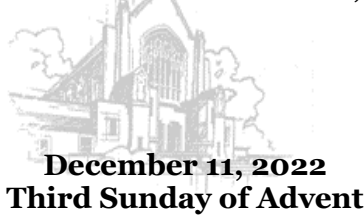


Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

"Canon"

by Johann Pachelbel, arr. by John Ross
Flute Ensemble

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Advent Candle Lighting

Leavitts & McCunes

We find joy in many different avenues, for we are all unique. But our greatest joy as Christians is when we can celebrate the presence of Christ in our lives. Amen.

*Hymn #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vss. 1-7

*Call to Confession

Deacon Gary Haller

*Time of Silent Confession

*Unison Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

***Response to the Confession**

#471

*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.*

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

...Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise**

#581

*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.*

***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.)

Special Music

"A Very Merry Madrigal"

Based on trad. Gloucester carol, by Douglas Wagner
Tatiana Eskridge, *soprano*; Sanda Mašić, *alto*; Jeremy Duck, *tenor*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10

O.T. pg. 663

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

N.T. pg. 11

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

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.



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: Marybell Avery, Barbara Wright-Chollet, Marilyn Hood, Joan Roberts

Greeters: Kathy Phillip & Valery Wachter



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

The week of Dec. 11, 2022

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

Clifford Bomberger, member of WPC, will celebrate his 100th birthday on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Congratulations, Clifford!

Sending Christmas Greetings to Fellow Members

Stop by the tables in the Garden Room today to add your name to the Christmas cards to be sent to fellow members of Westminster.

Angel Tree Bake Sale

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Angel Tree Bake Sale! Because of your generosity, we have \$601 to bring the Christmas spirit of giving to families who need help. If you took a tag from the Angel tree to shop for someone, remember to return the unwrapped gifts, with the tag attached to the bag, by Dec. 12.

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.

Advent Study: A Branch Shall Grow | Dec. 11 & 18 | Parlor | 10:40 AM

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?

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

Prayers of sympathy to the family of Willie Shafer, who died recently.

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 pink order form and return it to the office by Dec. 13. The donation level is \$15. Order forms are located in the narthex and at the east entrance.

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 next 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.

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. The services will be live-streamed and also 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 your family up for an evening at Matt Talbot here:

<https://forms.gle/gqmdsmiWbdRqVJJW8>.

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

Chili Cook-off

Thanks to everyone who took part in the 2022 Chili Cook-off and congratulations to the 2022 Silver Ladle award winners for their Lohmen Circle Oktoberfest Chili!

REMINDER TO IRA OWNERS AGE 70 ½ OR OVER: QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS ARE GREAT OPTIONS FOR MAKING TAX-FREE GIFTS TO the Westminster Foundation.

IRA owners age 70 ½ or over can transfer up to \$100,000 to Westminster Foundation (or other charities) tax-free each year. These transfers, known as qualified charitable distributions or QCD's, offer eligible older Americans a great way to easily give to the Westminster Foundation.

Normally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable when received. With the QCD's, however, these distributions become tax-free as long as they're paid directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization like Westminster Foundation.

The trustees of the Westminster Foundation are grateful for the generosity of our church family over the years, and appreciate your consideration of donating to the Westminster Foundation.

Advent/Christmas Schedule

Dec. 18, 9:30 AM	Service of Lessons and Carols by Children and Youth
Dec. 24, 5 PM & 7 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Services Brass, Choir and Candle Lighting Sanctuary and Live Stream
Dec. 25, 9:30 AM	Christmas Day Worship Service Live Stream Only (no sanctuary worship)
Dec. 26	Church Building Closed for Holiday
Jan. 1, 9:30 AM	Sanctuary Worship with Communion and Live Stream

Week Beginning December 11

<p><u>Sun. (11)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery 10:40 AM Advent Study—A Branch shall Grow, Parlor 10:40 AM Advent Study—Dreams, Lounge 10:40 AM Rehearsal for Children & Youth Lessons & Carols 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6:30 PM Youth Group</p> <p><u>Mon. (12)</u> 5 PM Church Life Ministry, Library 6 PM Children & Youth, Zoom 6 PM Session, Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Scouts Den/Pack Meetings, Cole Hall</p> <p><u>Tues. (13)</u> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10 AM Circle 5, Lounge 10:30 AM Stewardship & Finance, Library 5 PM Personnel, Zoom</p>	<p><u>Wed. (14)</u> 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 4:30 PM Foundation Marketing Meeting, Lounge 5 PM Foundation Board Meeting, Lounge 5:30 PM Westminster LiNK, Cole Hall 6:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (15)</u> 9 AM Friendship Home All Staff Meeting, Fellowship Hall 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge</p> <p><u>Sun. (18)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery 10:40 AM Advent Study—A Branch shall Grow, Parlor 10:40 AM Advent Study—Angels, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6:30 PM Youth Group 7 PM String Recital, Sanctuary</p>
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Week 49	\$22,948
YTD Giving	\$533,473
Weekly Budget	\$10,970
YTD Budget	\$537,539

Televised Worship

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

Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

joanne@westminsterlincoln.org

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