

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

November 26, 2023  
Reign of Christ Sunday

**Prelude** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” arr. Benjamin Culli

**Welcome** Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

**\*Call to Worship (Psalm 100:1-5, Common English Bible)**  
Deacon Claire Titus

One: Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!

***All: Serve the Lord with celebration! Come before the Lord with shouts of joy!***

One: Know that the Lord is God— God made us, and we belong to God.

***All: We are God’s people, sheep of the holy pasture.***

One: Enter God’s gates with thanks, and the courtyards with praise!

***All: Because the Lord is good. God’s loyal love lasts forever; God’s faithfulness lasts generation after generation.***

**\*Hymn #35** Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

**\*Call to Confession** Deacon Claire Titus

**\*Time of Silent Confession**

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

***Loving God, you have called to us, but we have not answered. You have sought us out, but we have continued to wander. You have tenderly gathered us together and cared for us, but we have not extended that same care and mercy to others. Forgive us. Remind us. Teach us. Set us free from sin that we might turn toward your love and justice for the whole world. Guide us so that, tentative step after tentative step, we may walk your way. Amen.***

**\*Response to the Confession** #473  
***Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life. (refrain only x2)***

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness** Deacon Claire Titus  
*We pour water into the baptismal font at this time as a sign of our renewal in baptism and in confession. It is a visual reminder of the Nicene Creed's affirmation, "I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins," and Romans 5:5 that promises, "God's love is being poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."*

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

**\*Response of Praise** #587  
***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**\*Passing of the Peace** Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn  
*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** "Come Ye Thankful People Come"  
arr. Benjamin Harlan & Gary Hallquist  
Westminster Choir

**Verse 3: Choir and Congregation:**

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring Thy final harvest home;  
Gather all Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified, in Thy presence to abide.  
Come, with all Thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Hebrew Scriptures Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 O.T. pg. 803  
Gospel Reading Matthew 25:31-46 N.T. pg. 29

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

**Sermon**

“Packing List Parables: Step-by-Step Navigation”

Rev. Chris Peters

**\*Hymn #79**

**Light Dawns on a Weary World**

**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.***

**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.***

**Blessing of the Elements  
Prayer After Communion**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**\*Hymn #384**

**Soon and Very Soon**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

**Postlude**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

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

Parts of today’s words for worship (liturgy) are adapted from the Presbyterian Outlook’s Order of Worship for November 19, 2023 by Rev. Ginna Bairby, Pastor of First Presbyterian, Taos, New Mexico.

**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 red Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan Blvd. doors in the narthex and near the top of the stairs in the sanctuary on the Garden Room / South side. Look for the red baskets and signs that read "Giving Basket." Ushers monitor the baskets and collect the offerings following the service.

**For online giving,** scan the QR code.



**Ministers:** The whole congregation

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

**Liturgist:** Deacon Claire Titus

**Interim Music Director:** Mary Daugherty

**Organist:** John Ross

**Guest Organist:** Willa Foster Jones

**Director of Children & Youth:** Trish Souliere

**Greeters:** Joyce Douglas & Marilyn Hood

**Ushers:** Suzanne Bartlett, Becky Bockrath, Martha Kingsbury

**Communion Servers:** Marybell Avery, Jim Hlava, Emily Killham,  
Diana Wild, Ray Stevens

**Dishwashers:** Larry & Mary Peach



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

**The week of Nov. 26, 2023**

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

**The Parable of the Judgment of the Nations / Christ the King Sunday**

Pastor Chris will engage the powerful parable of the “sheep and goats,” and the call to show mercy to those around us as we reach our destination in our Packing List Parables series.

**Advent/Christmas Happenings**

**Dec. 3 Advent 1**

9:30 AM—Finding Hope—Hope in Our Past

10:45 AM—“Name that Christmas Carol”

with John Ross, Adult Ed, Fellowship Hall



**Dec. 10 Advent 2**

9:30 AM—Finding Hope—Hope in Current Times

10:45 AM—Advent Workshop: Chili Cook-off, Advent activities for families and all ages!

**Dec. 17 Advent 3**

9:30 AM—A Service of Lessons and Carols

10:45 AM—Sharing of Christmas Traditions, Adult Ed, Lounge

4 PM—Multi-denominational Service for the Weary, Auld Pavilion at Antelope Park

**Dec. 24 Advent 4**

9:30 AM—Finding Hope—Hope is Near

5 & 7 PM—Finding Hope—Hope is Here, Christmas Eve Worship with Candle Lighting

**Dec. 25 Christmas Day**—Office Closed

**Dec. 31—New Year’s Eve**

9:30 AM—Worship Service

### **Ladies' Night Out | Wednesday, November 29 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

You are invited to join us this month at LILA MAE'S SOUTHERN KITCHEN AND LOUNGE! Their address is 2110 Winthrop Rd. Join us and bring a friend. RSVP to Robyn Uebele at [robynu2@hotmail.com](mailto:robynu2@hotmail.com) today.

**Lunch Bunch** will meet at Olive Garden, Gateway Mall, on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 11:30 AM. RSVP to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or [jimkinkennon@gmail.com](mailto:jimkinkennon@gmail.com).

### **Advent Workshop Dec. 10 at 10:45 AM—NOTE DATE CHANGE**

Advent, the beautiful season of candlelight, reflection and expectation, is just around the corner. Advent, which means “coming” or “arrival,” is a time of joyful anticipation while we wait for the birth of Jesus. We invite you to dive into the holiday season with your Westminster family at the Advent Workshop. We will gather on **December 10**, immediately after church to renew friendships and enjoy cookies, chili, friends, and crafts. The fierce competition for the coveted Silver Ladle continues, along with the Youth Mission Baked Goods Auction, sponsored by the Westminster Youth Group.

### **Poinsettias**

We will be ordering poinsettias to place in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services again this year. You can donate 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. 11. The donation level is \$15.

### **Angel Tree Project**

Once again Westminster is partnering with the Salvation Army Angel Tree Project. Christmas and holiday gifts from the Angel Tree are given to children from low-income families. Gifts, toys, clothing, and much more are provided for children 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. 13.** Most people, especially children, look forward to receiving clothing and gifts over the holidays. Will you be someone's Angel? Thank you. Mission & Outreach

## **Advent Workshop Baked Goods Auction**

The season of expectation and giving is coming soon, bringing with it opportunities to spread good cheer with unexpected gifts. The Youth Group will be sponsoring a baked goods auction at the Advent Workshop again this year to support various mission initiatives throughout the year, including the annual Angel Tree gifts. We are calling for 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. Contact Trish at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org) or complete this form <https://forms.gle/GU9y4Vinjjoimb3v9>. Please indicate the ingredients you used, if possible. Master creations can be delivered between 10-2 on Friday or on Sunday, Dec. 10, before the worship service.

Mission/Outreach is pleased to bring **Equal Exchange Coffee and Equal Exchange Organic Chocolate** to Westminster friends. Available the first Sunday of the month. *HINT – Great gift ideas for the holiday season.*

Our congregation is proud to offer a brew that is delicious and chocolate that is organic. These products reflect our values of social justice. By choosing this fairly-traded coffee and chocolate, you are supporting a whole separate ethical supply chain—not huge corporations. Enjoy it! Buy some to bring home, and share it with friends.

When we give the opportunity to purchase Equal Exchange products during Fellowship Hour after services or for the holidays, we're making a strong statement about our values as a community. We're proclaiming that our congregation believes that it's vital to keep small farmers on the land providing food for their families and having some economic control over their lives; that it's important to work with indigenous producers and women; that sustainable agricultural methods are a vital way to address climate change.

## **Church Directory Photos**

If you would still like a Church Directory Photo taken, contact Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or [jimkinkennon@gmail.com](mailto:jimkinkennon@gmail.com). We'd like to have as many members included in the directory as possible.

## Food Pantry Thank You

As we approach Thanksgiving, we want to thank you for your wonderful support of Westminster Food Pantry. The pantry is an ongoing mission of our church. Your food donations and monetary gifts make it possible for our pantry to send boxes each week that will provide food for six families. The People City Mission definitely thanks you too. We wish you many blessings at Thanksgiving and thanks again for your generosity.

--Marilyn Smith and Nora Hinrichs

## Week Beginning November 26

<p><b><u>Sun. (Nov. 26) Reign of Christ</u></b> 9:30 AM Worship with Communion/Faith Village 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM Youth Group</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (Nov. 27)</u></b> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study— Reading the Bible, Library</p> <p><b><u>Tues. (Nov. 28)</u></b> 9 AM Holiday of Trees Set Up 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 Deacons, Lounge</p> <p><b><u>Wed. (Nov. 29)</u></b> 9 AM Holiday of Trees 1:30 PM Hearts &amp; Hands, Library</p>	<p>5:30 PM WestminsterLINK 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Thurs. (Nov. 30)</u></b> 9 AM Holiday of Trees</p> <p><b><u>Sat. (Dec. 2)</u></b> 9 AM Hanging of the Greens</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (Dec. 3) Advent 1</u></b> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:50 AM Adult Ed., Fellowship Hall 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM Youth Group</p>
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**Worship services are available on-line at this link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@WestminsterLincoln/streams>

## Televised Worship

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

Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

[joanne@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:joanne@westminsterlincoln.org)

402-475-6702