

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

January 7, 2024

## Epiphany Sunday Celebration

**Prelude** "What Child Is This" by Richard Purvis

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

**Choral Introit** Behold that Star!  
Traditional Spiritual, Tatiana Eskridge, soloist

**\*Call to Worship** Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

One: We gather wondering, "where will we find the child born in Bethlehem?"

***All: We will find the child in the laughter of our own children, and in the wisdom of grandparents.***

One: We gather asking, "where will we find the newborn Savior?"

***All: We will find the child where the struggling are gifted with hope, and where the oppressed are set free.***

One: We gather wanting to know, "where will we find the Christ who has come for us?"

***All: We will find our hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, and where criticism is overwhelmed by joy.***

**\*Hymn #151** "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

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

**\*Time of Silent Confession**

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

***Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share your love; times when we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; indifference to your claim on our***

***whole lives through Jesus Christ; and a lack of gratitude for your amazing grace by which you save us and call us to be your people. Lord, forgive us. As we look for your guidance, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead, serving in faith, hope, joy, and love – all through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**\*Response to the Confession**

**“Hear the Good News of Salvation”**

**#441 (verse 2)**

*(From the Glory to God hymnal notes: “this text, was written by John B. Renville, the first Native American Dakota to be ordained to the Presbyterian ministry and was published in the Dakota hymnal.”)*

***All the sins I have committed,  
to my Savior now I bring.  
I bow down with tears of anguish;  
Christ forgives and so I sing:  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!  
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me.  
Love me still and cleanse within.***

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Deacon Claire Titus

...Believe and share the good news!

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

**\*Response of Praise**

***Glory to God #583***

*(From the Taize Community of France)*

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, 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.)*

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 60:1-6

O.T. pg. 690

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

N.T. pg. 2

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

**Sermon** “Seeking Shelter: Following the Star” Rev. Chris Peters

**\*Hymn #144**

**“In the Bleak Midwinter” (1-2, 4)**

**Affirmation of Faith** (from the PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith)

Deacon Claire Titus

***We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.***

**Special Music**

“Lullaby” by John Ness Beck

Tatiana Eskridge, soloist

**Star Words**

As you come forward for Communion, you are invited to take a Star Word from the baskets up front. These words are shared as a hopeful, promising, and faithful guide word for your year to come. You may place this word on a nightstand or bathroom mirror, in your car, or in another place it might be seen and encountered throughout 2024. You might pray this word, find hymns or poems with this word, or simply consider what this word can mean for you in 2024.

**The Lord’s Supper**

**Invitation**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**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

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

## Blessing of the Elements Prayer After Communion

\*Hymn #150 "As with Gladness Men of Old" (verses 1-3)

## \*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

## Postlude

"Sleigh Ride" by Anderson/arr. Trotter

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

Today's Prayer of Confession is adapted from a prayer for today in *The Presbyterian Outlook* by Rev. Dr. Philip Gladden, retired PCUSA clergy, and other liturgy comes from *Where the Broken Ones Gather: Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year B* by Rev. Thom M Schuman.

**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:** Deacon Claire Titus

**Interim Music Director:** Mary Young   **Organist:** John Ross

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

**Greeters:** Kelly Braswell-Burbach & Josh Whitfield

**Ushers:** Diana Wild, April Douglas, Skyler Bennett, Gwen Thorpe

**Dishwashers:** Becky Bockrath, Sarah Baltensperger

**Communion Servers:** Kathy Rohwedder, Sebit Deng, Margaret Sprude, Tom Welstead, Diana Wild



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

**The week of Jan. 7, 2024**

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

## **Westminster Community Conversations 2024**

### **Good Neighbors:**

#### **Understanding and Responding to Housing Concerns in Lincoln**

The Christian scriptures, particularly the parables of Jesus, emphasize the call for people of faith to be good neighbors. This January, join Westminster Presbyterian as we seek to better understand housing concerns and the landscape of affordable housing in Lincoln. From learning, we move to questions of service as we welcome representatives from partner organizations that seek to aid those facing critical housing concerns. Each session will take place at 10:45 AM in the Lounge.

**January 7: Our Local Setting – Affordable Housing and City Support in Lincoln**, Wynn Hjermstad (Community Development Manager), City of Lincoln.

**January 14: Habitat for Humanity: Empowering and Building Anew**, Rose Opbroek (Special Projects Manager) and Theresa Gerlach (Program Services Director), Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln.

**January 21: Neighborworks: Expanding Affordable Housing and Strengthening Neighborhoods**, Wayne Mortensen, (Chief Executive Officer), Neighborworks Lincoln.

**January 28: People’s City Mission: Ministry of Service and Providing Space**, Tom Barber (Chief Executive Officer), People’s City Mission.

**Committee Annual Reports for the February Messenger are due to Tracy ([tracy@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:tracy@westminsterlincoln.org)) and Joanne ([joanne@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:joanne@westminsterlincoln.org)) by January 15.**

**Mission/Outreach is pleased to bring Equal Exchange Coffee and Equal Exchange Organic Chocolate to Westminster friends. The coffee you enjoy during the fellowship hour is also Equal Exchange.**

By choosing the Equal Exchange brand, we are making a strong statement about our values as a community.

**Available for Purchase:**

We give the opportunity to purchase Equal Exchange products during Fellowship Hour after services on the first Sunday of each month.

Thank you for supporting our ongoing commitment to making these products available.

**History Buffs: COLUMBUS MEETS THE NATIVES, Sat., Jan. 13**

Title: "Momma don't make me learn that awful history." A short lesson in the history of America's indigenous people, presented by Dr. Ken Govaerts. Meet in the Lounge at 9 AM.

**Fruit Pizza after Church**

After the service on Sunday, January 14, the Children and Youth and Church Life Committees invite you to enjoy a piece of fruit pizza with your after-service coffee. We start with a sugar cookie "crust," add cream cheese frosting for the sauce, and finish that special creation with a choice of fresh fruit toppings.

**Faith and Cancer Support Group**

**Tuesday, January 16 | Library at 7 PM**

Cancer is associated with many emotions wrapped up within. In our support group at Westminster, we can share those thoughts and feelings with others who are experiencing similar concerns. This Life Group meets every third Tuesday of the month from 7-8 PM in the church library. All are welcome. Contact Bruce Sheffield at 402-783-0394 or Janice Rohwedder at 402-730-5568.

**Prairie Readers January Meeting**

Prairie Readers will meet January 17 at 1 PM in the Lounge. We will have the privilege of hearing author Joy Castro discuss her 2023 novel *One Brilliant Flame*. All are welcome!

## **Recycling Styrofoam**

Once again Green@Heart will be helping you responsibly dispose of foam packaging from holiday purchases. There is 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.

## **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???

Westminster 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 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.

**Ladies' Night Out | Tuesday, January 30th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** You are invited to join us this month at Mi Tierra South. Their address is 5500 Old Cheney Rd. #4. Join us and bring a friend as we celebrate the New Year together. Please RSVP by Sat., Jan. 27 to [robynu2@hotmail.com](mailto:robynu2@hotmail.com).

## **Acolytes**

We are looking for children and youth of all ages to serve as acolytes during our worship service. Please add your name to the schedule

here <https://shorturl.at/jJOX7>. If you have any questions, please contact Trish, [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org) or 402-570-0163.

### Week Beginning January 7

<p><b><u>Sun. (Jan. 7)</u></b> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village/ Communion 10:45 AM Adult Ed., <i>Affordable Housing in Lincoln</i>, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (Jan. 8)</u></b> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 5 PM Church Life, Library 6 PM Mission &amp; Outreach, FH 6 PM Children &amp; Youth, Zoom 6:30 PM Scouts—Den Meetings</p> <p><b><u>Tues (Jan. 9)</u></b> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10 AM PW Circle 5, Lounge 5 PM Personnel, Zoom 6 PM A &amp; P, Conference Room 6 PM Welcoming Task Force, Library</p> <p><b><u>Wed. (Jan. 10)</u></b> 1:30 AM Hearts &amp; Hands, Library 5:30 PM WestminsterLiNK 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p>	<p><b><u>Fri. (Jan. 12)</u></b> 6 PM Scouts—Pinewood Derby Setup, FH</p> <p><b><u>Sat. (Jan. 13)</u></b> 8:30 AM Scouts—Pinewood Derby, FH 9 AM History Buffs, Lounge 10:30 AM Deacon Retreat, Lounge 11:30 AM Antique Car Club, Cole Hall 2 PM Take down decorations</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (Jan. 14)</u></b> 9:30 AM Worship/Faith Village 10:40 AM Fruit Pizza, Garden Room 10:45 AM Adult Ed., <i>Habitat for Humanity</i>, Lounge 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