

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

*A Telling Presence in the City*

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First Sunday of Advent  
*December 3, 2023 | 10:30am*



*Annunciation of Zechariah, by Lauren Wright Pittman, acrylic and ink on wood*

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



Westminster  
Presbyterian Church

# Preparing for the Word

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

**Prelude** *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659

J.S. Bach  
Joseph Trucano, organ

## **Advent Greeting**

The Rev. Margaret Fox

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## **\*Call to Worship**

One: The day of the Lord is surely coming;

**All: the promise of God will be fulfilled.**

One: Let us worship God.

**\*Processional Hymn** No. 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vss. 1-2, 6-7)

## **Lighting the Advent Candle**

Paul and Donna Arbisi, Maria Arbisi,  
Paul and Anna McKay, Maya and Weston McKay

**Sung Response** Hymn No. 85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (vs. 1)

## **Advent Prayer**

The Rev. Dr. David Tsai Shinn

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert as we watch and wait in this unfolding season. Hold us in our weariness, free us to live a life of joy in Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

# Listening for the Word

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## **A Time with Children**

The Rev. Alexandra Jacob and Dr. Rodney Allen Schwartz

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

\* Please stand as you are able.

**Sung Response** Hymn No. 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come* (vss. 1, 3) Kenneth Vigne, piano

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Rob Lee

### **Readings from Holy Scripture**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (OT, pp. 503-504)

Luke 1:1-23 (NT, pp. 48-49)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Meditation** *How Does a Weary World Rejoice: We Acknowledge Our Weariness*

The Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn

## Responding to the Word

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**\*Hymn** No. 103 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

### **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** *Lost in the Night*

Trad. Finnish Folk Tune, arr. Kyle S. Haugen

Text: Nordic hymn, tr. Olav Lee

Community Sing, led by Dr. Amanda Weber

Lost in the night do the people yet languish, longing for morning the darkness to vanish, plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish. Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?

Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow? Shall those who have light no light let us borrow, giving no heed to our burden of sorrow? Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?

Sorrowing wand'ers, in darkness yet dwelling, dawned has the day of a radiance excelling, death's deepest shadows forever dispelling. Christ is coming soon! Christ is coming soon! Will not day come soon? Come and save us soon! Christ is coming soon!

## The Sacrament of Communion

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

#### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Rev. Alanna Simone Tyler

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Let us pray...

#### The 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.

#### The Distribution of Bread and Cup

*All are invited to come forward by exiting the pew to the right to receive the bread and cup, returning to pews on the opposite side. Communion is served by intinction, dipping bread into the cup. Communion will be served in the pews for those who are unable to come forward. A gluten-free alternative for bread is available at the center aisle.*

**Music during the Distribution** *Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus* Marcelo de Olivieria Filho  
Community Sing, led by Barbara Prince

Come to be our hope, O Jesus: come to set our people free.

From oppression come, release us: let us turn to life in thee.

Come, release from every prison those who suffer in our land.

In your love we find the reason still to live and understand.

Come to build your new creation through the road of servanthood:

Give new life to every nation, changing evil into good.

Come and open our tomorrow for a Kingdom, now so near.

Take away all human sorrow, give us hope against our fear.

#### Closing Prayer

**\*Hymn** No. 79 *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

**\*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** *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 661

J.S. Bach

## **Advent and Christmas Worship**

### **First Week of Advent**

Sunday, December 3

8:30am | Worship in the Chapel

10:30am | Worship in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 5 | 6pm | Service of Remembrance

Wednesday, December 6 | 6pm | Evening Worship

### **Second Week of Advent**

Sunday, December 10

8:30am | Worship in the Chapel

10:30am | Worship in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 13 | 6pm | Evening Worship

### **Third Week of Advent**

Festival Sunday, December 17

9am | Advent Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary

11am | Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 20 | 6pm | Evening Worship

### **Fourth Week of Advent & Christmas Eve**

Sunday, December 24

10:30am | Worship in the Sanctuary

4pm | Family Worship in the Sanctuary

8 and 10pm | Candlelight Services in the Sanctuary

### **First Sunday after Christmas**

Sunday, December 31

10:30am | Worship in Westminster Hall

*All worship services will also be available on the Livestream.*

**Today's flowers are in loving memory of**  
**Marian and Albert Thomas**  
by the Thomas Family

**Birth**  
**Cameron Carl Johnson**, November 22, 2023

**Daily Phone Devotions**  
**612.332.7087**

December 3..... Mark 13:24-37  
4..... Micah 4:1-5  
5..... Micah 4:6-13  
6..... Luke 21:34-38  
7..... Isaiah 40:1-11  
8..... Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
9..... 2 Peter 3:8-15a  
10 ..... Mark 1:1-8



# Welcome to Westminster

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*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.** The next New Members Class will take place on January 28, 2024. For information about membership, contact the Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn at [mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org) or Janice Teliczan at [jteliczan@wpc-mpls.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:aweber@wpc-mpls.org).

## Westminster Cares

**Births, Adoptions, and Baptisms.** Contact Janice Teliczan, [jteliczan@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:jteliczan@wpc-mpls.org).

**Pastoral Care.** Contact Deb Wagner about hospitalization, illness, death, or prayer requests, 612.332.3421 or [dwagner@wpc-mpls.org](mailto: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

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## **Socks, Hats, and Gloves for Community Meal Guests**

The Westminster Hunger Ministry Team is collecting new socks, hats, and gloves for guests of Friends Eating and Sharing Together (FEAST), Westminster's fourth Sunday community meal. **Drop off items by December 24 in the Christmas boxes**, near the chapel and at each church entrance in the parking garage. Large and extra-large sizes are preferred; cotton, wool, or a wool blend are requested for socks. Thank you!

## **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](mailto:dwagner@wpc-mpls.org) with questions.**

## **Advent Organ Recitals**

**Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20 | Noon | Westminster Chapel and Livestream**

On the first three Wednesdays in Advent, Westminster will host a series of resident and guest organists for 30-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 and the Rev. Alexandra Jacob, soprano.**

## **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](http://westminsterforum.org).**

## **Ministry and Mission Study Presentation**

**Sunday, December 10 | 11:30am | Meisel Room and Livestream**

The findings of the Ministry and Mission Study will be presented to the congregation following 10:30am worship, on Sunday, December 10. This comprehensive study will provide an in-depth view of Westminster for the Transitional Pastor, serve as a foundation document for the Pastor Nominating Committee, help inform the drafting of the Ministry Discernment Profile, and serve as an ongoing reference for staff and Session.

## This Week at Westminster | December 3-10

Visit [westminstermpls.org/events](http://westminstermpls.org/events) for more details about events.

### Sunday, December 3

8am-12:30pm | *Unto Us a Child Is Born* exhibition opens today | Westminster Gallery  
8:15am-11:30am | Nursery Hours | Nursery  
8:30am | Worship: The Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn preaching | Chapel\*  
9am | Community Sing Rehearsal | Sanctuary  
9:15am | FYC Gathering Time & Church School | Chapel  
9:15am | Family Matters | Bates Room  
9:15am | Social Justice Forum | Meisel Room\*  
9:15am | Adult Education: *Exploring The Older Testament* | Recreation Room\*\*  
10:30am | Worship: The Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn preaching | Sanctuary\*  
11:30am | Pageant Rehearsal | Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary  
11:30am | First Sunday of Advent | Westminster Commons

### Monday, December 4

10am | Tai Chi | Westminster Hall

### Tuesday, December 5

6pm | Service of Remembrance | Chapel\*

### Wednesday, December 6

Noon | Advent Organ Recital: Alexandra and Andrew Jacob | Chapel\*  
4pm | Spiritual Journaling | Lowe Library  
5:15-6:45pm | Wednesday Night Supper | Fellowship Hall  
5:15-7:15pm | Youth and Children's Choirs  
5:30pm | Handbell Choir | Great Hall Balcony  
6pm | Wednesday Evening Worship: Thresholds | Westminster Hall\*  
6:45pm | Adult Education Discussion Groups | Meisel Room and Zoom  
7pm | WestConnect | Hunter Room  
7pm | Adult Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room

### Thursday, December 7

6pm | Westminster Town Hall Forum: Raquel Willis | Sanctuary and Online  
7pm | Continuing the Conversation | Recreation Room

### Sunday, December 10

8am-12:30pm | *Unto Us a Child Is Born* exhibition | Westminster Gallery  
8:15-11:30am | Nursery Hours | Nursery  
8:30am | Worship: The Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn preaching | Chapel\*  
9:15am | FYC Gathering Time & Church School | Chapel  
9:15am | Family Matters | Bates Room  
9:15am | Social Justice Forum | Meisel Room\*  
9:15am | Adult Education: *Exploring The Older Testament* | Recreation Room\*\*  
9:30am | Nursery Family Fellowship: The Christmas Story in Word and Song | Nursery  
10:30am | Worship: The Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn preaching | Sanctuary\*  
11:30am | Ministry and Mission Study Presentation | Meisel Room\*  
11:30am | Pageant Rehearsal | Fellowship Hall Sanctuary  
6pm | Jr. High Festive Sweater Christmas Party | Recreation Room

\* **May also be viewed via Livestream [westminstermpls.online.church](http://westminstermpls.online.church)**

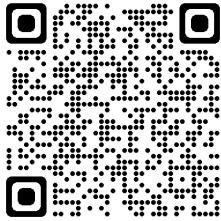
\*\* **May also be viewed via Livestream [westminstermpls2.online.church](http://westminstermpls2.online.church)**

*Annunciation of Zechariah*, by Lauren Wright Pittman: The artist has granted permission for the non-commercial use of this image with attribution.

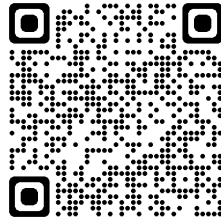
## **Giving to Westminster**

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](https://onrealm.org/westminstempls/give)

### **One-Time Gift**



### **Make a Pledge**



**Join us for worship in-person,  
via livestream at [westminstempls.online.church](https://westminstempls.online.church),  
or [facebook.com/westminstempls](https://facebook.com/westminstempls)**

### **Sundays**

8:30am Worship (Chapel)

10:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

### **Wednesdays**

6pm Worship (Westminster Hall)



1200 Marquette Avenue | Minneapolis 55403  
[westminstempls.org](https://westminstempls.org) | 612.332.3421



@westminstempls