

Westminster Presbyterian Church

A Telling Presence in the City

Sunday, November 19, 2023



Westminster Bells, photograph by Rodney Allen Schwartz

We enter this church not as strangers, but as children of God.



Westminster
Presbyterian Church

Preparing for the Word

Our service begins with the Prelude, inviting us to prepare for worship.

Prelude *Prelude and Fugue on "Nun danket alle Gott"*

Percy Fletcher
Kenneth Vigne, organ

Our Life in Christ

The Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 24)

One: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

All: God has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.

One: Let us worship God.

***Processional Hymn** No. 643 *Now Thank We All Our God*

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

The Rev. Dr. David Tsai Shinn

Merciful God, we come before you trusting in your kindness, hoping in your faithfulness, and abiding in your love. Our hearts are heavy with regret for what we have done and for what we have left undone. Forgive us for when we have been harsh and dismissive, hoarding and ungenerous, perpetually focused on growth, at the cost of creation. Help us to live another way, to care for those who are most vulnerable, to challenge systems that separate and oppress, and to choose to receive and share your amazing grace.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Worshippers seek and reflect on God's forgiveness in their own lives.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Friends, hear the good news:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Listening to the Word

At this time, children ages 4-1st grade are invited to Children's Church.

Prayer for Illumination

Karen Kraemer

* Please stand as you are able.

Readings from Holy Scripture

I Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NT, p. 181)

Matthew 25:14-30 (NT, pp. 24-25)

One: This is the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Having an Abundance*

The Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** No. 716 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

The Rev. Alexandra Jacob

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.

A Moment for Stewardship *We Are the Church*

Leigh Niebuhr and Ann Rainhart,
Stewardship Co-Chairs

Offering Invitation

You are invited to give online via Realm. We have returned to passing the offertory plates in the pews. Please assist the ushers as needed. To learn more about how to make a gift online, please see the back of the bulletin. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of Westminster.

Offertory Anthem *Simple Gifts*

Trad. Shaker Song
Adapted by Aaron Copland, arr. David L. Brunner
Westminster Choir; Dr. Amanda Weber, conductor

Prayer of Dedication for the Offerings Received

***Hymn** No. 37 *Let All Things Now Living*

***Charge and Benediction**

The people respond with "Amen."

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Postlude *Dance on The Ash Grove*

Kenneth Vigne

Westminster welcomes the Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson as our worship leader and preacher today. The Rev. Dr. Wilkinson serves as Director of Ministry Engagement and Support for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a position that focuses on mission interpretation, supporting connections, and funds development.

The Rev. Dr. Wilkinson began this work earlier this year; prior to that he served Presbyterian congregations in Chicago, Rochester, New York, and Philadelphia. He has served on the boards of McCormick Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian Historical Society, as well as various civic boards, and he helped to launch (along with Westminster's Senior Pastor Emeritus the Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen) the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and NEXT Church.

The Rev. Dr. Wilkinson holds degrees from the College of Wooster, McCormick Theological Seminary, and Northwestern University.

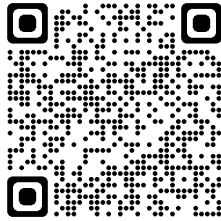
2024 Stewardship: We Are the Church

As our congregation moves into a season of transition, we remember that together in God's name, we are the church. Your support in 2024 will help our growing ministries continue to flourish throughout the coming year. Please consider making a financial commitment to the future of Westminster **by today, Stewardship Sunday.**

We are the church—thank you for being a part of it.

*You can specify your intended giving for 2024 with a pledge card,
by using the QR Code below, or online*

onrealm.org/westminstermpls/AddPledge/stewardship2024onrealm.org



Daily Phone Devotions

612.332.7087

November 19 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
20Romans 2:1-11
21 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
22 Psalm 9
23 Luke 17:11-19
24 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
25 Psalm 95:1-7a
26 Ephesians 1:15-23

Welcome to Westminster

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, mission, and programs.

If you are new to Westminster

Accessible Worship. Large print bulletins, hearing assistance devices, and Hearing Loop information are available from ushers during 10:30am worship.

Welcome, Children! Young ones are always welcome in worship at Westminster. We also offer Nursery care for children 3 years old and younger, and the child-friendly Children's Tower Room (in the southwest balcony corner) is open with the service livestreamed for those who may need to step away for nursing or to tend to children's needs.

Coffee Hour. Join us in Westminster Commons for coffee and fellowship, following Sunday morning worship.

Membership. For information about membership, contact the Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn at mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org or Janice Teliczan at jteliczan@wpc-mpls.org.

If you seek to deepen your involvement

Justice & Mission. Get involved in serving and seeking justice; contact the Rev. Alanna Simone Tyler, atyler@wpc-mpls.org.

Families, Youth, and Children. Connect with Church School, youth groups, Confirmation, parent offerings, and special events; contact the Rev. Alexandra Jacob, ajacob@wpc-mpls.org.

Congregational Care. Join volunteer teams providing support for members through prayer, meals, and visitations; contact the Rev. Dr. David Tsai Shinn, dshinn@wpc-mpls.org.

Adult Ministries. Enjoy faith formation with other adults of the church through classes, small groups, and forums; contact the Rev. Margaret Fox, mfox@wpc-mpls.org.

Worship & the Arts. Offer your artistic gifts in worship, participate in adult or children's music ensembles, or connect with other artists; contact Dr. Amanda Weber, aweber@wpc-mpls.org.

Westminster Cares

Births, Adoptions, and Baptisms. Contact Janice Teliczan, jteliczan@wpc-mpls.org.

Pastoral Care. Contact Deb Wagner about hospitalization, illness, death, or prayer requests, 612.332.3421 or dwagner@wpc-mpls.org.

Free parking is available on Sundays in the public ramp at 11th St. & Marquette Ave. **from 7am-2pm.**

At the ramp, take a ticket when you enter & pick up a parking voucher at Westminster. Use both your ticket and the voucher to exit the ramp.

Free parking for those who need it is also available on Sunday mornings in the Westminster parking garage at Alice Rainville Place.

Our Life in Christ: Opportunities

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Thursday, November 23 | 10am | Plymouth Congregational Church and Online

This year, the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will take place at Plymouth Congregational Church (1900 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis), with a dialogue sermon from Imam Makram El-Amin and Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman. Parking available on site. **You can also watch the service online at plymouth.org/worship.**

Tickets Available for Christmas Dinners

Tickets are now available on Realm for **Christmas Dinners on December 1 and 2**. Visit the Performing Arts Series table in the Commons before or after worship for more information. **To help with decorations, or volunteer as a table server, contact Amanda at aweber@wpc-mpls.org.**

Poinsettia Donations

To participate in Westminster's Christmas Flower Program, please **fill out a form on the information table and turn it in with payment by December 5**. Your gift will honor your loved one, help to decorate the sanctuary, and provide poinsettias to members and friends who are sick or homebound. **Email Deb at dwagner@wpc-mpls.org with questions.**

Service of Remembrance

Tuesday, December 5 | 6pm | Chapel

Join us for a candlelight service in the Chapel. We will be cradled with soothing and comforting music, poetry, and the simple act of remembering our loved ones. Afterward, we will gather for dinner with conversation and sharing. **To attend the dinner, please RSVP with names of attendees to Deb Wagner at dwagner@wpls.org.**

Advent Organ Recitals

Wednesdays, December 6-20 | Noon | Westminster Chapel

On the first three Wednesdays in Advent, Westminster Presbyterian Church will host a series of resident and guest organists for thirty-minute recitals in the recently renovated and acoustically enhanced chapel. **December 6 will feature Andrew Jacob, Organist and Co-Director of Music at Augustana Lutheran Church.**

Westminster Town Hall Forum: Raquel Willis

Thursday, December 7 | 6pm | Sanctuary and Online

Black transgender activist Raquel Willis shares in her new book *The Risk it Takes to Bloom: On Life and Liberation* that a freer society for all people ultimately helps everyone. Willis spent years as a newspaper reporter hiding her transgender identity, but increasing violence toward trans women of color inspired her to come out publicly. **A book signing, Breads & Spreads reception, and Continuing the Conversation program will follow this forum. Learn more and watch online at westminsterforum.org.**

This Week at Westminster | November 19-26

Visit westminstermpls.org/events for more details about events.

Stewardship Sunday, November 19

8am-12:30pm | *The Art of Our Global Partners* exhibition | Westminster Gallery

8:15am-11:30am | Nursery Hours | Nursery

8:30am | Worship: The Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson preaching | Westminster Hall*

9:15am-noon | Blood Pressure Screening | Bates Room

9:15am | FYC Gathering Time & Church School | Chapel

9:15am | Family Matters | Bushnell Room

9:15am-1pm | Fair Trade Gift Fair (no sales during worship) | Westminster Commons

9:15am | Adult Education: *Exploring The Older Testament* | Recreation Room**

10:30am | Worship: The Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson preaching | Sanctuary*

11:30am | Pageant Rehearsal | Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

6pm | Confirmation | Youth Room

Monday, November 20

10am | Tai Chi | Westminster Hall

Tuesday, November 21

1pm | Magnet: Art & Nature Class | Bushnell Room

Thursday, November 23

Building and offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

10am | Interfaith Thanksgiving Service | Plymouth Congregational Church

Friday, November 24

Building and offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 26

8am-12:30pm | *The Art of Our Global Partners* exhibition closes today | Westminster Gallery

8:15am-11:30am | Nursery Hours | Nursery

8:30am | Worship: The Rev. Dr. David Tsai Shinn preaching | Westminster Hall*

9:15am | FYC Gathering Time & Church School | Chapel

9:15am | Family Matters | Bates Room

9:15am | Adult Education: *Exploring The Older Testament* | Recreation Room**

10:30am | Worship: The Rev. Dr. David Tsai Shinn preaching | Sanctuary*

5pm | Free Community Meal (F.E.A.S.T.) | Fellowship Hall

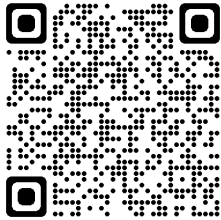
* **May also be viewed via Livestream westminstermpls.online.church**

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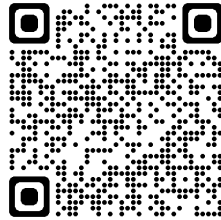
Giving to Westminster

You can sustain the church's ministry and mission by making a donation to the church online! To support Westminster, point your smartphone camera at the QR codes below or visit: onrealm.org/westminstempls/give

One-Time Gift



Make a Pledge



**Join us for worship in-person,
via livestream at westminstempls.online.church,
or facebook.com/westminstempls**

Sundays

8:30am Worship (Westminster Hall)

10:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

Wednesdays

No Worship November 22 (resumes November 29)



1200 Marquette Avenue | Minneapolis 55403
westminstempls.org | 612.332.3421



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