

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Please rise in body or spirit for the parts of worship with an asterisk () before the title.
Parts of worship that are ***bolded and italicized*** are for all worshippers to read together aloud.

Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” by Robert Lind

Welcome

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Love Candle

Matt, Brooke, Collins and Rowan Larson

***Invitation to Worship**

One: Prepare the way of the Lord!

All: Lift every valley, lift every voice.

One: Prepare the way of the Lord!

All: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

***Hymn #107**

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession** (Inspired by Psalm 80—see worship notes)

God of hosts, we have turned from you, neglecting the care of your creation while valuing selfish intent over sacrifice. At times we have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our communities, or tended the vine of faith you have planted in our lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In compassion, restore us, let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

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

Response to Confession #132 ***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (verse 3)***

***Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!***

***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! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

***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. At this time, children in K-5th Grade are invited to be dismissed to Faith Village, our children's education time.

May the peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Prophets

Isaiah 7:10-16

O.T. pg. 636

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

N.T. pg. 1

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

Sermon

The Act of Waiting: Waiting for Inspiration

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #100**

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

***Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer**

Deacon Claire Titus

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offering and Choral Anthem

“Still, Still, Still” arranged by Dan Goeller

“Still, Still, Still” reminds us that inspiration often arises in moments of quiet waiting, just as God's presence was revealed in the stillness of Christ's birth.

***Hymn #606**

Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Deacon Claire Titus

***Hymn #110**

Love Has Come

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Savior of the Nations, Come” by J.S. Bach BWV 659

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's candle lighting liturgy and the Prayer of Thanksgiving following the offering are written by Pastor Chris. Service liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A: Vol. 1*; Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long Editor.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. All kids and their families are welcome to pick up a Children's Worship bag or blue Infant Bag in the Narthex (Sheridan Blvd. foyer). A nursery is available for kids under 5. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available at the north end of the Narthex.

Giving to Westminster's Mission and Ministry

At Church: We have resumed giving through an offering in our worship service, leaning on the theology of offering as a response of gratitude to God's word in worship. Checks may be made out to Westminster Presbyterian. General donations go to support the annual budget of the church, which includes Children/Youth support, staffing, building use, worship, and mission. You may also place an offering in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located near the exits. 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

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Kathy & David Anderson

Ushers: Leslie Miner, Robyn Uebele, Carol Shelbourn, Marijane England

Dishwashers: Barbara and David Arunski

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Dale Minter & Stephan Biheng





*"I am the vine,
you are the branches . . ."*

The week of Dec. 21, 2025

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

Christmas Eve Worship **5 pm & 7 pm**

Candle Lighting
Choir, Organ, Brass, Handbells

Advent and Holiday Events

Adult Ed. Classes in December | 11:15 AM | Lounge

Dec. 21: "Emmanuel: the Presence of God in Isaiah and Matthew" led by
Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Dec. 28: No Adult Ed.

WPC Youth Group: Christmas Party

December 21, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

It's a party! The Youth Group will get together on December 21 to play games, enjoy
Christmas treats, and swap gifts in the white elephant gift exchange.

Youth Group Lock-In | Friday, January 2, 8:30 PM through

Saturday, January 3, 8:30 AM

More details coming soon!

Giving Back this Season

Westminster's Gift to the Planet

Remember that there's an earth care-ful way to dispose of the Styrofoam that shows up at this gift giving time of year. WPC has been partnering with Plastilite Corporation in Omaha. Plastilite is a creator of some of that foam, but (thank God for them) they take it back and reuse it. The collection bin will soon appear by the east doors and will be there through February. Thanks in advance for the trouble it is to keep this material out of the landfill. **Note:** Must be clean and rigid. No food containers or egg cartons.

Angel Tree - Thank You

A huge thank you to our amazing congregation and the Westminster Youth for buying gifts for our Angel Tree this year! And a big shoutout to **PooPatrol, LLC** for helping load and unload everything. Because of all of you, all 125 tags on our tree were filled. Thank you for spreading so much joy!

Week Beginning December 21

<u>Sun. (Dec. 21)</u> 10 AM Worship, Faith Village, Sanctuary 11 AM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship	<u>Wed. (Dec. 24)</u> 5 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, Sanctuary 7 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, Sanctuary
<u>Mon. (Dec. 22)</u> 11 AM Advent Study—Pastor Ellen 7 PM Recovery Group, Library	<u>Thurs. (Dec. 25)</u> Christmas Day Church Office Closed
<u>Tues. (Dec. 23)</u> Poinsettias Delivered	<u>Fri. (Dec. 26)</u> Church Office Closed
	<u>Sun. (Dec. 28)</u> 10 AM Worship, Faith Village, Sanctuary 12 Noon Sudanese Worship

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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