

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Advent Candle Lighting

Jim & Rita Kinkennon

From generation to generation, God has brought good news of love and compassion, justice and community. Let us rest and abide in that good news. Amen.

*Hymn #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Call to Confession

Deacon Gary Haller

*Time of Silent Confession

*Unison Prayer of Confession

God of today and God of tomorrow, you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here." But we say, "Our lives are too messy." You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here." But we say, "It's too risky to hope." You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here." But we say, "Some things are easier to forget." God of today and God of tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there's room for us here. Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you. Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best. Help us remember, today and tomorrow, that there's room for every story. Amen.

***Response to the Confession**
*O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.*

#471

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

...Believe and share the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise**

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

#581

***Passing of the Peace**

Please share a sign of welcome and inclusion that is mutually comfortable (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Chat

Sarah Baltensperger

(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 Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-5

O.T. pg. 631

Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

N.T. pg. 27

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

Sermon

“There's Hope Here”

Rev. Dr. Carl Eskridge

***Hymn #105**

People Look East

Moment of Gratitude

Jim White

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Special Music

Prayers of the People

Deacon Gary Haller

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.

***Hymn #93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Carl Eskridge

Postlude

*Please rise in body or spirit for these parts of worship.

Today's words in worship include liturgy and adaptations from *Feasting On the Word: Worship Companion, Year C, Vol. 2*; Westminster John Knox Press; ed. Rev. Dr. Kim Long, as well as original words by Rev. Chris Peters.

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 entry foyer through the Sheridan Blvd./West-end sanctuary doors. When you enter the foyer, turn to your right, where the door will be open.

Giving to Westminster's Mission and Ministry

At Church: An offering to support Westminster may be placed in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan

Blvd. doors in the narthex and the sanctuary elevator exit. Look for the signs that read “Giving Basket.”

For online giving, scan the QR code.



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

Please welcome Rev. Dr. Carl Eskridge, our guest preacher this morning. Carl Eskridge, a native of North Carolina, graduated from St. Andrews University (NC), Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (TX), San Francisco Theological Seminary (CA), and the University of Nebraska College of Law. Ordained by Homestead Presbytery in 1979, Carl was called as pastor to the Palmyra and Heritage/Lincoln Presbyterian Churches and has served Homestead Presbytery in many capacities during his 43-year tenure. He currently moderates the Session of the Wahoo/Czech Church and the Auburn Presbyterian Church and regularly preaches in congregations throughout the area. For 25 years Carl worked as an attorney for the Nebraska Office of Public Counsel/Ombudsman, retiring January 1, 2021. He also served two terms on the Lincoln City Council representing Central and NW Lincoln. In retirement Carl is an active mediator and serves on the boards of the Lincoln Electric Service, Community Action Partners, the Lincoln Library Foundation, the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation, and the Administration and Finance Committee of Homestead Presbytery. Carl's wife, Janet Hannah Eskridge, is an artist and an active community volunteer. Carl and Janet were married June 1, 1974, and they have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren, three in Omaha and one in Nashville, TN.

Ministers: The whole congregation

Pastors: Rev. Chris Peters & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Liturgist: Deacon Gary Haller

Music Director: Ronnie Zanella

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Martha Kingsbury, Suzanne Bartlett, Becky Bockrath, Carol Shelbourn

Greeters: Joyce Douglas & Marilyn Hood



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

The week of Nov. 27, 2022

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

Advent Study: A Branch Shall Grow Begins Today

Have you ever thought of Advent as a time of growth? Have you ever wondered if your neighbor would welcome an invitation to attend church with you? Isaiah begins chapter 11 with “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” What if we understood that that shoot, the Messiah, was calling us to be sharers of the Word not just hearers?

Join us Sun., Nov. 27, the First Sunday of Advent, as we begin an exploration of the message for us this Advent 2022. We will meet in the Parlor at 10:40 AM.

Nov. 27 *The Good News for All Nations*: Isaiah 11:1-10 – Matt. 3:1-12

Dec. 11 *The Holy Highway*: Isaiah 35:1-10 - Luke 1:46b-55

Dec. 18 *Immanuel, God with Us*: Romans 1:1-7 – Matt. 1:18-25

Angel Tree

Christmas and holiday gifts are provided from the Angel Tree. These gifts are given to children from low-income families. Gifts, toys, clothing, and much more is provided for disadvantaged children that range in age from infant to age 12. Senior citizens who are 60 years and older can also benefit from the Angel Tree.

Look for the Angel tree at the top of the stairs across from the reception desk. Pick a tag from the tree and shop. Return the unwrapped gifts, with the tag attached to the bag, placing them under the tree. **Gifts must be returned to the church by Dec. 12.** Will you be someone’s Angel? Thank you. Mission & Outreach

Lunch Bunch will meet at Tico's, 317 S 17th St, on Dec. 6 at 11:30 AM. RSVP to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

Holiday of Trees | Nov. 30 & Dec. 1

The Heritage League is holding their 50th annual Holiday of Trees on:

Wed., Nov. 30 10 AM to 8 PM and

Thurs., Dec. 1 10 AM to 7 PM

The admission is a donation at the door. Proceeds from this year's ticket sales will go to the St. Elizabeth Hospital Burn Unit. Come and see the beautiful trees and enjoy some treats.

Advent Workshop | Dec. 4 | 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

We invite you to dive into the holiday season with the Advent Workshop. We will gather with the anticipation of great joy on the second Sunday of Advent, immediately after church to renew friendships, participate in the chili cook-off and compete for the coveted Silver Ladle Award, and enjoy cookies and fellowship at the children's craft workshop. If you are interested in taking part in the chili cook-off, please contact sarah.baltensperger@gmail.com.

Youth Group Baked Goods Auction | Dec. 4

The Westminster Youth Group will be holding an auction during the Advent Workshop to raise money for Angel Tree presents. The Youth Group will be baking or decorating baked goods for a silent auction, but we would like to call upon all of our talented and creative bakers to donate something special to the cause. Cakes, pies, brownies, bars, breads, or anything you would like to make is welcome. To contribute an item to the auction, please complete this form <https://forms.gle/F3YnwA97dxXKmaDP6>.

Dreams and Angels | Dec. 11 & 18

The Adult Education Series in the Lounge will feature "Fixtures in the Christmas Story: Dreams and Angels." Pastor Jimmy will delve into the Hebrew Bible's take on dreams during the Dec. 11 class; the following week do the same for "Angels." The classes will be at 10:40 to 11:30.

LiNK Neighborhood Caroling | Dec. 14

Join us for a meal at 6 PM in Cole Hall and then go caroling with us through the neighborhood. We'll finish up with hot cocoa back at the church. Share with our neighbors the HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE of Advent.

Lessons and Carols | Dec. 18

Westminster's children and youth invite you to attend the children and youth led Lessons & Carols service on Sun., Dec. 18 at 9:30 AM. The Lessons & Carols service tells the story of God's plan for God's people, begun so long ago. It is a beautiful story told in narration and song. If your child is interested in taking part in this service, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/U1dWo4xgBwFn9ytn7>. If you have any questions, contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

Christmas Eve Worship

There will be two worship services at WPC on Christmas Eve, 5 pm and 7 pm. Both services will have brass, Westminster Choir and candle lighting. One of the services will also be live-streamed and available to watch later. The worship service on Christmas Day will be available on our YouTube channel beginning at 9:30 AM. There will not be a service in the sanctuary on Christmas Day.



Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach Family Service Opportunity

Are you are looking for an opportunity for your family to serve? Sign up your family to volunteer here: <https://forms.gle/gqmdsmiWbdRqVJJW8>.

Questions? Contact Susie Hughes at skh@eskeys.com.

Join Others in Reading the Bible in a Year

Join with fellow Westminster-ites in small groups to read the Bible in the year 2023. From now through early December there will be sign-up sheets in the Garden Room. Marijane England will be the facilitator and serve as a resource for group leaders. Check the Garden Room on Sundays or contact Marijane England at marijane.england@gmail.com. More information can be found in *The November Messenger*.

Staying Green & Clean Up of Coffee Cups

We need several people to help wash coffee cups on Sunday mornings. Grab a friend and sign up for one Sunday a month.

Poinsettias

We will be ordering poinsettias to place in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services again this year. You can make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one, to be included in the bulletin for Christmas Eve. Complete the enclosed pink order form and return it to the office by Dec. 13. The donation level is \$15.

Week Beginning November 27

<p><u>Sun. (27)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery 10:45 AM Advent Study—A Branch Shall Grow, Parlor 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (28)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Lounge</p> <p><u>Tues. (29)</u> 9 AM Set Up for Holiday of Trees 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 5 PM Ladies' Night Out, Billy's 7:30 PM Student Recital, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Wed. (30)</u> 10 AM Holiday of Trees 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library</p>	<p>5:30 PM Westminster LiNK, Cole Hall 6:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Dec. 1)</u> 10 AM Holiday of Trees 7 PM Flute Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Sun. (4)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship/Cantata by Choir 9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery 10:30 AM Advent Workshop, FH YG Baked Goods Auction Chili Cookoff 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 3 PM Messiah Concert, Union College Orchestra & Choir, Sanctuary</p>
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Televised Worship

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

Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

joanne@westminsterlincoln.org

402-475-6702