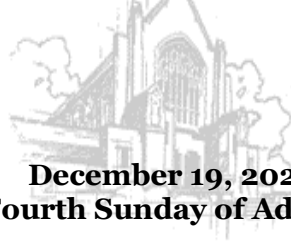


Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

“Savior of the Nations, Come!” arr. Larry Sue
Handbell Quartet

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Rev. Chris Peters

Call to Worship

Deacon Karen Hoffman

One: Not in the mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back:

All: The Messiah is coming. Let us live in hope.

One: Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, she who sang of justice and he who dreamed:

All: The Messiah is coming. Let us live in peace.

One: Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings, but by two women, who were the first to know:

All: The Messiah is coming. Let us live in joy.

One: Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:

All: The Messiah is coming. Let us live in love. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting: Love

...Together we say

In Christ we find love and are called to serve.

Special Music: My Soul Cries Out

Rev. Chris Peters, Guitar
Jeremy Duck, soloist

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

REFRAIN: My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,

and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. **REFRAIN**

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. **REFRAIN**

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving work that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. **REFRAIN**

Call to Confession

Deacon Karen Hoffman

Time of Silent Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from those who hunger and who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our complacency into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. 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

Epistle Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

O.T. pg. 865

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:39-55

N.T. pg. 57

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

Sermon “Reasons to Rejoice”

Rev. Chris Peters

Special Music:

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” arr. Larry Sue
Handbell Quartet

New Member Recognition

Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures, and truths, as God’s revelation.

Moment of Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Instrumental Response

Prayers of the People

Deacon Karen Hoffman

The Lord’s Prayer

Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. Rouse
Laura Ross, piano

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. 19, 2021

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

Christmas Eve | Dec. 24 | 5 pm and 7 pm

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. Both services will have overflow seating available if needed in Fellowship Hall, where candles will also be provided. Join us for either service at church or watch via livestream.

Sunday morning worship on **December 26** will include an interactive Children's Chat by Pastor Chris and a "story time" sermon for all ages. Join us for a relaxed service of welcome and joy.

Did you know? Studies by Lifeway Research show that Christmas Eve is the time in the life of the church when people who don't normally attend church (or don't attend at all) are most open to attending a worship service. The number one "pull" that helps them make the decision to attend is a personal invitation from a family member or friend. Consider inviting someone to church this Christmas Eve or on a Sunday you plan to attend in the future!

Adult Education Advent Study | Today

Pastor Chris will lead the second Advent study class today 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.

Faith Village

This week we will be decorating cookies and making special last-minute gifts.

All Youth Group Members

All Youth Group members, from both Wed. and Sun. nights, will gather for a Christmas party Sunday beginning at 7 pm.

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

Whatchamacallit Wednesdays will be taking a holiday break. We will resume activities on January 5, 2022.

Great Cookie Bake-Off

Congratulations to Rita Kinkennon for making the best tasting cookie, Reese Baltensperger for making the most festive cookie, and Ron Souliere for making the most unique cookie! Westminster bakers, you now have a whole year to plan your entry for next year's Great Cookie Bake-Off!

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.

Greeters

The Church Life Committee is looking for individuals who would be willing to welcome worship attendees, one Sunday, every other month in 2022. Click on the link in the eVine or contact Pam Wealand at pjwealand0983@gmail.com to sign up.

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

Week Beginning December 19

<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 Youth Group Christmas Party</p>	<p><u>Wed. (22)</u> No Wed. activities this week</p>
<p><u>Mon. (20)</u> 11 AM Explorers Study Group, Parlor</p>	<p><u>Fri. (24) Christmas Eve</u> 5 PM Worship, Sanctuary 7 PM Worship, Sanctuary</p>
<p><u>Tues. (21)</u> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Faith & Cancer Support Group, Parlor</p>	<p><u>Sat. (25) Christmas Day</u></p> <p><u>Sun. (26)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>

Week 50 Giving	\$9,777
YTD Giving	\$581,322
Weekly Budget	\$ 11,250
YTD Budget	\$562,500

Televised Worship

Thurs. at 12:30 pm/Sat. at 1 pm.

Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

joanne@westminsterlincoln.org

402-475-6702