

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Finding Hope: Hope in God's Promises

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Prelude "Prelude on FOREST GREEN" by Phillip Marshall

Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Invitation to Worship (Isaiah 35:1)**
Ron, Trish, and Alex Souliere

One: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

All: The desert shall rejoice and blossom

One: Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

All: And shall rejoice with joy and singing.

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

Advent Candle Lighting

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

All: Amen.

***Call to Confession** Elder Jaime Hemmerling



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 joy.

Children are welcome to stay in worship or to be dismissed to Faith Village at this time, as we will not have a Children's Chat. Children are welcome in worship at Westminster. Today's service allows an opportunity for kids and families to sing traditional hymns and carols together.

O Little Town of Bethlehem was written in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia by Pastor Phillip Brooks. (Glory to God Hymnal)

***Prayer of Confession and Seeking the Light**
Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness** Elder Jaime Hemmerling
...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.

Introduction

Hymn #140 *Once in Royal David's City (verses 1-3)*

First Lesson **Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19**
Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.

Hymn #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1-4)*

Second Lesson **Genesis 22:15-18**
God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.

Hymn #102 *Savior of the Nations, Come (verses 1, 3)*

Third Lesson **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**
The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.

Hymn #129 ***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***
(verses 1-2)

Fourth Lesson **Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9**
The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

Hymn #123 ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***
(verse 1)

Fifth Lesson **Luke 1:26-35, 38**
An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

Anthem ***Carol of the Bells***
Isaac Hemmerling, Guitar

Hymn #119 ***Hark the Herald Angels Sing*** **(verse 1)**

Sixth Lesson **Luke 2:1-7**
Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

Hymn #115 ***Away in a Manger*** **(verses 1-3)**

Seventh Lesson **Luke 2:8-16**
Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.

Anthem ***Virgin Mary Had a Baby***
Westminster Choir

Eighth Lesson **Matthew 2:1-11**
Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.

Hymn #147 ***The First Nowell*** **(verses 1-2, 3, 5)**

Ninth Lesson **John 1:1-14**
The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.

Duet ***O Holy Night***
Krista Lawrence & Sebastian Sorenson

Thank you to Isaac for sharing his talents with us in worship! Many may recall Isaac playing in worship last December or this past week at the Advent Workshop. We are grateful for our youth at WPC!

Noel? ... Nowell!?!
"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (natus /né) as well to "news" (nova/ nouvelle)." (Glory to God hymnal).

Prayers of the People

Elder Jaime Hemmerling

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 #113 Angels We Have Heard on High

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

"Fanfare on ANTIOCH" by Gerre Hancock

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

Service Note

This Service of Lessons and Carols is inspired by the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that has been celebrated annually at King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve since 1918. The nine Scripture lessons are those traditionally used at the festival. The selected carols from the Glory to God hymnal accompany each passage thematically or to the theme of the day.

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 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 baskets and signs that read "Giving Basket." Ushers monitor the baskets and collect the offerings following the service.

Ministers: The whole congregation

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

Liturgist: Elder Jaime Hemmerling

Advent Candle

Lighters: Ron, Trish, & Alex Souliere

Interim Music Director: Mary Daugherty

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children &

Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Leslie Miner, Barb Andersen, Robyn Uebele, Cynthia Olson

Greeters: Stephanie & Scott Rogers

Dishwashers: Beth & Kris Anderzhon

For online giving,
scan the QR code.



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

The week of Dec. 17, 2023

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

Advent/Christmas Happenings

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

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

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

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.

Youth Group—Christmas Party Today, 7 PM

The Youth Group Christmas Party will take place this evening at 7 PM. Please plan on bringing a wrapped gift valued at under \$5 for the gift exchange and your favorite snack to share.

Advent Workshop

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to help, cooked, baked, and donated, and attended, enjoyed, and participated in the Advent Workshop/Chili Cookoff/Youth Group Mission Bake Sale. Congratulations to the Zanders on winning the coveted Silver Ladle award for the best chili! Their black bean chili with pineapple salsa won the day.

The Bake Sale generated \$916 for the Youth Group to use for the purchase of Angel Tree gifts and other mission initiatives throughout the year. We had a fantastic array of items this year! We appreciate the gifts of your time, talents, baked goods, and money -- thank you again for your support!!

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

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.

Faith Village

We will not meet in Faith Village on Dec. 24 and will not meet on Wed., Dec. 27 or Jan. 3. On Dec. 31, we will have a New Year Pajama and Pancake party after we have been dismissed from the service. Be sure to wear your pajamas and be ready to enjoy food and fun!

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.

Youth Group Lock-In

We will not meet for Youth Group from Dec. 24 - Jan. 3. On Jan. 5, we will have our annual winter lock-in. Plan to play games, eat pizza, and hang out with friends all night at church. We start at 8 PM on Jan. 5 and finish at 8 AM on Sat., Jan. 6. All youth who plan on attending must register here <https://forms.gle/HW114pPN9Je7NueS7>.

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.

World on a Plate—USA, Fri., Jan. 26

World on a Plate is returning to the United States!

Our January dinner will be a potluck of our U.S. favorites... From the East to West, North to South... there are so many choices to prepare. Ellen Davis will be hosting World on a Plate on Friday, January 26 at 5:30 PM in her home at 3630 Pawnee Street.

RSVP: Email kathrohw@yahoo.com or text (402) 202-9889

Week Beginning December 17

<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 7 PM Youth Group, Christmas Party</p> <p><u>Mon. (Dec. 18)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Pastor Ellen's Home 6:30 PM Scouts, Den Meetings</p> <p><u>Tues. (Dec. 19)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 6 PM Pinewood Derby, Troop 16, Fellowship Hall 7 PM Faith and Cancer Support Group, Library</p> <p><u>Wed. (Dec. 20)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 5 PM Ladies' Night Out</p>	<p>5:30 PM All Church Caroling 5:30 PM WestminsterLINK 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Dec. 21)</u> 11 AM Memorial Service for Dr. Sushil Lacy, Sanctuary 7 PM Chamber Music Recital, Sanctuary 7 PM Camera Club, FH</p> <p><u>Sat. (Dec. 23)</u> 10 AM Poinsettias delivered and arranged in sanctuary</p> <p><u>Sun. (Dec. 24) Advent 4</u> 9:30 AM Worship 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Sun. (Dec. 24) Christmas Eve</u> 5 PM Worship 7 PM Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Dec. 25) & Tues. (Dec. 26)</u> Building Closed</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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