

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



January 2, 2022  
Epiphany of the Lord

## Prelude

"The First Noel" arr. Thomas Keesecker  
John Ross, piano

## Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

## Call to Worship

*One: Arise, shine - your light has come!*

**All: The glory of God has appeared among us!**

*One: Arise, shine - find your purpose!*

**All: The glory of God has appeared among us!**

*One: Arise, shine - find hope in the birth of our Lord!*

**All: The glory of God has appeared among us!**

*One: Arise, shine - share your gifts in the name of the Savior!*

**All: The glory of God has appeared among us!**

## Special Music

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Cyndy Maddux, soloist

Music and Text by John Henry Hopkins, Public Domain

We three kings of Orient are: bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

[Refrain] O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshipping God Most High. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of fathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

## Call to Confession

## Time of Silent Confession

## Unison Prayer of Confession

*Merciful God, you have given hope to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in sin. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. 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

(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

Prophets

Isaiah 60:1-16

O.T. pg. 690

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

N.T. pg. 2

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

## Meditation "Diligent Searching"

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

## Special Music

"There's a Song in the Air" arr. John Ness Beck  
Cyndy Maddux, soloist  
Text by Josiah G. Holland, Public Domain

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's soft cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,  
For the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

In the light of that star lie the ages impearled;  
And that song from afar has swept over the world.  
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

## **Affirmation of Faith**

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## **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**

## **Communion of the People**

## **Prayer After Communion**

## **Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

## **Postlude**

"Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson / arr. Thomas Trotter  
John Ross, organ

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## **Ministers**

The whole congregation.

## **Pastors**

Rev. Chris Peters

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

## **Music Directors**

John & Laura Ross

## **Director of Children & Youth**

Trish Souliere



*“I am the vine,  
you are the branches . . .”*

**The week of Jan. 2, 2022**

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

### **Star Words on Epiphany | Today**

Today is Epiphany Sunday! Pastor Jimmy will preach on “Diligent Searching” from Matthew 2. During worship, you will be invited to take a “Star Word,” a word or phrase that symbolizes a sense of direction in our lives and in our faith for the coming year. A Star Word is a word that might encourage you daily or be your prayer for the year 2022.

### **An Invitation from Tom and Laurel | Today**

We met and became friends at Westminster. We fell in love and were married here. We even have a place reserved in the Columbarium. So, it’s only fitting we celebrate our “Golden” (20th) Anniversary with our Westminster family. Please join us for cake in the Garden Room this morning following worship.  
-Tom and Laurel Van Ham Pappas

### **Matt Talbot Kitchen | New Service Opportunity Begins Today**

Beginning today, Westminster will have a new opportunity to serve a meal at Matt Talbot Kitchen! Serving is simple – arrive at 5 pm to learn the ropes of setting out food and serving, work as a team to serve from 5:30 until 6:30 pm, and then help with basic clean-up before wrapping up around 6:45 pm. This is a great opportunity for a family or two households to partner together to follow the call of Jesus to “love our neighbor.” Please contact Susie Hughes ([skh@eskays.com](mailto:skh@eskays.com)) with questions or to sign up to serve today or March 6 (to start, we will serve during odd months).

### **Community Conversations**

As is our long-established custom, knowledgeable community members have been invited in January to speak to pertinent issues of the day. There is no issue more all-consuming than COVID and this will be WPC’s first opportunity to learn about and consider Lincoln’s response to the pandemic. Please look over the list below then plan on attending sessions on how various entities in Lincoln have fared. We’ve asked speakers to respond to the question, “What did your institution do to cope with COVID and what are your ongoing plans while we still have an active pandemic.” We’ll gather in Fellowship Hall at 10:45 am after worship.

Our presenters are:

- January 9: Dr. Steve Joel is superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools
- January 16: Dr. Rich Lloyd is Health Sciences President of Bryan School of Nursing and Executive President of Hastings College
- January 23: Teresa Ewins is Chief of Police for the Lincoln Police Department
- January 30: Dr. Bob Rauner is founder and president of Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln

### **Worship Update**

Westminster's Session and leadership thank you for continuing to wear a mask on-site and in worship for the sake of our youngest disciples who still cannot be vaccinated, especially in light of the ongoing increase in cases due to omicron. As shared in our November Session Notes, we ask that worshippers continue to mask up so that we may be able to most safely resume congregational singing when the COVID dial returns to yellow. This approach was not changed at our Dec. meeting, though there was balanced discussion. We will continue to update you on any changes to come from our Safety Task Force or Session in this space and/or in our Session Notes.

### **Poinsettias**

If you know of someone who would enjoy having a poinsettia, please take one to them or take one home yourself.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:kim.kubick@hotmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

### **Faith to Forest Zoom Series**

Adult Education encourages you to Zoom and Learn about the vital role of trees in our call to tend creation and protect life on our planet. The first episode will run from 7-8 pm on Thursday, Jan. 6, and will feature Jen Strickland and Jacob Buchholz talking about why trees and the environment are important to people of faith. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82715788250> See your January Messenger for more about the series.

### **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.

### **Wednesday Nights**

Whatchamacallit Wednesday activities resume on Jan. 5, 2022.

### **Youth Group**

It's time for a Lock-in!! We will kick off the new year together with an all-youth lock-in, starting at 8 pm on Jan. 2 and ending at 8 am on Jan. 3.

### **Faith Village**

Faith Village kids are having a Pajama Party on Sun., Jan. 2. We will have pancakes and cocoa, play games, watch videos, and make crafts in our pajamas!

**Week Beginning January 2**

<p><b><u>Sun. (2)</u></b> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship with Communion 9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery 10:30 AM Tom &amp; Laurel 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Garden Room 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 8 PM Youth Group Lock-In</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (3)</u></b> 8 AM Lock-in Ends 7 PM Circle 4, Zoom</p> <p><b><u>Tues. (4)</u></b> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch, Olive Garden 5 PM Adult Ed, Lounge</p> <p><b><u>Wed. (5)</u></b> 10 AM Circles 3 &amp; 5, Lounge</p>	<p>1:30 PM Hearts&amp;Hands, Library 5:30 PM Wed. Activities 5:30 PM Bell Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30 PM Hearts&amp;Hands, Library 7 PM Acts Study, Zoom 7 PM Virtual Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><b><u>Sat. (8)</u></b> 1 PM Undecorate the Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (9)</u></b> 9:15 AM Youth Sermon Set-up 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery 10:45 AM Adult Ed, FH 10:45 AM Confirmation Class 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 1 PM Preschool Winter Program 7 PM H.S. Youth Group</p>
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**Televised Worship**

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

Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

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