

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



**December 24, 2023**

**Christmas Eve**

**Finding Hope: Hope is Here!**

**Prelude**

"Christmas Fantasy" by Joel Raney

**Welcome**

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

**Choral Introit**

"Ding Dong Merrily on High"

**\*Invitation to Worship (Isaiah 2:4) and Lighting of  
the Advent Wreath**

5 pm Walker, Katie, Calvin, and Leo Zulkoski

7 pm Steve and Susie Hughes

One: The people who walked in darkness,

***All: Have seen a great light.***

One: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,

***All: On them light has shined.***

**Advent Candle Lighting**

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

***All: Amen.***

**\*Hymn #133**

**O Come All Ye Faithful**

**\*Call to Confession**

5 pm Deacon Gary Haller

7 pm Deacon April Kaul

**\*Prayer of Confession and Seeking the Light**

***God, our Life and Light, thank you for meeting  
us this night in the child in the manger. Thank  
you for touching all heaven and earth with  
your splendor. We pray you meet every corner***



Welcome to Christmas  
Eve at Westminster!

We are glad you're  
here! Tonight we light  
the last candle on our  
Advent wreath, the  
central Christ candle.  
The light represents  
the light of Christ that  
we have been  
anticipating - in  
worship and in our  
world - for the past  
four weeks.

We turn to God for  
renewal by confessing  
the ways we sin, or  
'miss the mark' in our  
lives. As Presbyterians,  
we name our personal  
confession silently and  
our prayers for  
communal renewal to  
God together. May the  
Prayer of Confession  
and Seeking the Light  
point you toward  
hope, peace, joy, and  
love this night.

***of the world with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace. Amen.***

**\*Response to Confession #145**

**What Child Is This**  
(verse 1)

***What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!***

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

...Believe and share the good news!

***In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!***

**\*Response of Praise #113    Angels We Have Heard on High**  
(verse 1)

***Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

When Jesus last spoke with his closest disciples, he said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." (John 14:27a). Jesus Christ's birth and life were a testament to the call to peace and reconciliation in a world fraught with violence and fear. As we share Christ's peace, we share hope for peace with one another as well.

**\*Passing of Christ's 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**

Rev. Chris Peters

**Choir Anthem**

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"  
Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn, soloist

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 9:2-7

O.T. pg. 638

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

N.T. pg. 58

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

## **Meditation**

“Hope is Here”

Rev. Chris Peters

## **Choir Anthem**

“Light Beyond Shadow”

## **Prayers of the People**

5 pm Deacon Gary Haller

7 pm Deacon April Kaul

## **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 #119      Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v.1)**

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and  
sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful all ye nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”*

## **Sharing of the Light**

(Pastors and ushers will light the candle of the person seated closest to the center aisle in each pew; light is then passed until all candles are lit. Please be very careful to keep candles away from hair and clothing. God bless you on this special night!)

## **Reading: John 1:1-5**

## **\*Hymn #122**

## **Silent Night, Holy Night**

As our service ends, how will you "repeat the sounding joy" and share the hope of Christmas in the weeks to come? You are welcome back to worship and serve with Westminster on Sundays and throughout the year.

Next week (Sunday, December 31) is a Sunday celebrating the church Christmas season. Sunday, January 7 will be Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany is the day we hear the story of the wise men arriving to give gifts to the Christ child. We will share "star words" - a word to help guide your year ahead in 2024 on January 7. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

## \*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

\***Hymn #134**      **Joy to the World** (verse 3—choir only)

**Postlude**      "Hallelujah" from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel

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\*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 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.

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



**Ministers:** The whole congregation

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

**Liturgist:**      5 pm Deacon Gary Haller  
                     7 pm Deacon April Kaul

### **Advent Candle Lighters:**

5 pm Walker, Katie, Calvin, and Leo Zulkoski  
7 pm Steve and Susie Hughes

**Interim Music Director:** Mary Young

**Organist:** John Ross

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

**Ushers:**      5 pm April Douglas, Martha Kingsbury, Carol Shelbourn, Diana Wild  
                     7 pm Joan Roberts, Mary Tomlinson, Mike Tomlinson

**Greeters:**      5 pm David and Kathy Anderson  
                     7 pm Carol and Jim Bishop

**Acolytes:**      5 pm Calvin and Leo Zulkowski  
                     7 pm Collins Larson

## O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*

born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed!  
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

# Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

## GERMAN

- 1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
 nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

## SPANISH

- 1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!  
 Todo duerme en derredor,  
 entre los astros que esparcen su luz,  
 bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,  
 brilla la estrella de paz,  
 brilla la estrella de paz.*

## KOREAN

- 1 *고요한밤 거룩한밤  
 어둠에 물힌밤  
 주의부모 앉아서  
 감사기도 드릴때  
 아기잘도 잔다  
 아기잘도 잔다*

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

## 134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav-ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-  
 her king; let ev-ery heart pre-pare him room,  
 em-ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless-ings flow  
 tions prove the glo-ries of his righ-teous-ness  
 and heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven and na-ture  
 re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his  
 and heaven and na-ture sing,  
 and  
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na-ture sing.  
 joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.  
 heaven and na-ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

## **Upcoming Events and Information**

### **Faith Village - Christian Education for Children K-5th Grade**

Faith Village will not meet on Sunday Dec. 24 as well as Wednesdays Dec. 27 and Jan.3. On Sunday 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!

### **Youth Group Lock-In**

Middle and High School Youth Groups will not meet 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>.

### **Volunteers Wanted: Cooks and Servers**

The Mission and Outreach committee supports meals at the Gathering Place and Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach monthly. We would like to grow our number of servers especially at Matt Talbot and we also would like to have a helper for Chef Susie in preparing the monthly meal. Would YOU like to help???

Matt Talbot is responsible for the evening meal on the first Sunday of odd numbered months and the first Friday evening meal of the even numbered months. If interested in learning more about being a prep cook, contact Susie Hughes at 402-440-9165 or [skh@eskayscom](mailto:skh@eskayscom) and if interested in learning more about serving at the Friday evening meal contact Gary Haller at 817-757-2980 or [garyhaller70@att.net](mailto:garyhaller70@att.net)

### **World on a Plate—USA, Fri., Jan. 26**

World on a Plate is Westminster's gathering of a meal that also supports mission around our world 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](mailto:kathrohw@yahoo.com) or text (402) 202-9889.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE  
402.475-6702**



**Donations for the poinsettias arranged in the chancel for Christmas and for the church library are given by the following members and friends.**

In loving memory of our beloved wife and mother Noreen Amend, by Herb Amend & her children, Cori (Ryan), Michael (Kerry), Shawn (Dawn) & Kelly (Jenny).

In loving memory of our dear Grammy Noreen, by her grandchildren, Ashley (Bryce), Chelsea, Bailey, Jagger, Stephanie, Ansley, Ryder & her great grandchildren, Crew & Dylan.

In loving memory of our parents, Edward & Mary Beierman and Lloyd & Judith Anderson, by David & Katherine Anderson.

In loving memory of Ed & Elena Armstrong, by Carol & Jim Bishop.

In loving memory of Betsy Ashenbach, by Layne & Carrie Sup and family.

In loving memory of Isaac T. Avery, Jr. & Caroline L. Avery, by Marybell Avery & Stan Campbell.

In loving memory of our son Mark, by Bob & Becky Bockrath.

In loving memory of Randy Burbach, by the Burbach Family.

In honor of Linda Burchard, by Eliza V. Sams.

In loving memory of Judy Buss (April's mother), by Justin, April, Alexandra & Jacquelyn Douglas.

In loving memory of Roland Campbell, and in honor of Charlotte Campbell at 104 years of age, by Marybell Avery & Stan Campbell.

In loving memory of Dr. Henry Cech, by Lesley & Kent Jaggers and Sydney & Steve Uthoff.

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Dana F. Cole, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cole, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Koepke, Keith Koepke and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sinkey, by the Dana C. Cole family.

In loving memory of Jo Daniels, Jean Patoka & Rae Hamilton, by Linda Burchard.

In loving memory of Rev. Lynn and Leigh Davis, by the Davis Family.

In loving memory of Robert C. (Bob) Dawson, by Nancy Dawson.

In honor of our parents/grandparents, Barbara & Daniel Dittenber and Harriet & George Peterson, by Todd, Amy, Abby & Graham Peterson.

In loving memory of my husband, Judson Douglas, by Joyce Douglas.

In loving memory of Ted Forke, by The Maude Family.

In loving memory of Leah Peterson Gaston, by her family.

In loving memory of Frances Grenz, by Dr. Jessica Sandmeier.

In loving memory of Lewis “Chip” Hackley, by Pat Hackley.

In honor of Pat Hackley, by Eliza V. Sams.

In loving memory of Rev. Roger C. Harp, by Carolyn Harp.

In honor of Rachel Hoffman, by Carolyn Harp.

In loving memory of Dr. Orin R. (Bob) Hayes, by Helen & Janet Hayes.

In loving memory of Robert David Hayes, by Helen & Janet Hayes.

In loving memory of Cliff & Alice Hollestelle, by Cliff & Marcia Hollestelle.

In honor of the members of Honor Circle 1 with gratitude for their gifts: Dorothy Glen, Pam Martin, Ginny Rohrbaugh & Eliza Sams, by the Presbyterian Women Coordination Team.

In loving memory of Stuart & Sandy Howerter, by the Scott Howerter family.

In loving memory of Macy Michelle Jaggers, by Lesley, Kent & Kyle Jaggers and Avery, Myles, Rowan & Reese Eklund.

In loving memory of Jim Johnson, by Suzann Johnson.

In honor of Jim Johnson, by Suzann Johnson.

In loving memory of Earl, Florence & Lyall Luff, by Art & Earlene Knox.

In loving memory of Leroy & Dorothy Lee, by Cliff & Marcia Hollestelle.

In loving memory of Ted Maude, fabulous husband, father, and grandfather, by Marilyn Maude, Susan & Mike Christensen, Pete & Cathy Maude, Matt & Kristen Maude, and Grandchildren.

In loving memory of Jack & Jean McBride, by Loy & Julie Olson.

In honor of Matt & Nicki Olson and Annie & Dave Bougger, by Loy & Julie Olson.

In loving memory of Gates & Daisy Minnick and Dorothy Romisch, by Mike, Tamera, Jack, & Brooke Minnick.

In loving memory of my parents, Markwood & Pauline Nelson, by Martha Brown.

In loving memory of Bernie & Marylu Nider and Don Kreiter, by Susie Kreiter; Chris Nider; Laurie, Andy, Natasha, Maggie & Travis Glenn; Julie, Joe, Josh, Rachael & Jason Madsen; Pat & Natalie Nider.

In loving memory of wonderful husband and father, Thomas H. Olson, by Cynthia Olson.

In loving memory of Margot Peterson, by Jon Peterson.

In loving memory of Leo & Zetta Phillip and Ray & Helen Matulka, by Kathy Phillip.

In loving memory of Don & Alyce Purvis and John & Marianne McCown, by Ross & Lynn McCown.

In loving memory of Jonathon Reiber, by Layne, Carrie, Carter, Tucker & Behr Sup.

In loving memory of our parents, by Bill & Joan Roberts.

In honor of our 53rd wedding anniversary, by Bill & Joan Roberts.

In honor of Eliza Sams, by Pat Hackley.

In loving memory of Ted Schirmer, by Regi Schirmer & family.

In loving memory of our family members looking over us from Heaven this Christmas season, by Don & Deb Schleining & families.

In loving memory of Opa Chuck & Oma GeeGee Schorr, by Allison Schorr Zach & Melissa Schorr.

In loving memory of Harry & Franny Seward, by the Seward/Lofquist family.

In honor of George & Dorothy Wright, by the Seward/Lofquist family.

In loving memory of H. Darrell & Esther Shanklin, by Jimmy & Carol Shelbourn.

In loving memory of Chip Smith, by Marilyn Smith; Stacy & Colton Graham; Dustin, Amber, Bridger, Carly & Kennedy Smith.

In loving memory of Ray & Mary Esther Stevens, Elnor & Vernon Dunn, and Gerald D. Myers, by Ray & Karen Stevens.

In loving memory of Judy Stokes, by Don Stokes; Chris, Alisha, Ruthie, Vivian, Christopher & Tom Stokes; Marcia Yost; Chad, Jennifer & Keenan Loflin; and Justin, Meredith, George, Frank & Eleanor Starnes.

In loving memory of Susie Sup, by the Sup Family.

In loving memory of John & Althea Thorpe, Bob & Harriett Johnson and Elizabeth, Emerson & Arden Carver, by Stan & Gwen Thorpe.

In honor of Tom, Christy & Makayla Champoux; Jordyn, Jordan & Whitley Peters; Aaron, Darby, Conlee, Colette & Sam Carver, by Stan & Gwen Thorpe.

In loving memory of our parents, James & June Titus and Warren & Adaleen Geiger, by Steve & Claire Titus.

In loving memory of Muriel & Cliff Towers, beloved mother and stepfather, by Jim & Dorothy Smiley.

In loving memory of Ron Wachter, by Valery, Allen & Eric Wachter.

In loving memory of our parents, Tom & Margie Welstead and George & Eloise Jacobs, by Tom & Janell Welstead.

In loving memory and appreciation of Jeannie and Bus Whitehead, by Sydney & Steve Uthoff; Brittany & Matt Goldberg; Lesley, Kent and Kyle Jagers; Avery, Myles, Rowan & Reese Eklund; and Mark, Chris, Maddie & Katie Whitehead.

In loving memory of Mary Garrison Wright, Lucile Garrison, Ed & Polly Mullooney and Loy Lyn Hindman, by Don & Dianna Wright.

In loving memory of Kurt T. Yost, my loved and greatly missed husband, by Marcia Yost.

In loving memory of Kurt T. Yost, by Jennifer, Chad & Keenan Loflin; Alisha, Chris, Ruthie, Vivian, Christopher & Tom Stokes; and Justin, Meredith, George, Frank & Eleanor Starnes.