

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



Finding Hope: Hope in Our Past

Prelude “Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Is Crying” by J.S. Bach

Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Christmas Joy Offering Steve Hughes

***Invitation to Worship (Isaiah 2:4)** Chip and Lisa DeBuse

One: The nations shall beat their swords into
plowshares,

All: And their spears into pruning hooks.

One: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

All: Neither shall they learn war anymore.

One: We light the candle of hope as a sign of the coming
arrival of God-with-us, the Emmanuel, Jesus, our Lord.

Lighting the Candle of Hope

One: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

All: Amen.

***Hymn #88** **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**
(verses 1-2, 6-7)

***Call to Confession** Deacon Gary Haller



This Sunday begins the season of Advent in the church year. Advent is a season of anticipation for the arrival of Christ - both looking back to the prophets to hear anticipation at the birth of a Messiah, and in our own day, looking toward Christ's return. We light candles as signs of the growing light of Christ. Today we light the candle of hope.

From the Glory to God Hymnal notes on Hymn 90: "The refrain comes from the ecumenical Community of Taize in France. With repeated singing it can be used by itself as a contemplative prayer and is especially appropriate in Advent." We will sing this song as our sung response to the confessing of our sins each of the next four Sunday mornings.

***Prayer of Confession and Seeking Christ's Light**
Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and that you might reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

Response to the Confession #90 Wait for the Lord (refrain x2)

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Deacon Gary Haller

...Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise #143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory (verse 4)**

*All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

***Passing of Christ's 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

Elder Jaime Hemmerling

(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
Gospel

Isaiah 64:1-9
Mark 13:24-37

O.T. pg. 694
N.T. pg. 50

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

Sermon

“Hope in Our Past”

Rev. Chris Peters

*Hymn #82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Moment of Gratitude

Special Music

"Advent Carol" by C. Yannerella
Text by Mary Kay Beall

Lyrics for Anthem:

Once you came to a stable bare
With cattle lowing night wind blowing
As you came on that winter's night

Once you came as a tiny child
When shepherds found you, knelt around you
As you came to your mother's arms
Come again Lord come again

Once you came as a gift of love
Angels singing noels ringing
As you came bringing peace and joy

Refrain: Come again Lord, come again
Come again come again
Come again we pray
Come again come again
Lead our hearts to Christmas Day

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

Advent also serves as the start of a new year in the three-year cycle of texts called the 'revised common lectionary,' and today is the start of Year B.

Our "Finding Hope" theme was designed by Pastor Chris to help us explore the scriptures looking for their words of hope each week. We'll do so by exploring passages from Isaiah and considering where and when those words were shared with the Israelite people.

The Benediction Pastor Chris will use during Advent is adapted from a closing prayer in "Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer" by J Philip Newel. Pastor Chris has found this book to be a meaningful addition to his own prayer life, shared as a Christmas gift by a friend from his previous congregation. (ISBN: 9780802839046)

Ministers: The whole congregation

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

Liturgist: Gary Haller

Advent Candle

Lighters: Chip & Lisa DeBuse

Interim Music Director: Mary Daugherty

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children &

Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Carol Boehler, Diana Wild, Skyler Bennett

Greeters:

Dishwashers: Kelly Braswell-Bubach & Dorrie Gage

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Hymn #105 People, Look East**

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" by Johann Pachelbel

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

Our Advent Candle Lighting and Confessional Liturgies are adapted from those found in the PCUSA Book of Common Worship and UCC Worship Ways.

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.





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

The week of Dec. 3, 2023

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

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

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.

Gratitude for our Hanging of the Green Volunteers!

Thank you to all those who participated in the Hanging of the Greens! Westminster Youth and our Worship & Music Committee have teamed up for several years to prepare our Advent and Christmas Eve decorations. This year the date was a rare year where Reign of Christ Sunday, not



Advent One, was after Thanksgiving. That pushed our usual timing back a week. Pastor Chris wants to share a special word of thanks for that flexibility in light of the “odd” schedule!

Equal Exchange Coffee & Organic Chocolate

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.

Advent Workshop—Dec. 10 at 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Advent has arrived! As we move into the season of expectation and preparation, we invite you to join us at the Advent Workshop next Sunday. We will gather immediately after church to renew friendships, enjoy food together, and make lasting memories. At the craft tables, we will be making blooming wire sculptures, God with us weavings, and watercolor stars of Bethlehem. After you make a craft, you can enjoy the hot chocolate and coffee bar and decorate cookies, then taste the various chili offerings and select the winner of the coveted Silver Ladle. Be sure to check out the Youth Group Mission Baked Goods Auction for a selection of delicious items from the Youth Group and your favorite Westminster bakers to stock up on Christmas treats. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

Call for Baked Goods—Dec. 10 at 10:45 AM

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 or complete this form <https://forms.gle/GU9y4Vinjjoimb3v9>. *Please indicate ingredients if possible.* Master creations can be delivered between 10-2 on Friday or on Sunday morning, the day of the Advent Workshop.

Recycling Styrofoam

Once again Green@Heart will be helping you responsibly dispose of foam packaging from holiday purchases. Beginning December 3 there will be a receptacle by the east door to collect foam. (Food containers and packing peanuts not accepted.) Failed light strings will also be collected. So you know, we take the foam to its source in Omaha, Plastilite. They make the original foam packaging and also reuse the old to make new. So, it's possible that we've sent foam back and forth to them five times.

Church Directory Photos

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

All Church Caroling—Dec. 20, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM

Join us for caroling through the neighborhood! We will leave church at 5:30 and finish up with hot cocoa and a meal in Cole Hall. Help us to share with our neighbors the HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE of Advent.

Prairie Readers

Prairie Readers will meet Dec. 20 at 1 PM in the Lounge. We will share delicious holiday treats and enjoy a film selected by Weston Crawford. We wish our fellow readers the blessings of the season.

Week Beginning December 3

<p><u>Sun. (Dec. 3) Advent 1</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:50 AM Adult Ed., Fellowship Hall 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6 PM Youth Group</p> <p><u>Mon. (Dec. 4)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Pastor Ellen's Home 12 PM PEO Group, Parlor 6 PM Scouts Pack Meeting 7 PM Circle 4</p> <p><u>Tues. (Dec. 5)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10:45 AM Stewardship & Finance 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 5 PM Adult Ed, Conference Room 6 PM A&P, Conference Room 6 PM Mission & Outreach, FH 6 PM Building & Grounds, Lounge 6:30 PM Preschool Christmas Prog.</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Dec. 6)</u> 10 AM Circle 3, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM WestminsterLINK 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Dec. 7)</u> 3 PM Memorial Service, Suzanne Kirkland 6:30 PM Scouts, Pack Meetings</p> <p><u>Fri. (Dec. 8)</u> 5 PM Wedding Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Sat. (Dec. 9)</u> 2:30 PM Beckler/Hinds Wedding</p> <p><u>Sun. (Dec. 10) Advent 2</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:45 AM Advent Workshop, Fellowship Hall 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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