

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

December 28, 2025

First Sunday of Christmas



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 Little Town of Bethlehem” by Richard Purvis

Welcome

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

***Call to Worship (from Psalm 148)**

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens!

All: Praise God on the heights!

One: Sun and moon: praise God! All bright stars: praise God!

All: Let all of these praise the Lord, because God gave the command, and they were all created!

***Hymn #146**

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to a season. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Assure us of our pardon that we may find rest in you. 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

Epistle

Galatians 3:23-4:7

N.T. pg. 189

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:21-32, 2:39-52

N.T. pg. 59

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

Sermon

Dedication in the Temple

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Hymn #140**

Once in Royal David's City

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

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 & Special Music

"Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple"

by Andrew Pratt & David Haas

Maddy Stolcpart, soloist

***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

***Hymn #159**

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Postlude

"Toccata on ANTIOCH" by Craig Phillips

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

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Joyce Douglas & Marilyn Hood

Ushers: Becky Bockrath, Bruce & Margaret Sheffield, Marijane England

Dishwashers: Gary & Glenna Haller

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Dale Minter





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

The week of Dec. 28, 2025

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

The church offices will be closed on January 1 for the New Year's Day holiday.

Youth Group Lock-In | Friday, January 2 8:30 PM-Saturday, January 3, 8:30 AM.

No Adult Ed today.

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."

Prairie Readers

Prairie Readers will begin the new reading year on Wed., Jan. 21. We will meet in the lounge at 1 PM. Kathryn Govaerts will lead the discussion of *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Everyone is welcome.

January Tips from Green@Heart

Winter is a season of gathering and joyous celebrations, but it can also be a season of energy waste. Did you know 61-86% of home energy use is wasted, with the winter months being the worst? Small changes can make a big difference for the planet (and your utility bill)! Look here for a few easy, eco-friendly tips each week in January:

Layer up: Bundle up in sweaters, scarves, and base layers so you can turn the thermostat down a few degrees. Choose natural fibers to help reduce microplastic pollution.

Pastor Chris is taking time off following Christmas. He will be back in worship preaching on January 4th and back in the office on Monday, January 5th.

Week Beginning December 28

<u>Sun. (Dec. 28)</u> 10 AM Worship, Faith Village, Sanctuary 12 Noon Sudanese Worship, Chapel	<u>Thurs. (Jan. 1) New Year's Day</u> Church Offices Closed 12 PM Sudanese Gathering
<u>Mon. (Dec. 29)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study— Pastor Ellen 7 PM Recovery Group, Library	<u>Fri. (Jan. 2)</u> 8:30 PM Youth Group Lock-In until 8:30 AM on Sat.
<u>Tues. (Dec. 30)</u> 5 PM Ladies' Night Out	<u>Sun. (Jan. 4)</u> 9:30 AM Equal Exchange Coffee 10 AM Worship, Communion, Faith Village, Sanctuary 11 AM Undecorate Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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