Westminster Presbyterian Church

A Telling Presence in the City

Festival Sunday and Pageant
December 17, 2023 | 11am

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

Artwork by Evelyn A.
Preparing for the Word

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

Prelude

Gabriel’s Message                              Michael Bedford
Picardy                                     Craig Phillips
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme               J.S. Bach
Joseph Trucano, organ

Advent Festival Greeting                       The Rev. Alexandra Jacob

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.

Choral Introit Twinkle, Twinkle, Christmas Star    arr. Brad Ollmann
Westminster Cherubs and Pageant Children; Kenneth Vigne, piano

First Lesson selected verses from Isaiah 7, 9, 11 (OT, pp. 596-601)
A prophet foretells the coming of a Messiah.

*Hymn No. 92 While We Are Waiting, Come          Amanda Weber, cantor

Lighting the Advent Candle                     Marcia and Peter Morine, Kayleigh and
David Morine, Charlie and Ellie

Sung Response Hymn No. 85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs. 3)

Second Lesson Luke 1:5-25 (NT, pp. 48-49)
An angel appears to Zechariah and Elizabeth, announcing that Elizabeth will have a son,
John, who will prepare the way for the Messiah.

*Hymn No. 95 Prepare the Way of the Lord
The cantor will sing the first time through; the congregation is invited to join as directed.

* Please stand as you are able.
**Third Lesson**  Luke 1:26-56 (NT, p. 49)

An angel appears to Mary and Joseph, announcing that Mary will bear a holy child. Mary and Elizabeth rejoice.

**Hymn**  No. 100 Canticle of the Turning  Choristers; Joseph Trucano, director

Choristers sing vss. 1 and 2, congregation joins for vss. 3 and 4

**Meditation**  How Does a Weary World Rejoice: With Capacious Hearts  The Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn

*Hymn*  No. 137 He Came Down

**Fourth Lesson**  Luke 2:1-20 (NT, pp. 50-51)

The holy child is born in Bethlehem, amid joyful angels and shepherds.

*Hymn*  No. 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

**Responding to the Word**

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer**  The Rev. Dr. David Tsai Shinn

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.

**Offering Invitation**

The Christmas Joy offering is received. You are invited to give online via Realm or by placing your donation in the offering plate. Please assist the ushers in passing the plates 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**  Come, Messiah, Come  Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo  Karen Wasiluk, flute

O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come.
Lord, reveal your mercy. Guide us Lord, we pray.
May we see your Light and walk your way.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, Lord, we pray.

**Prayer of Dedication for the Offerings Received**

*Hymn*  No. 104 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
*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 Proclamation on Wachet auf  
Aaron David Miller
PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS:
Eli A., Evelyn A., Jostin B., Saydy B., Charlie B., Caroline C., Daphne C., Madeleine C.,
Sebastian C., Claire D., Eva D., Elise D., Kayden D., Kayleigh D., Kellen D., Victor D., Aubrey
D., Asher F., Ellis F., Larkin F., Julia G., Peter G., Flip G., Eleanor H., Louise H., Pixie H., Bob
H., Tullah K., Owen K., Nehemie K., Prisca K., Wesley K., Eli K., Elsie K., Evelyn K., Jack L.,
Caroline M., Charlie M., Ellie M., Johanna N., Anders O., Solveig O., Eliza S., Hartley S., Silas S.,
Ellie V., Forrest W., Jace W., Abigail W.

CHERUBS
Brad Ollmann, conductor

CHORISTERS
Joseph Trucano, conductor
Jostin B., Santi B., Madeleine C., Caroline C., Asher F., Larkin F., Merissa H., Ellie V., James V.

Art by James V.
Christmas Flowers Have Been Given

In Memory Of:

William Abel
Robert Alfton
Steve and Kristi Anderson
Sarah Luanne Appelwick
Caroline H. (Tarbox) Bates
Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Bell
Keith Bultena
Linda Burggraaff
Alice and Donald Campbell
Baby Cailen Collver
Mr. and Mrs. Ogden A. Confer
Miss Ruth Confer
Clara I. Cunnington
Edward A. Cunnington
Arlene Dayton
James Dayton
Robert Dayton
Irene Donaldson
Dr. E. F. Englund, MD
Glennis Englund
Paul Englund
Howard Fidler
Jo Fidler
Marina Flores
Odilón Flores
Paul Granlund
Austin and Marylu Hastings
Elizabeth Downing Heller
Ron Hemstad
Richard Howell
James Andrew Huey
Kaia Huntington
Linda Huntington
Edward Isley
Michael Janasz
Edna Johnson
Bernice A. Kalland
Harold R. Kalland
Richard L. Kalland
Steven M. Kalland
Dr. Allan D. Kellar
Lorrence Kellar
Eda Kelley
Robert Kendig
Dr. Fulton Koehler
Mrs. Mary C. Koehler
Dale and Donna Krach
Laura Krach
Paul and Merilyn Krause
Stanley and Dorothy Kriel
Marv Lefens
Violet Lefens
Carey Lennox
Jack Lewis
Doris L. Logue
Everett and Willa Logue
Kirk L. MacKinnon
Mr. and Ms. Chong Bong Mah
Virginia and Cliff Manderscheid
Millicent and Charles Marshall
Dale Miller
Rev. Donald S. Milloy
Darleen K. Milloy
Gordon and Gladys Mitchell
Bonnie and Marlow Neuberger
Dave Nichols
Norman James and Faith Caroline Thies Nixon
Judy Nolting
Sally Page
Samuel Perkins
Jim Peter
Tim Peter
Leo Pickerign
Judy Polenek
Marilyn and Lorenz Rinek
Dr. Alan and Mrs. Phyllis Rusterholz
John C. Salzsiedler
Steve Schultz
Norman and Josephine Scott
Lloyd Simms
Karen Somers
Samuel Somers
Spenser Somers
Linda Sootsman
Cristella and Clarence Starkson
Hubert and Velma Sunderman
Thomas R. Tarbox
Dr. and Mrs. Everett and Helen Thomas
Bettyann Ungemach
Charles Ungemach
L. Jane Wilson
Daniel Woo
Mr. and Ms. Jew Yew Kee Woo
Lucille L. Worcester
Russell D. Worcester

In Honor Of:

Norman Timothy (Tim) and Alice Nixon
LaVine Pickerign
Advent and Christmas 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.
Daily Phone Devotions
612.332.7087

December 17.......................Luke 1:46b-55
18...............................................Psalm 125
19...............................................Acts 3:17-4:4
20...............................................Mark 9:9-13
21.................................2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
22...............................................Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
23...............................................Romans 16:25-27
24...............................................Luke 1:26-38
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. 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 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.

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Our Life in Christ: Opportunities

**Advent Organ Recital**
**Wednesday, December 20 | Noon | Westminster Chapel and Livestream**
On the third Wednesday in Advent, Westminster will host **organist Dr. Stacie Lightner** and **flutist Dr. Donna Hyrniewicki** for a 30-minute recital in the recently renovated and acoustically enhanced chapel.

**Ushers Needed for Christmas Eve**
We need volunteers to help create a welcoming environment for the Westminster community on Christmas Eve! More ushers are needed for the 8 and 10pm services on Sunday, December 24. If you are available and able to help, please reach out to Terry McEowen at terryrmac@aol.com or sign up at the reception desk.

**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!

**Upcoming Choral Opportunity**
On March 22-23, the Westminster Choir will combine forces with a chamber orchestra to perform the Brahms *Requiem* in Westminster Hall. Rehearsals begin January 7. To join the choir for this special project, email Amanda at aweber@wpc-mpls.org.

**Meisel Scholar Sunday**
**Sunday, January 7**
During the 8:30 and 10:30am worship services and at a lunch and panel discussion following the 10:30am service, we will hear from current and former Meisel Scholars. All are invited to the gathering in the Meisel Room at 11:45am. Young people who are considering applying for a 2024 Meisel Scholar experience are encouraged to attend (applications are due March 15).

**Third Age Forum: Does Downsizing Overwhelm You?**
**Wednesday, January 10 | 11am | Westminster Hall and Livestream**
Save the date for the first Third Age Forum of the new year, which will focus on how to manage downsizing.
This Week at Westminster | December 17-26
Visit westminstercul.org/events for more details about events.

Festival Sunday, December 17
8:30am-12:30pm | Unto Us a Child Is Born exhibition | Westminster Gallery
8:45-10am | Nursery Hours | Nursery
9am | Worship: Advent Lessons and Carols & the Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn preaching | Sanctuary*
11am | Worship: Christmas Pageant and the Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn preaching | Sanctuary*

Monday, December 18
10am | Tai Chi | Westminster Hall

Wednesday, December 20
Noon | Advent Organ Recital: Drs. Stacie Lightner and Donna Hyrniewicki | Chapel*
5:15-6:45pm | Wednesday Night Supper | Fellowship Hall
5:15-6pm | Youth Choir | Adult Choir Room
6pm | Wednesday Evening Worship: Locusts and Wild Honey | Westminster Hall*
6:30-9pm | Adult Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room
7pm | WestConnect | Hunter Room

Sunday, December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:15am-11:30am | Nursery Hours | Nursery
10:30am | Worship: The Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn preaching | Sanctuary*

Christmas Eve
4pm | Family-Centered worship: The Rev. Alexandra Jacob preaching | Sanctuary*
5pm | Cocoa and Cookies | Westminster Hall
5pm | Free Community Meal (F.E.A.S.T.) | Fellowship Hall
8 and 10pm | Candlelight worship: The Rev. Dr. Matthew Skinner preaching | Sanctuary*

Christmas Day, December 25
Church offices and building closed in observance of Christmas Day. A pastor is available on call.

Tuesday, December 26
Building closed; staff working remotely

* May also be viewed via Livestream westminstercul.online.church
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/westminstermpls/give

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One-Time Gift

Make a Pledge

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

Sundays
8:30 am Worship (Westminster Hall) returns January 7
10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)

Wednesdays
6 pm Wednesday Evening Worship (Westminster Hall)