

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

“Christ Child’s Lullaby” arr. Kim Robertson
Jennifer Buehler, harp

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Rev. Chris Peters

Moment for Mission: Christmas Joy Offering

Elder Steve Hughes

Call to Worship (Isaiah 12:2-3)

Deacon Carolyn Harp

One: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

One: Proclaim the mercy of the One who enters life as one of us.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

One: Trust and do not be afraid.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

One: With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation. Hallelujah! Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting: Joy

Schmidt Family

...Together we say

In Christ we find joy and community!

Special Music: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Rachel Hoffman, soloist

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;

The king of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart

From earthly use for heaven’s employ,

adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.

Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

Call to Confession

Deacon Carolyn Harp

Time of Silent Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that, in the midst of your glorious creation, we have neglected our role in its care. We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely, those on the margins and those who are oppressed. We focus on our own desires, while forgetting the needs of our neighbors. We get caught up in the hurried nature of our culture and forget to rest in this season of waiting. Grant us mercy in your forgiveness, and lead us to act with compassion and justice, guided by your glorious light. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

...Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

Passing of the Peace

Please greet those around you with a wave, peace sign, or by making eye contact repeating this response:

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Chat

Trish Souliere

(Children in Grades 1 – 5 are invited to come to Faith Village following the Children's Chat or to find and sit with their parents. Parents can pick up their children in Faith Village following the service.)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scriptures

Zephaniah 3:14-20

O.T. pg. 877

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:7-18

N.T. pg. 60

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon "What Then Should We Do?"

Rev. Chris Peters

Special Music:

"Angelical Hymn" arr. Sylvia Woods
Jennifer Buehler, harp

Affirmation of Faith (PCUS Declaration of Faith, 1977)

Deacon Carolyn Harp

God created human beings with a need for community and with freedom to enter into it by responding to their Maker with grateful obedience and to one another with love and helpfulness. We believe that we have been created to relate to God and each other in freedom and responsibility. We may misuse our freedom and deny our responsibility by trying to live without God and other people or against God and other people. Yet we are still bound to them for our life and well-being, and (we are) intended for free and responsible fellowship with them. Since every human being is made for communion with God and others, we must treat no one with contempt. We are to respect and love all other people and ourselves as well.

Moment of Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Instrumental Response

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

Charge & Benediction

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Postlude

"In the Bleak Midwinter" Gustav Holst, arr. Sunita Staneslow
Jennifer Buehler, harp

Flowers are given by Bill and Joan Roberts in celebration of their 51st wedding anniversary.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our Infant Room is available. This is located off the narthex through the West/Sheridan-end sanctuary doors. When you enter the narthex, turn to your right, where the door will be open.

There is a large basket near the Sheridan Street doors where your offering can be placed following the service.

If you don't want to take your bulletin with you, please dispose of it in the recycling basket as you exit the sanctuary.



*"I am the vine,
you are the branches . . ."*

The week of Dec. 12, 2021

Westminster Presbyterian Church is an inclusive faith family, inspired by Jesus Christ, to call, nurture, and empower disciples.

Christmas Eve worship services will be held on Friday, Dec. 24, at 5 pm and 7 pm in the sanctuary. The 5 pm service will include more kid-friendly elements and "Christmas Jazz" music with guitar and bass. The 7 pm service will feature music highlighted by a string quartet. Both services will include our familiar candle-lighting tradition.

Adult Education Advent Study | Dec. 12 & 19

Pastor Chris will lead a two-week class reflecting on ordinary objects that we find in scripture and in our own lives. This will be using the book *Advent in Plain Sight* by PC(USA) Pastor Jill Duffield. Join us after church in Fellowship Hall.

Taize Advent Worship on Wed. | 5:30 pm | Chapel

The Adult Education Committee is offering a devotional opportunity on the first three Wed. evenings during Advent. It will be a 30-minute service of reflective music and prayer, from 5:30 to 6 p.m. The time will feature one or two simple songs, silence, and a bidding prayer in the chapel.

Order Your Poinsettias

Make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one to be used to purchase poinsettias for Christmas Eve. There are order forms on the table at the east entrance and in the Dec. Messenger. Dec. 14 is the deadline to have it included in the bulletin.

Advent Workshop Gratitude

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with the Advent Workshop with a special thank you to the youth for providing such incredible support. Thanks also to everyone who stopped by and enjoyed coffee, cocoa, cookies, crafts, and fellowship. Our Great Cookie Bake-Off chefs did a wonderful job providing some truly creative cookies. We will be announcing the results of the voting in the service today.

Faith Village

This week we focus on the Christmas story through cooking.

Sunday Youth Group

The Youth Group will finish up the "Like Me" series by discussing what Paul says about living life outside of the "if only" mindset.

Youth Sermon Set-up

Donuts, juice, and discussion! Youth have a chance at a sneak peek of the upcoming sermon on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in the youth room. Youth are then invited to attend service together in the balcony or with their families.

Wednesday Nights | 5:30 pm

We will continue our Escape from Bethlehem series and will investigate what part Herod and the Wise Men play in the Christmas story. The Youth group will be having a Christmas party!

Green@Heart Recycles Again!

Don't send styrofoam or non-functional Christmas lights to the landfill. We will gather these items at the church again and deliver them to special recycling centers for YOU! There is a designated drop-off box at the east entrance.

Usher Teams

The Worship & Music committee is looking for volunteers who are willing to commit to ushering once a month as a four-member team. We are hoping to have a total of 16 volunteers to usher once a month for a commitment of 6 months starting in January. Email Kim at kim.kubick@hotmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Last Christmas, Westminster started a Reverse Advent Calendar project, which supports the Westminster Food Pantry. Instead of 'taking' something each day, we have the opportunity to 'give' a food item during each day of Advent. We had a wonderful response last year, and plan to do this as an annual focus each Advent season. There are copies of the calendar at the table near the east door or you can click on the link in the eVine. These are suggested items based on the weekly food packages we provide through the Westminster Food Pantry.

After the Advent season is over, we will have the church open to bring your Advent Box (an office paper-sized box would be ideal) during the following times below:

Sun 12/26 (or any Sunday morning)

Mon 12/27 - 10am-6pm

Tues 12/28 - 10am-6pm

Wed 12/29 - 10am-6pm

***If you could mark your box with the words "Reverse Advent Calendar", this will help us to track the participation for this meaningful event.*

If you prefer not to collect items, the pantry is always accepting donations! Please make your check out to Westminster Presbyterian Church, note the Food Pantry in the Memo line, and mail to the church at: 2110 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68502

Angel Tree

All the tags have been taken off the Angel Tree. Remember to return your unwrapped gifts by Dec. 12 and thank you!

Rev. Dr. Don McCall, formerly an interim pastor at WPC, passed away on Nov. 30. A Memorial Service was held on Dec. 11 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison, WI. Barbara's address is 242 Junction Rd., Apt. 37, Madison, WI 53717-2103, if you'd like to send a card.

Week Beginning December 12

<p><u>Sun. (12)</u> 9:15 AM Youth Sermon Set-up 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship/ Communion 9:40 AM Faith Village/ Nursery 10:40 AM <i>Advent in Plain Sight</i> Study, Fellowship Hall 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 7 PM High School Youth Group</p> <p><u>Mon. (13)</u> 11 AM Explorers Study Group, Parlor 5 PM Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall 6 PM Children & Youth, Zoom 6 PM Session, Cole Hall</p> <p><u>Tues. (14)</u> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10:30 AM Stewardship & Finance, Lounge 6 PM A & P, Zoom</p>	<p><u>Wed. (15)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Lib. 5:30 PM Wed. Activities 5:30 PM Advent Taize Service, Chapel 5:30 PM Bell Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Lib. 7 PM Bible Study, Zoom 7 PM Virtual Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Sun. (19)</u> 9:15 AM Youth Sermon Set-up 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village/ Nursery 10:40 AM <i>Advent in Plain Sight</i> Study, Fellowship Hall 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 7 PM High School Youth Group</p>
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Week 49 Giving \$27,742
 YTD Giving \$571,544
 Weekly Budget \$ 11,250
 YTD Budget \$551,250

Televised Worship

Thurs. at 12:30 pm/Sat. at 1 pm.
 Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

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