Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

November 29, 2026

First 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 "Partita on 'Savior of the Nations, Come'" by Kenneth Kosche
Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.
Lighting of the Advent Wreath Hope Candle **Souliere Family**

One: When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
All: we turn our eyes to the stars.
One: When the work is demanding and injustice unending,
All: we stand together, arm in arm.
One: When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy,
All: we cry out to God without holding back.
One: And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away,
All: we gather together to light the candle of hope.
(The Hope Candle is Lit. Reflect: What brings you hope this Advent?)
One: Like the stars above, may this light shine bright.
All: May it guide our path. May it inspire deeper hope.
One: Until God's promised day, may it be so. Amen.

***Hymn #97** **Watchman Tell Us of The Night**
**This is a dialogue hymn– a traveller asks a question, then the watchman replies.*

***Call to Confession** Deacon Joan Roberts
Prayer of Confession
Holy God, we have been known— to bite our tongues, to work through a broken heart, to don our favorite rose-colored glasses. We have been known— to look for the bright side, to sweep the pain under the rug, to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss. We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves. Forgive us for filtering our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Forgive us for not turning to you first. Remind us that you are a God who listens and you are a God who restores. With open hearts, we pray….

***Time of Silent Confession**
Lord, hear our prayer. ***Amen.***

***Response to Confession**
Hymn #123 **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (verse 3)**

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

***Assurance of Forgiveness** Deacon Joan Roberts
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
There is nothing we could do or say that will keep God's love at bay.

We are seen, forgiven, and invited—into deeper honesty and deeper relationship. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Response of Praise**

Hymn #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

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19-O.T. page 540; **Psalm 74:1-11**-O.T. page 535; **Isaiah 64:1-9**-O.T. page 694

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

Sermon "Cry Out: How Long, O God" Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Affirmation of Faith (1976 PCUS Declaration of Faith)**

In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation [that God] has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

Hymn #373 **O Day of Peace**

Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer Deacon Joan Roberts

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
Offertory Choir Anthem **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** *arranged by Tim Kile and edited by Dan Forrest. Michele Bartos, cello and Brenda Wristen, piano*
Connection to Message: Mark 13:24–37 calls us to stay awake and be ready for the coming of the Savior with faith and hope. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" gives voice to our longing as we prepare for Jesus' birth with joyful anticipation and trust in God's promises.

***Doxology Hymn #606**

Prayer of Thanksgiving Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Hymn #357** **The Days Are Surely Coming**

***Charge & Benediction**
Postlude "Chorale Prelude on "'Savior of the Nations, Come'" by J. S. Bach, BWV 661

Liturgy Notes and Sources
Today's liturgy is adapted from A Sanctified Art: Until the Dawn, Words for Worship, Advent 1.

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: Wes Hansmeyer, Westminster Choir | Jessica Freeman, Guest Organist
Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere
Greeters: Janice Rohwedder, Paul Korslund
Ushers: Dan Schaeffer, Erika Schaeffer, Joyce Douglas, Gwen Thorpe
Dishwashers: Custodial Staff
Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter



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

The week of November 29, 2026

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

Adult Education:
November 29: No Adult Ed, Thanksgiving weekend.

Explorers Bible Study
Join friends Monday mornings at 11 during Advent to explore with the prophets the coming of the Messiah. "Witness to the Light" features the words and stories of prophetic figures in Scripture, from major prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and John the Baptist to lesser-heard voices like Miriam, Joel, Ezekiel, and Anna. Dates: November 30, December 7, 14, and 21. For information and to order study book email edavis3655@gmail.com.

Upcoming Confirmation Sessions
Confirmation class will meet at the same time (11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.) on Feb. 7, 21, 28, and April 4, 11. Confirmation Sunday will be at the 10 am service on May 9. Contact Trish Souliere (trish@westminsterlincoln.org) to 'confirm' your participation in the class and/or RSVP for this session!

Pianist Needed for Preschool Program
Preschool is looking for a pianist to play for the Christmas Program on Dec. 17. Must be able to attend 2-3 morning practices during the week of the program. Contact Laurie McCubbin, Preschool Director, at 402-475-6702 if interested in helping out!

ANGEL TREE
Once again Westminster is partnering with the Salvation Army Angel Tree Project. Christmas and holiday gifts from the Angel Tree are given to children from low income families. Gifts, toys, clothing, and much more are provided for children from infant to age 12. Starting Nov. 16, look for the Angel Tree in the reception desk area. Pick a tag from the tree, shop. Return the unwrapped gifts, with the tag Rosies Past that date you can take the gifts directly to the Salvation Army. Most people, especially children, look forward to

receiving clothing and gifts over the holidays. Will you be someone's Angel?
-Mission and Social Witness

Advent Candle Lighting
Westminster Families, Households, and Friends,
You are invited to help us celebrate the joyful anticipation of the season of Advent in worship! Each Sunday in Advent starting November 29th, along with both Christmas Eve services, we will have a household, family, or friend-group light the designated candles on our Advent Wreath in worship. This includes 1-2 people reading a Call to Worship for the lighting. Should you sign up, Pastor Chris will reach out to share a script and instructions at least seven days prior to your chosen date. Thank you for the consideration! If you sign-up and then cannot participate as the date nears due to change of plans, illness, etc., please text Pastor Chris at (402) 480-6068. **https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rJDyZ7-3fvl44v0o1fvFK1Eyq014nmAm4_7Jim1hIS8/edit?usp=sharing**

Ladies Night Out | Monday, November 30 | Venue Restaurant and Lounge | 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Join us this month at Venue Lounge. As always, it promises to be a fun time of catching up. Feel free to bring a friend! Please note the earlier start time this month.

Dudes Night Out | Monday, November 30, 2026 | 5pm | Rosie's Sports Bar & Grill
Join us for a good meal and lots of fellowship at Rosie's Sports Bar & Grill - 1502 Center Park Road. There is no agenda; the primary goal is to get-to-know one another better in a small group setting. We would love to have you join us at the table; please RSVP to garyhaller70@att.net by Sunday, Nov. 29th. If you have questions or suggestions please email, text, or call Gary Haller at (817) 757-2980.

IT'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY !!!!!!
When: December 6, 2026, during and after the 10:00am service
Why: To celebrate our Sanctuary turning 100 years old
Historic memorabilia: church blueprints, pictures and other artifacts will be on display in Fellowship Hall
Details: Potluck menu - Pork loin main dish, tea, coffee and water provided; sides and desserts to be provided by our congregational members.(members with last name starting with A-O bring a side dish and P-Z a dessert dish)
Setting for lunch: Cole Hall (the original dining room)
For fun: Men and Women wear hats from the 1920's (an era where hats were worn to church). Check your closets, there will be some loaners provided.

Original recipes: A variety of original recipes would be an added attraction. Check your family recipes. Susie Hughes has an original 1950 church cookbook and is willing to share.

Week Beginning Nov. 29

Sun. (Nov. 29)	1 PM Hearts and Hands, Library
10 AM Worship, Faith Village	5:30 PM W3 Activities
12 PM Sudanese Worship, Chapel	6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon. (Nov. 30)	**Thurs. (Dec. 3)**
11 AM The Explorers—Study of Romans, Library	9 AM Holiday of Trees Set Up, FH
6 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, First Plymouth	**Fri. (Dec. 4)**
Tues. (Dec. 1	10 AM Holiday of Trees, FH
5:00 PM Adult Ed, Conference Room	**Sat. (Dec. 5)**
Wed. (Dec. 2)	9 AM Holiday of Trees, FH
10 AM Circle 3, Lounge	**Sun. (Dec. 6)**
	10 AM Worship, Faith Village
	11 AM Centennial Celebration, FH
	12 PM Sudanese Worship, Chapel

Worship services are available on-line at this link:
https://www.youtube.com/@WestminsterLincoln/streams