

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

January 5, 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

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

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

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. All kids and their families are welcome to pick up a blue Children's Worship Bag in the narthex (Sheridan Blvd. foyer). If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available. This is at the north end of the Narthex.

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

Greeters: Kelly Braswell-Burbach & Josh Whitfield

Ushers: Diana Wild, Debra Schleining, David Anderson, April Douglas

Dishwasher: Paul Korslund

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. 5, 2025

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

Adult Ed | 10:45 AM | Lounge

Jan. 5: "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" will provide a speaker on their work for children which includes making bunk beds and quilts.

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

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Tues., Jan. 7, 11:30 AM, at Mi Tierra (South location), 5500 Old Cheney. R.S.V.P. to 402-290-5888 or jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Could you take a turn as dishwasher?

We are still in need of dishwashing volunteers for the **fourth Sundays of the even numbered months**. Step up and help Westminster fulfill our pledge to be "green."

Recycle Styrofoam and Christmas Lights

2 bags full!

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!

Staff Schedules

Joanne Gabriel has switched to a 4-day work week. She will be in the office Mondays through Thursdays.

The church office will be closed at 1 PM on Fridays. **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.



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.

What are Star Words?

The use of star words, also called “star gifts,” is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for nearly a decade now. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written or printed on paper stars. These paper stars are then arranged, most commonly face down, on the Communion Table or in a large basket. At some point during your Epiphany service, individuals are invited to draw a word from the basket or off the Table, and to use that word as a guiding word throughout the year. Typically, participants are encouraged to trust the word they have drawn, and not to replace the word. However, there is not a strong need to be the “star police” if an individual wants to trade. Individuals are often encouraged to place their star word somewhere they will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word.

Rev. Anna Strickland
A Sanctified Art

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.

Week Beginning Jan. 5

<p><u>Sun. (Jan. 5) Epiphany</u> 9:30 AM Worship with Communion, Faith Village 10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Jan. 6)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 6:30 PM PW Circle 4, Lounge 6:30 PM Den Meeting, Youth Areas</p> <p><u>Tues. (Jan. 7)</u> 9:45 AM Staff meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 2:30 PM STS-Homestead Presbytery, Lounge 5 PM Adult Education, Conference Room</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Jan. 8)</u> 10 AM PW Circle 3, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 6 PM Wednesday Night Children & Youth, Youth Areas 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Jan. 9)</u> 6:30 PM Scout Committee Meetings, Youth Café 7 PM Lincoln Continentals Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Sun. (Jan. 12)</u> 9:30 AM Worship, Faith Village 10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
---	---

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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

joanne@westminsterlincoln.org

402-475-6702