

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



Finding Hope: Hope in Current Times



Prelude “Prelude in G Major” by Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Invitation to Worship (Isaiah 2:4)**

Marilyn Smith, Stacy Graham, Colton Graham

One: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

All: The leopard shall lie down with the kid,

One: The calf and lion and the fatling will lie down together,

All: And a little child shall lead them.

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

Lighting the Candle of Peace

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

All: Amen.

***Hymn #93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

***Call to Confession** Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

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 anew the candle of peace.

As Presbyterians, we confess our sin in all seasons of the life of the church. We do so, recognizing our sin as personal and as communal. People sin. Institutions sin. Communities sin. The good news is God's grace shared in Christ covers a multitude of sins - those we do with intention and by omission.

***Prayer of Confession and Seeking Christ's Light**
Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, Lord, as you are. 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** Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn
...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 Karen Hoffman
(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

"What Child Shall Come?"

arr. Patrick Liebergen

Sanda Masic, flute

choir and piano

Anthem Lyrics:

What child shall come that lonely night

and bring God's love forever:

Will all behold the shining light

and sing with joy together!

This, this is Christ the King

whom shepherds guard and angels sing

Haste, haste to bring Him laud the babe the son of Mary!

What child shall come to set us free

the promise of salvation!

And bring for all eternity God's peace to all creation!

Sing we noel, sing we noel, Emmanuel the Lord and

King! Emmanuel rejoice and sing!

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

N.T. pg. 34

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-11

O.T. pg. 667

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

Sermon "Hope in Current Times"

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #87**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Moment of Gratitude

Christmas Joy Offering Collection

Hymn #137

He Came Down

(all verses, sing but please remain seated)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

"Mark looks back to Isaiah for confirmation that the future God promises is about to be made present."

(Andrew Foster

Connors in

Connections: A

Lectionary

Commentary for

Preaching and

Worship)

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. (From the PCUSA Special Offerings Website: specialofferings.pcusa.org)

Prayers of the People

Deacon Carolyn Harp

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 #107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn**

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Fugue in G Major” by Mendelssohn

*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, Feasting on the Word Liturgies for Year B: Volume 1 (Editor: Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long), 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.



Ministers: The whole congregation

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

Liturgist: Deacon Carolyn Harp

Advent Candle

Lighters: Marilyn Smith, Stacy Graham, Colton Graham

Interim Music Director: Mary Daugherty

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children &

Youth: Trish Souliere

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

Greeters: Carol and Jim Bishop

Dishwashers: Lisa and Steve McConnell



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

The week of Dec. 10, 2023

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

Advent/Christmas Happenings

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

Advent Workshop—Today after Worship

We invite you to join us today in Fellowship Hall for the Advent Workshop. 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. See you there!

Angel Tree Project

There are still some tags to choose from on the Angel Tree. 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. Time is getting short. **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

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.

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 tomorrow, Dec. 11. The donation level is \$15. Order forms are in the narthex and at the east entrance.

The Gathering Place offers a nightly dinner seven days a week to anyone who needs a meal, no questions asked. This holiday season, the Gathering Place will stay open on Christmas Eve offering individuals and families a welcoming and warm environment to share a holiday meal. You can be a part of this blessing by donating. Gifts to Community Action's Gathering Place will be matched \$1 for \$1 until December 31. Please consider sending a check to Community Action, 210 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. -Your Mission and Outreach Team

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—Wed., 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.

Give our warming planet a break!

Will you be among the 55 million people flying for the Christmas holidays? Or for a vacation next year? Here's to a wonderful trip! But give this a thought, too. One passenger's round trip flight from Nebraska to Denver or Chicago will generate about 20 metric tons of carbon dioxide. East or west coast, 50-60 metric tons. And multiply that by the number of travelers.



You might want to give our warming planet a break by purchasing carbon offsets. A fair price of about \$10 per 50 metric tons will counteract that CO₂, for instance by planting trees. It's easy to calculate the carbon footprint of your trip at <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx> Then make your donation. There are many carbon credit programs online, and some are guilty of greenwashing. But a couple we know are good are One Tree Planted <https://onetreeplanted.org/products/plant-trees> and the Presbyterian Tree Fund <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/presbyterian-carbon-tree-fund/>.

If you choose to do this, would you let the church know (anonymously)? It would be fun to tabulate the difference we make. Just write down two numbers—your trip's metric ton total and the amount you decided to donate—and put your slip in the box on the front desk. We'll announce the total in January.

Week Beginning December 10

<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> <p><u>Mon. (Dec. 11)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Pastor Ellen's Home 5 PM Church Life, Library 6 PM Children & Youth, Zoom 6 PM Session, Lounge 6:30 PM Scouts, Den Meetings</p> <p><u>Tues. (Dec. 12)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10 AM Circle 5, Lounge 11 AM Presbytery Committee, Conference Room 5 PM Personnel, Zoom</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Dec. 13)</u> 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 4:30 PM Foundation Marketing, Library 4:30 PM Foundation Finance, Lounge 5 PM Foundation Board Meeting, Lounge 5:30 PM WestminsterLINK 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Sun. (Dec. 17) Advent 3</u> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:50 AM Adult Ed, History of Christmas Traditions, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 4 PM Service for the Weary, Auld Pavilion at Antelope Park 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

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