Church.

ON SALE NOW!



### Congregational Lunch (Celebration of Ed)

TODAY | 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Please come for lunch as we celebrate Ed Sutter and his time with us.



### Annual Christmas Concert

TODAY | 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Music and Arts Series present Sounds of the Season. The concert features all Westminster Choirs, the Westminster Ringers, and the USC Chanteclairs. There will also be hymn sing-alongs for the congregation! The concert is free and will appeal to all ages. A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted.



## A Quiet Christmas

Wednesday, December 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Our Quiet Christmas service will dial back the frenzy of the holidays. We will acknowledge the physical darkness outside and that pressure for all to be perfect amidst an elusive melancholy. In this service we will listen to readings, sing our hopes, rest in the warmth of candlelight, feel the comforting presence of others, and open ourselves to receive God's gift of peace.



## Breakfast at the Manger

Saturday, December 16 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

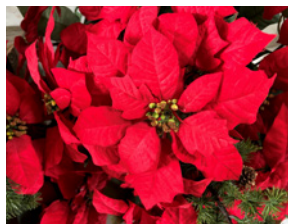
Children and their families are invited to enjoy breakfast, hear and interact with the Christmas story, make Christmas crafts, and celebrate the Christmas season together! Registration required by Monday, December 11; tickets will not be sold at the door. Please contact Faith Kemmler with questions. To register, go to [bit.ly/wpcmanger23](http://bit.ly/wpcmanger23).



## Pet Remembrance Service

Sunday, December 17 | 2:00 p.m. | Galbreath Chapel

It's common to have a memorial service to celebrate the life of a loved one who has died. So why wouldn't we do the same for our beloved pets? If you or a friend have recently lost a pet, please join us to share memories and pay tribute to these cherished members of our families. All are invited and welcome.



## Christmas Flower Delivery

Flowers are to be delivered December 26-28 between 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Put a smile on someone's face with a poinsettia. Deliver a plant to someone who can't come to church at Christmas. Deliver one or two poinsettias to folks who were recently hospitalized, are elderly and at home, or live in a senior community. Deadline to volunteer is December 18.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

### Sunday, December 24

Advent Morning Worship Service | 10:00 a.m.

### Christmas Eve Worship Services

Family Service | 5:00 p.m.  
Contemporary Service | 7:00 p.m.  
Traditional Candlelight Service | 9:00 p.m.

### New Year's Eve Day

Sunday, December 31  
One worship service  
10:00 a.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

**WROC**  
WESTMINSTER  
RECREATION &  
OUTREACH CENTER

## Merry Christmas from the WROC!



Church members are welcome to drop into fitness classes for **FREE** in December! Take a deep breath with yoga, dance away the stress with Zumba, or release some tension with Burn & Sculpt. Eligible classes include Yoga, Zumba, Burn & Sculpt, Barre Balance, Cardio AM and PM, Stronger Bones/Better Balance. No registration required; classes in the Fitness Room have limited availability.



## Dismantling Antisemitism Workshop

Wednesday, January 31 | 6:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

The startling and deadly rise of antisemitism impacts everyone in our community. This interactive workshop, taught by Noah Schoen of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, invites participants into greater understanding of antisemitism. Participants begin to develop their own stake in dismantling antisemitism and leave with actionable knowledge. This event is open to the community, and is designed for high school students and adults. For more info, go to <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/dismantling-antisemitism-workshop>.

## Town Hall South Speaker Series

Town Hall South, currently celebrating its 53rd season, announces the close of the series at the end of our 2023-2024 season. Our volunteer board extends our deepest thanks to Westminster Church, the Upper St. Clair School District, St. Clair Country Club, and the Community Foundation of Upper St. Clair, as well as our generous individual and business sponsors, for the many years of partnership and patronage. Please visit our website at [townhallsouth.org](http://townhallsouth.org) for the full announcement and to purchase tickets to join us for the series' remaining exceptional speakers.



## Advent Calendars & Candles

Advent calendars for adults and children as well as candles for your advent wreaths will be available for pickup on Sundays in the Welcome Center and weekdays at the reception desk. Candles and digital copies of the calendars are available by request to Faith Kemmler at [kemmler@westminster-church.org](mailto:kemmler@westminster-church.org).

## Advent Devotionals

All are welcome to participate in a weekly study on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in Room 238. A women's study will be held December 14 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 238. Visit our website for additional studies.

# THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

DEC 10-DEC 16, 2023



Scan here for complete church calendar



Scan here for a full WROC schedule & information

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:30	<b>Traditional Worship</b> Wiggle Room**	<b>Sanctuary</b> Rm. 239
9:00	Welcome Center Writers of Westminster Book Signing	North Main Entry
9:45	<b>Bridge Contemporary Worship</b> Bridge Sunday School (PreK-4th Grd.) Wiggle Room - The Bridge** Westminster Seminars	<b>WROC/Lvstrm.</b> Rm. 176 WROC Fitness Galbreath Chapel
11:00	<b>Traditional Worship</b> Wiggle Room** Sunday School (PreK-4th Grade)	<b>Sanctuary/Lvstrm.</b> Rm. 239 Rm. 233
11:30	Congregational Lunch	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Annual Christmas Concert	Sanctuary

\***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.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

12:00	AA	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Scout Pack 366 Meeting	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Deacon Meeting	Rm. 290
7:30	Troop 366 Adult Committee Meeting	FH Kitchen Serving Area

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:00	Tuesday Morning Men's Group	Rm. 238
10:00	Staff Meeting	Rm. 238
5:00	Outreach Commission	Rm. 238
6:45	Centering Prayer	Rm. 238
7:30	Scout Troop 366	Rm. 107

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

12:30	Movers and Shakers	Fellowship Hall
4:30	Advent Devotions	Rm. 238
4:45	Little Ones & Loved Ones Cherub Choir (Grades K-2) Junior Choir (Grades 3 - 6)	Rm. 194 Rm. 176 Rm. 268
5:30	Wednesday Food & Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Kids' Connection (PreK-2nd Grd) Kids' Connection (3rd/4th Grds) JAM - Youth Group (Grds 5-6) Veritas Youth Group (Grds 7-12)	Rm. 233 Rm. 176 North Main Entry Youth Dept.
6:30	A Quiet Christmas	Sanctuary
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.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:00	Women to Women/ Advent Devotions	Rm. 238
7:00	Chancel Choir Ladies Night Book Club/ Advent Devotions	Rm. 268 Rm. 283
7:30	NA Nar Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 131

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:30a	Fishers of Men	Rm. 231
7:00	AA Al Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 231

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00	Street Moms - Volunteer Opport.	Rm. 238
9:00	Breakfast at the Manger	Fellowship Hall



Children's & Family Ministry



Food & Fellowship Menu



Music & Choirs

# Christmas Poinsettias @ Westminster

The Chancel Guild is accepting memorial or honoree contributions for poinsettias. Use the form below and make your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and write "Poinsettia" on the memo line. Mail your check and form to the church office or place it in the collection plate.



Contributions must be received no later than Sunday, December 10, so that your gift can be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please indicate if you plan to pick up your flower or whether you would like it delivered to a member in care. Poinsettias will be available on December 24 following the 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. services, and from December 26 through 28, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

**A suggested minimum donation of \$25 will cover the cost of the flowers. Additional donations beyond that will be used to support the work of the Chancel Guild throughout the year.**



## 2023 Christmas Memorial and Honoree Poinsettia Order Form

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of     In honor of

Name of Memorial/Honoree (PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Deliver poinsettia to member in care

Will pick up poinsettia on December 24 following the 7:00 or 9:00 p.m. services, or from December 26 through 28, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

***Please return this form to the church office by Sunday, December 10, 2023.***

2040 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241



412-835-6630  
[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org)

A PC(USA) Congregation