

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

**January 12, 2025**

**Epiphany Sunday**



Inspired by Matthew 2:1-12 by Hannah Garrity  
*Acrylic painting with mixed media on canvas*

**Prelude**

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” by Dietrich Buxtehude

**Welcome**

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

**\*Call to Worship**

Rev. Chris Peters

One: How did you get here?

**Left side of the room: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.**

**Right side of the room: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.**

**Left side of the room: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.**

**Right side of the room: I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.**

One: Tell me again. How did you get here?

**All: I am here by God's grace and love's pull.**

One: Welcome home. This is God's house. There is room for you here.

**All: Let us worship our gracious God.**

**\*Hymn #151**

***We Three Kings of Orient Are***

**\*Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**\*Prayer of Confession**

***God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.***

**\*Time of Silent Confession**

Lord, hear our prayer. ***Amen.***

**\*Response to Confession #649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (v. 1)***

***Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!***

***I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.***

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Believe and share the good news!

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

**\*Response of Praise #853**

***We Are Marching in the Light of God***

**(x1/"Marching")**

***We are marching in the light of God,***

***We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching, we are marching ohhhh,  
We are marching in the light of God.***

**\*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.***

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Hebrew Scripture

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**

“A Spirit of Generosity”

Rev. Chris Peters

**\*Hymn #744**

***Arise, Your Light Is Come!***

**Star Words**

**Prayer of Epiphany Hope**

**Special Music**

Bashana Haba'ah (A Hebrew New Year Blessing) arr. V. Pasternak  
Drea Reed and Mary Young

You will see, You will See  
How good it will be  
In the year to come

**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.***

**Sanctus #552**

***Holy, Holy, Holy***

One: Therefore with all creation we sing your praise...

***1 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.***

***2 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***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.***

**Blessing and Sharing of the Elements  
Prayer After Communion**

**\*Hymn #135**

***There's a Star in the East***

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

**Postlude**

“Noël Suisse” by Louis-Claude Daquin

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

**The flowers are provided by Pat Leach in honor of Joyce Douglas's leadership with the Westminster Foundation.**

Today's words for worship are adapted from *A Sanctified Art: Words for the Beginning Words for Worship* by Rev. Sarah Are Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org

**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

**Music Director:** Dr. Mary Young

**Organist:** John Ross

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

**Liturgist:** Jaime Hemmerling

**Greeters:** Paul Korslund & Stephan Biheng

**Ushers:** Marybell Avery, Joyce Douglas, Kathy Anderson, Joan Roberts

**Dishwasher:** Gary & Glenna Haller

**Communion Servers:** Dave Arunski, Stephan Biheng, Sebit Deng, Jaime Hemmerling, Susie Hughes

**Sanctuary Audio and Livestream:** Dale Minter



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

**The week of Jan. 12, 2025**

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



We often hear “new year, new you,” but what would it look like for us to embrace the good gifts God has in our lives as we begin 2025? Join us in worship this new year as we focus on The Spirit of Epiphany. This Sunday we shift themes to celebrate Epiphany Sunday a week later due to worshipping online this past Sunday. On Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, we’ll celebrate the gifts of the magi, partake in communion and receive a “Star Word” to help inspire, ground, or direct us in the coming year. On following Sundays, we’ll focus on different types of gifts shared by the Holy Spirit for the individual and the community! All are welcome to worship with us at 9:30am each Sunday!

**Adult Ed | 10:45 AM | Lounge**

**January 12:** TeamMates Mentoring of Lincoln will speak on their program.

**January 19:** Laurie McCubbin, Director, will speak about Westminster Preschool.

**January 26:** Malone Community Center speaker



**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. **Coffee and chocolate are available for purchase today after the service due to inclement weather last week.** Thank you for supporting our ongoing commitment to making these products available.

### **Environmental Justice Action for January**

Take a good breath. That's what our January environmental justice action is about. Did you travel over the holidays? Are you planning a trip in 2025? Transportation accounts for over a quarter of America's carbon emissions—trashing the very air we breathe. Trees play an important role in cleaning up our polluted atmosphere and can help us offset the damage done by our travel. See the [Westminster website](#) for an easy way to do your part. If you are making carbon offsets to the Presbyterian Tree Fund, please note that this address is more user friendly than one provided in the Messenger: <https://www.pcusa.org/donate/e865715-restoring-creation-ecology-justice>

### **Recycle Styrofoam and Christmas Lights**

Plastilite provides the giant bags to return EPS #6 (packing styrofoam). They are the factory that makes it and very responsibly collects it for recycling. So far we have filled two bags; last year we delivered four to Omaha. If you utilize orange Hefty bags with your collections service, that's where egg cartons, food containers and packing peanuts can go.

When can you bring foam for recycling?

- Whenever the church is open for worship or scheduled activities.
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9AM-1PM.
- If you call in advance and are told you will be let in. 402- 475-6702.

The collection bag is inside the east doors.

Don't forget about those Christmas lights!

### **Artist Hannah Garrity Comments on Bulletin Image**

In this *Words for the Beginning* series, I began each painting with a circular energy. There is a central focus to each design. Each painting has an original quilt square pattern which repeats as the border. The center design is a different iteration of the same idea. For this design, the main motif is the star of Bethlehem. The Bible pages of Matthew 2 are torn apart and glued as a texture within the star points, representing our need to constantly break down fear in service to the God who calls us into a fearless life of love. The star pattern is overlaid in chalk and soft pastel, reiterating the power of God as our guide—who, in this text, is showing the way home by another road.

**Prairie Readers** will begin the 2025 reading season on January 15 at 1 PM in the lounge. Diana Wild will lead the discussion of *The Guncle* by Steven Rowley.

**Pastor Jimmy** will be out of the office on Jan. 13 & 14 to attend a funeral for Carol's Aunt in Iowa.

The church office will be closed at 1 PM on Fridays going forward. **Dylan Douglas**, our new Communications and Administration Coordinator, will be working 12 hours on-site at the front desk, most often Mon., Wed., and Fri., 9 AM to 1 PM. Dylan's email is [communications@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:communications@westminsterlincoln.org).

## Week Beginning Jan. 12

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| <p><b><u>Sun. (Jan. 12)</u></b><br/>9:30 AM Worship with<br/>Communion, Faith Village<br/>10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge<br/>10:45 AM Confirmation Class,<br/>Youth Cafe<br/>12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (Jan. 13)</u></b><br/>11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Lib.<br/>6:30 PM Scouts, Den Meetings</p> <p><b><u>Tues. (Jan. 14)</u></b><br/>9:45 AM Staff meeting<br/>10 AM PW Circle 5, Lounge<br/>4 PM Stewardship &amp; Finance, Lib.<br/>5 PM Building &amp; Grounds, Lounge<br/>5 PM Church Life, Library<br/>5 PM Personnel, Zoom<br/>5:30 PM Worship &amp; Music, FH<br/>6 PM Mission &amp; Outreach,<br/>Lounge<br/>6 PM A&amp;P, Conference Room<br/>6:30 PM Children &amp; Youth, Zoom</p> | <p><b><u>Wed. (Jan. 15)</u></b><br/>1:30 PM Hearts &amp; Hands, Library<br/>6 PM Wednesday Night Children<br/>&amp; Youth, Youth Areas<br/>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal,<br/>Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Thurs. (Jan. 16)</u></b><br/>9 AM Friendship Home, FH<br/>7 PM Lincoln Continentals,<br/>Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Fri. (Jan. 17)</u></b><br/>6 PM Pack 61—Pinewood Derby<br/>set up, FH</p> <p><b><u>Sat. (Jan. 18)</u></b><br/>9 AM Pack 61—Pinewood Derby<br/>Race, FH</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (Jan. 19)</u></b><br/>9:30 AM Worship, Faith Village<br/>10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge<br/>12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> |
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**Worship services are available on-line at this link:**

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