

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

5 PM & 7 PM, December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve Worship



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

“In dulci jubilo” by J.S. Bach

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” by Johannes Brahms

“Pastoral Dance on ‘On Christmas Night’” by Robin Milford

“What Child is This” by Richard Purvis

“Christmas Fantasy for Organ and Brass” by Joel Raney

Welcome

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Christ Candle

*Invitation to Worship

One: We have long awaited the arrival of the Lord!

All: Tonight we celebrate the good news of great joy!

One: Tonight we gather with family, friends, and neighbors,

All: Tonight we sing of God's salvation, God's justice, God's peace, and God's love showing up for us and for the world!

One: For us and for the world through the words of angels in still fields,

All: For us and for the world in a noisy, messy manger,

One: For us and for the world to know we are loved,

All: For us and for the world, all in the child named Jesus, the Messiah, the Lord.

*Hymn #133

O Come All Ye Faithful

(verses 1-2 & 4 – all sing with joy; verse 3 – choir, bells & organ only)

*Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*Prayer of Confession

God of love, in the arrival of Jesus, you shared a gift that changes everything. You shared a gift that brings peace in the midst of a conflicted world. Still, we argue opinions rather than truth, allow cruelty to go unchecked, and turn our backs on our neighbors in need. This year, this Christmas, allow your gift of love to change us. Forgive us, and shape us into bearers of peace and sharers of joy. With hope in Christ we pray, Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Believe and share the good news! ***In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!***

*Hymn #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (verses 1 & 2)

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!"

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.*

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,

pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

*Passing of Christ's Peace

Please share a sign of welcome and inclusion (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors.

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

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Children's Chat

Rev. Chris Peters

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Prophets

Isaiah 9:2-7

O.T. pg. 638

Special Music

Mary Did You Know? arr. by Jack Schrader
Westminster Choir

"Mary, Did You Know?" celebrates the moment when waiting ends and God's promise becomes reality—Jesus is here, and the world is forever changed.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

N.T. pg. 58

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

Meditation

"Wait No More! Jesus is Here!"

Rev. Chris Peters

*Hymn #113

Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1 & 3)

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains
Glo-or-ia... In excelsis De-o; Glo-or-ia... In excelsis De-o.*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo-or-ia... In excelsis De-o; Glo-or-ia... In excelsis De-o.*

Invitation to the Offering

Offering & Bells Anthem

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Jason Krug
Westminster Carillon

*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 and of the People/Lord's Prayer 5 pm

*Elder-Elect Louisa McConnell
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.

Sharing of Christ's 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. Let us share the light with reverence and joy!)

***Hymn #122**

Silent Night, Holy Night

Reading: John 1:1-5

***Words of Sending: From Waiting to Silence to Joy**

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #134**

Joy to the World

(verses 1-2 & 4 – all sing with joy; verse 3 – choir, bells & organ only)

***Postlude**

“I Saw Three Ships” arr. Luther Henderson
“We Wish You a Merry Christmas” arr. Lani Smith

Tonight's Candle Lighting liturgy, Call to Confession, and Prayer of Confession are written by Pastor Chris for Christmas Eve 2025. Other words for worship (liturgy) are adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Year A, Volume 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 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: 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

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer **Organist:** John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Advent Candle Lighters: 7 pm: Jim Laux, Stephanie Laux, Sydny Laux, Izzy Frana, Easton Frana, Morgan Hagel, Heath Stromquist & Raiden Stromquist

Greeters: 5 pm—Janice Rohwedder & Josh Whitfield; 7 pm—Janice Rohwedder & Josh Swanson

Ushers: 5 pm—April Douglas, Joyce Douglas, Diana Wild, Debra Schleining
7 pm—Carol Shelbourn, Joan Roberts, Bill Roberts, Tom Welstead

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter

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! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high-est! 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

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!*

KOREAN

1 고요한밤 거룩한밤
어둠에 묻힌밤
주의부모 앉아서
감사기도 드릴때
아기잘도 잔다
아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

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

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

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.

A special THANK YOU to the following Westminster vocalists and instrumentalists for adding so much to our worship services tonight. We appreciate your time and talent very much!

Westminster Choir

Westminster Ringers and Christopher Boilesen, Conductor

Daniel Helzer French Horn

Dylan Auld Trombone

Kason Fiedler Tuba

Josias Perez Trumpet II

Metro Lyle Trumpet I

Rich Jones Percussion

Willa Foster Jones Synthesizer and Auxillary

John Ross Organist

The church office will be closed:

- Thursday, December 25 (Merry Christmas!)
- Friday, December 26
- Thursday, January 1 (Happy New Year!)

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.

Adult Ed Community Conversations in January

- January 4: Rev. Ellen Davis will lead a reflection and discussion of the Bible Readings and sermon from Worship Service on this first Sunday of the new year.
- January 11: Irene Hargan, Director of Marketing and PR, will tell us about Lincoln's "Center for People."
- January 18: Charlie Wesche, CEO of NeighborWorks, will speak about affordable housing.
- January 25: Anne Brandt, Executive Director of Lincoln Littles, "Elevating Early Childhood."

2026 Pledge Campaign Update (through 12/22/25)

General Pledge to give in 2026: \$516,239.05

Per Capita: \$5,627.00

Total: \$521,866.05

Thank you, Westminster, for your commitments to give in 2026! To date, we have seen a 16% increase in pledges compared to this time last year. Pledges may still be made or increased at any time, and 2026 *“Grateful”* Commitment packets are available in the Garden Room or by using the *“Grateful”* QR Code to the right.

To begin 2026 deficit-free, total pledges need to reach \$579,000. Our “dream budget,” which reflects future goals across all ministry areas, can be achieved with pledges totaling \$650,000.



Grateful
2026 Annual Giving Information

2025 Giving Update (through 12/22/25)

2025 Pledges: \$500,000.00

2025 Pledged Giving To-Date: \$526,134.35

Projected Deficit (as of 2/28/2025): \$112,785.00

Projected Deficit (as of 12/22/2025): \$52,544.12

Thank you, Westminster and friends, for your generous giving in 2025! Over the course of the year, we have exceeded initial pledged income and narrowed projected deficits through your generosity and responsible spending by our ministries and staff.

Thank you, as well, to our wonderful Finance Committee (Outgoing Chair, Elder Jaime Hemmerling, Outgoing Elder Jim Hlava, Ross McCown, Ray Stevens, and Gwen Thorpe; Rev. Chris Peters, Staff-Liaison)! Your leadership, transparency, and regular updates to the congregation have set the standard for faithful financial stewardship into the future!



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 Isaac T. Avery, Jr., & Caroline Long Avery by Marybell Avery & Stan Campbell.

In loving memory of Joann & Arvid Barth by Kelly, Emma & Turner.

In loving memory of Joann & Arvid Barth & Eva & Cy Billups by Deb & Don Schleining, Kelly Braswell-Burbach and family.

In loving memory of Lloyd & Judy Anderson by David & Kathy Anderson.

In honor of Mary & Ed Beierman by David & Kathy Anderson.

In loving memory of our parents, Gale & Dorothy and Jo & Willis by Chery and Gregg Bieber.

In honor of my sister and her continued well-being by Chery and Gregg Bieber.

In loving memory of Jerry & Judy Buss by Joyce Douglas and Justin & April Douglas.

In loving memory of Roland & Charlotte Campbell by Marybell Avery & Stan Campbell.

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

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

In loving memory of Nancy Dawson by Karen and John Janovy Jr.

In loving memory of Bob and Nancy Dawson by Pat Hackley.

In loving memory of Jud Douglas by Joyce Douglas and Justin & April Douglas.

In loving memory of Elnor & Vernon Dunn by Ray and Karen Stevens.

In loving memory of our nephew, Hugh Gill by Joan & Bill Roberts.

In honor of our niece, Ingrid Gill, and daughters Grace & Edie by Joan & Bill Roberts.

In loving memory of Chip Hackley by Pat, Colin, Laura and Graham Hackley.

In loving memory of Kenneth & Frances Holsten by the Jon & Susan Jackson Family.

In honor of Westminster Circle One Members: Dorothy Glen, Pam Martin, Ginny Rohrbaugh & Eliza Sams by the Westminster Presbyterian Women Coordination Team.

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 Betty Kent by the Hemmerling Family.

In honor of John & Betty Kirby by Thom, Shelly, Jack & Quinn Johnson.

In loving memory of Christy Killingsworth (Sheri's sister) by Sheri & Bob Michaud.

In loving memory of Martha Kingsbury by Pat Hackley.

In loving memory of Martha Kingsbury by Jim & Judy White.

In loving memory of Martha Kingsbury by Linda Burchard.

In loving memory of Jim Lofquist by Kraig & Laurie Lofquist.

In loving memory of Ted Maude by Marilyn Maude.

In honor of my family: Susan Christensen, Pete Maude, and Matt Maude by Marilyn Maude.

In loving memory of Emmet & Marilyn Meyers, Comstock & Pilfolds by Linda Ems.

In loving memory of Gates & Daisy Minnick and Dorothy Romisch by the Minnick Family.

In loving memory of Gerald D. Myers by Ray & Karen Stevens.

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 Thomas Olson, Sr. by Cynthia Olson.

In loving memory of Karen Paulson by the Hemmerling Family.

In loving memory of Leo & Zetta Phillip & Steve Phillip by Kathy Phillip.

In loving memory of Jonathon Reiber by Layne and Carrie Sup and family.

In loving memory of Bob Rohrbaugh by Ginny Rohrbaugh and Cathy Van Cleave.

In honor of Keith & Sherry Schafer by Dan & Erika Schafer Family.

In loving memory of Ted Schirmer by Regi Schirmer.

In honor of Don & Marvene Schleining by Kelly, Emma & Turner.

In loving memory of George & Dorothy Wright and Franny & Harry Seward, Jr. by Harry and Judy Seward.

In honor of our children & grandchildren: Andy & Emily Seward & Olivia, Abby & Noah; Kraig & Laurie Lofquist & Lexi, Brooke & Haley by Harry and Judy Seward.

In loving memory of Darrell & Esther Shanklin by Rev. 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 by Ray & Karen Stevens.

In loving memory of Susie Sup by Layne & Carrie Sup & family.

In loving memory of our parents by Stan & Gwen Thorpe.

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

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

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

In honor of Presbyterian Women at Westminster by Linda Burchard.

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

In loving memory of Kurt T. Yost, my wonderful husband by Marcia Yost.

Worship services are available on-line at this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/@WestminsterLincolnstreams>