We enter this church not as strangers, but as children of God.
A Service of Lessons and Carols

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

Choral Introit What a Wonder

Lithuanian Folk Song, arr. Clarence Dickinson

Anna George Meek, Robert Graham, Nathan Petersen-Kindem, soloists

What a Wonder has been sung at Westminster at least since 1932 and continues as a beloved tradition.

What a wonder, what a marvellous wonder! In the depths of winter blooms a rose, Branch of Jesse’s stem and flower of David, With its beauty all the stable glows!

What a wonder, what a marvellous wonder! Heaven opens, earth is filled with light, Simple shepherds hear the angels singing Christ the Lord is born on earth tonight!

What a wonder, what a marvellous wonder! In the sky the guiding Star doth shine, Orient Kings haste to a humble manger, Kneel in homage to the King divine!

What a wonder, what a marvellous wonder! All mankind great joy in Him may know; Let us hasten gladly to adore Him, Laying now our loving hearts before Him!

Advent Greeting

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

Call to Worship and First Lesson Genesis 1:1-5 (OT, p. 1)

The First Day of Creation

One: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
All: the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while
a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
One: Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.
All: And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
One: God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night.
All: And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
One: Let us worship God.

* Please stand as you are able.
*Processional Hymn* No. 107 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

**Lighting the Advent Candle**
Carol, Dean, and Lauren Bachmeier

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

**Second Lesson** John 1:1-5 (NT, p. 79)  
*The Word Became Flesh*  
Abby G.

**Anthem** *The Word Was God*  
Rosephanye Powell  
Westminster Choir; Dr. Amanda Weber, conductor

**Third Lesson** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (OT, p. 598)  
*A Child Has Been Born to Us*  
The Rev. Alanna Simone Tyler

*Hymn* No. 86 *The People Who Walked in Darkness*

**Fourth Lesson** Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 (OT, pp. 600-601)  
*The Peaceful Kingdom*  
Jan Buckner

**Anthem** *Virga Jesse*  
Anton Bruckner  
Westminster Chamber Choir; Dr. Amanda Weber, conductor  
*(sung in Latin)*

The rod of Jesse hath blossomed:  
a Virgin hath brought forth God and man:  
God hath restored peace,  
reconciling in Himself the lowest with the highest.  
Alleluia.

**Fifth Lesson** Isaiah 7:10-14 (OT, p.596)  
*Isaiah Gives the Sign of Immanuel*  
Barbara Guth

**Anthem** *Nova, Nova!*  
Michael Bedford  
Westminster Youth Choir; Dr. Amanda Weber, conductor  
Karen Wasiluk, flute; Jeffrey Gram, percussion; Kenneth Vigne, piano

The angel, Gabriel by name, unto the Virgin Mary came,  
with joyful news unto the same.  
Nova, nova! Tidings of salvation! Nova, nova! Tidings of salvation!  
Then said the angel, “Do not fear, I bring glad news for you to hear:  
You will bring forth God’s Son so dear.”  
Nova, nova! Tidings of salvation! Nova, nova! Tidings of salvation!
Then Mary looked unto the sky: “Be as it pleases God on high, whose name my soul shall magnify.”
Nova, nova! Tidings of salvation! Nova, nova! Tidings of salvation!
By her the Christ Child comes to earth, In Bethlehem to have his birth;
Let all the world be filled with mirth!
Nova, nova! Tidings of salvation! Nova, nova! Tidings of salvation!

**Sixth Lesson** Micah 5:2-5a (OT, p. 818)
*A Leader from Bethlehem* 
Elaine Wilson

**Hymn** No. 89 *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* (vss. 1-4)
*The congregation is invited to sing the refrain; verses will be sung by a cantor.*
Alyssa Impullitti, cantor
Westminster Handbell Choir; Joseph Trucano, director

**Seventh Lesson** Zephaniah 3:14-20 (OT, p. 830)
*A Song of Joy* 
Jessica Johnson

**Anthem** *Of the Father’s Love Begotten* 
John Behnke

**Eighth Lesson** Psalm 126 (OT, pp. 535-536)
*A Harvest of Joy* 
The Rev. Margaret Fox

*Hymn* No. 74 *When God Restored Our Common Life*

**Ninth Lesson** Luke 1:57-66 (NT, pp. 49-50)
*The Birth of John the Baptist* 
The Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn

**Meditation** *How Does a Weary World Rejoice: We Allow Ourselves to Be Amazed* 
The Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn

*Hymn* No. 94 *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

**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 E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come
Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!
E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Prayer of Dedication for the Offerings Received

*Hymn No. 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*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

About Lessons and Carols
Lessons and Carols services such as this one originated in 1880 at Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, England. Prior to this time, carols – which were mostly considered to be secular - were sung at people's houses, but not in the context of worship. “A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” became a Christmas Eve tradition and spread rapidly across England, gaining significant popularity at the University of Cambridge's King’s College, with its college chapel known for an established choral tradition. The first Lessons and Carols service at King’s College took place in 1918, as a means of providing peace and comfort at the end of World War I. May God’s Word in scripture and in song bring comfort and joy this day.
Music Participants

WESTMINSTER CHOIR AND CHAMBER CHOIR
Dr. Amanda Weber, conductor

Soprano
Deb Carbaugh*†
Carolyn Cavadini*†
Deydra Dennis-Weiss*
Susan Dray
Gina Gustavson
Bonnie Hild
Jessica Johnson
Laurine Lewis
Sarah Murray*
Karla Myers
Janice Teliczan*
Karen Wasiluk

Alto
Sarah Hardy*
Andrea Hyde
Alyssa Impullitti*†
Linda Krach
Vicki McGregor
Anna George Meek*†
Jan Murphy
Barbara Prince*
Barbara
Randolph-Anderson
Maria Sabetti
Marge Serr
Jessica Willson*

Tenor
Phil Asgian
Sam Baker*†
Rob Graham*†
Lloyd Kepple
Terry McEowen
Norman York

Bass
Adam Brady
Jim Hild
Phil Jennings
Raye Kanzenbach
Bob Kriel
Peter Myers
Bob Oganovic*
Nathan
Petersen-Kindem*†
Eugene Sandel*†
Dick Winga

WESTMINSTER YOUTH CHOIR
Dr. Amanda Weber, conductor

Ellis F.
Flip G.
Harriett G.
Abby G.

WESTMINSTER HANDBELL CHOIR
Joseph Trucano, conductor

Diana Barber
Karen Cooke
Bonnie Hild
Jette Johnson
Lorie Ludwig
Terry McEowen
Joan Miesbauer
Karla Myers
Priscilla Northenscold
Barbara Prince
Jeanne Rostad

* Chamber Choir
† Section Leader
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
Lorence 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 Mrs. 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 Pickering
Judy Polenék
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 Pickering
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.
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 terrymac@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 westminstempls.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 westminstempls.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

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)

1200 Marquette Avenue | Minneapolis 55403
westminstermpls.org | 612.332.3421
@westminstermpls