



Westminster Presbyterian Church



November 26, 2023 | 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

# THE *Celebration* OF *Worship*

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

## WE GATHER TOGETHER

**Prelude**

Marche Héroïque

Herbert Brewer

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Share the Peace of Christ**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Create a throne for yourself here, Christ,  
People: but let it be the lonely seat beside the anxious,  
the empty chair next to the confused,  
the vacant pew next to the hungry.  
Leader: Christ, reign in the world for each of us  
People: so we may find the faith to serve you,  
sovereign of life and servant of all.

**\*Opening Hymn No. 264**

At the Name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON

## \*Prayer of Confession

Who would abandon heaven's mystery  
to meet us on familiar ground?  
Like a loving shepherd, you pursue us  
with goodness and mercy  
even when hurt and harm lingers.  
You know all the places  
where we hide from the truth of your call  
and the ways we fall short.  
Come among us, God,  
forgive us.  
Make us servants of your truth  
and gentle leaders of your people.  
Confine our dreams of power  
to working for your glory.

*(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

Make Me a Servant

Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.  
And may the prayer of my heart always be: Make me a servant, make me a servant,  
make me a servant today.

## 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

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Old Testament, page 803

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

## Sermon

The Last Word

Jo Forrest

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## WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

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### Offertory Anthem

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

David H. Williams

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favor to our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.

Fatherlike he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him; ye behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

### \*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

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## WE GO OUT TO SERVE

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### \*Closing Hymn No. 268

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

### \*Benediction

### \*Benediction Response

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

David H. Williams

### Postlude

Postlude on *At Name of Jesus*

Robert Powell

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**Leading in worship:** Jo Forrest, Maureen Ludwig, Jim Burns, Christine Hestwood, the Quartet, and Chancel Choir.

## Prayers of Concern and Thanksgiving

We celebrate with joy the birth of Hazel Vivian, daughter of Maggie and Ryan Harvey, granddaughter of Kris and Keith Overstreet.

Recent surgery, hospitalization, or illness: Roy Leuch.

The congregation extends condolences to John Hayes on the death of his wife, Marilyn, on November 20.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Worthy Notes and Upcoming Events

## Westminster Seminars

### Christ and Humanity's Cosmic Future

TODAY | 9:45 a.m. | Galbreath Chapel



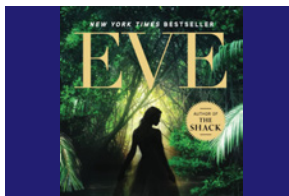
## Westminster Seminars

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

December 3, 10 and 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. Whatever your church background, join in finding answers to our many questions about Mary. More information and the Zoom link on the church website.

Speaker: John E. Wilson, *Professor Emeritus of Church History*  
*Pittsburgh Theological*



## Westminster Book Group

Wednesday, November 29 | 12:00 - 1:15 p.m. | Library

For the next meeting of the Westminster Book Group, we will be discussing William Paul Young's book *Eve*. Please join us, all are welcome! For questions contact Nana Wilson at [callingnana@gmail.com](mailto:callingnana@gmail.com).



## Teen & Parent Mental Health Speaker Series

Wednesday, November 29 | 6:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

This month: Eric McElvenny – Embracing Challenges and Resilience. All are welcome and are highly encouraged to invite anyone who may benefit from valuable conversation and support for both young people and families. Contact Ed Sutter.



## **Bair Foundation Christmas Gift Drive**

**Unwrapped gifts Due Friday, December 1**

Westminster is once again partnering with the Bair Foundation to provide Christmas gifts for 300 foster children in the local Pittsburgh area. Tags are back on the trees in the north and south entries of the church or visit our Amazon list at [www.westminstergiftingtreetree.com](http://www.westminstergiftingtreetree.com) to ship your gift to us. Read more here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/bair-foundation-christmas-gift-drive>



## **Extended Communion**

**Sunday, December 3 | 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

The Deacons will be taking communion to anyone unable to attend Sunday worship. If you would like to receive communion or know of anyone to add to the list, please contact Ann Morris, [morris@westminster-church.org](mailto:morris@westminster-church.org), or call the church office 412-835-6630.



## **Advent @ Home Workshop**

**Sunday, December 3 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Yahweh Café**

This workshop is for parents and caregivers of children and youth of all ages who are looking for practical, simple resources to incorporate Advent practices at home with their families. Come to learn more about why we should include Advent conversations in our family Christmas preparations and walk away with practices you can use with your family even during the busiest days. This event will also be recorded and available online.

## **2023-2024 Season of the Town Hall South Speaker Series**

**Tuesday, December 5 | 10:00 a.m. | USC High School Theater**

Join THS on Tuesday, December 5, for speaker Ruth Reichl, James Beard Award-Winning Writer and Culinary Icon. For more info and tickets, go to [www.townhallsouth.org](http://www.townhallsouth.org).



## **Family Gingerbread Night**

**Wednesday, December 6 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall**

Enjoy a casual evening as a family as you build a gingerbread house together. There will be no JAM or Kids' Connection this evening. Registration is not required, but greatly appreciated as it aids us in planning for a night of family fun! To register, go to [bit.ly/wpcgingerbread23](http://bit.ly/wpcgingerbread23).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

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### Annual Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 10 | 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Music and Arts Series Presents Sounds of the Season. 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.

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### A Quiet Christmas

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

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.

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### 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).

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### 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).

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### Advent Devotionals

Advent devotional groups begin this week. All are welcome to participate in a weekly study beginning this Wednesday, November 29 at 4:30 p.m. in room 238. A women's study will be held November 30 and December 14 at 10:00 a.m. in room 238. Visit our website for additional studies.

# THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

NOV 26-DEC 3, 2023



Scan here for complete church calendar



Scan here for a full WROC schedule & information

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

8:30	Traditional Worship Wiggle Room**	Sanctuary Rm. 239
9:00	Welcome Center	North Main Entry
9:45	Bridge Contemporary Worship Bridge Sunday School (PreK-4th Grd.) Wiggle Room - The Bridge** Westminster Seminars	WROC/Lvstrm. Rm. 176 WROC Fitness Galbreath Chapel
11:00	Traditional Worship Wiggle Room** Sunday School (PreK-4th Grade) Sacrament Class	Sanctuary/Lvstrm. Rm. 239 Rm. 233 Rm. 238
3:00	Living Stones	Offsite
7:00	Youth Choir (Grades 7 - 12)	Rm. 268

\***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, NOVEMBER 27

12:00 AA Fellowship Hall

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

7:00	Tuesday Morning Men's Group	Rm. 238
8:45	THS Board Meeting	Rm. 231
10:00	Staff Meeting	Rm. 238
6:00	Pittsburgh Youth Chorus	Rm. 268
7:30	Scout Troop 366	Rm. 107

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

12:00	Westminster Book Group	Library
4:30	Advent Devotional	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	The Teen and Parent Mental Health Series	Fellowship Hall
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, NOVEMBER 30

10:00	Women to Women	Rm. 238
7:00	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
7:30	NA Nar Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 131

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

6:30a	Fishers of Men	Rm. 231
5:30	Veritas Winter Retreat	Camp Crestfield
7:00	AA AI Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 231

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

All day Veritas Winter Retreat Camp Crestfield



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



**WESTMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
**CHURCH**

A PC(USA) Congregation

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