



Services of Worship
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2011
9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who would worship here or join us in fellowship. We affirm that there can be no exclusion within the body of Christ. We invite all children of God to join us as disciples of Christ and participate fully in the life of our congregation.

PASTORAL STAFF: Gregory K. Jones, Head of Staff
Anne R. Ledbetter, Associate Pastor
Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

CHURCH EDUCATOR: Susan Moseley

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Brown

MUSIC STAFF: Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
Mary Beth Davis, Director of Music for Children, Youth and Handbells
Section Leaders/Soloists: Diana Milburn, Susan Rheingans,
Justin Gonzalez, Raymond Sambolin

This Morning at Westminster

8:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. The Holy Toast Café, in Community Hall, offers free coffee and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar per item.

Deacon Team of the Month

Kris DeMesse, Eadie Churchill, Cathy Higgins, Diane Chandler

8:45 a.m. – noon Child Care for Cribbery (birth – toddler)

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. Worship

After TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN, if you wish, your children may leave the Sanctuary and go to:

- ❖ **Godly Care** – A unique opportunity for children ages 2-4 to get to know God through stories, crafts, songs and prayers. Classes are in **Under Six Classrooms A and C.**
- ❖ **Godly Play** – Children in Kindergarten and 1st grade gather in the **Ruth Christie Room** to learn the language of God’s people through sacred space, stories, parables and liturgical actions. You may pick up your children in **Under Six Classroom C.**
- ❖ **Hebrew Scouts** – Children in grades 2 and 3 will become “Hebrew Scouts,” experiencing the stories of the Israelite people. You may pick up your children in **Under Six Classroom C.**
- ❖ **Treasure Seekers** – Children in grades 4 and 5 will begin with the story of Jesus’ baptism and continue with stories of Jesus’ ministry of teaching and healing. You may pick up your children in **Under Six Classroom C.**

10:00 a.m. Cookie Walk Community Hall

10:10 a.m. **Education for All Ages**

➤ Under Six Sunday School	Under Six Classrooms
➤ Sunshine Choir for Grades K – 2	Classroom 7
➤ D.R.U.M. for Grades 3 – 6	Youth Music Room
➤ Middle Schoolers on the Move - Grades 6 - 8	Classroom 1
➤ Confirmation Class for 9 th Graders	Classroom 8
➤ Senior High Gathering	Classroom 3
➤ Adult Education Classes	See page 7

11:00 a.m. Christmas Elves – Wrapping and Sorting Classrooms 1 - 5

11:15 a.m. – noon Worship. Children are always welcome in worship; however, childcare is available in Under Six for ages 2 through Grade 2.

Later Today

12:00 p.m.	Youth Ministry Team Planning	Rowell Conference Room
4:00 p.m.	Christmas Musical Celebration	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	Westminster Choir Christmas Party	Rodney Chapel/Meeting Room
6:00 p.m.	Clean But Not Straight – NA	Club Room
8:00 p.m.	AA	Club Room

WORSHIP NOTES

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Katharine Lea Tatnall and Marjorie C. Tatnall by Martha and Henry Tatnall, Jr.

Sanctuary Flowers - Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event, while expressing praise and thanksgiving to God. Please contact Linda Watson during business hours at 302-571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com. Available dates are January 1, 8, 15 and 29.

Worship Resources – You may obtain large print hymnals and hearing devices from any usher. Worship bags for children ages 3-6 and *Kids' Notes* for ages 7-12 are available from the ushers. *Kids' Notes* emphasize *listening* and *seeing* during worship.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Those recently hospitalized:** Paul Best, Dorothy Hunter, Ross Stevens.
- ❖ **Westminster's homebound family** who can no longer attend worship with us by sending a card, saying a prayer, or visiting. This week we ask you to remember Don Baer, HC and Bob Tiews, Apt. 171, both of Stonegates, 4031 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807.
- ❖ **Our brothers and sisters** in worldwide ministry in Guatemala, Kenya, Congo and Israel/Palestine.

Iraq and Afghanistan often seem far away, and we may neglect to realize that Americans, as well as Iraqis, Afghans and members of coalition forces, continue to die. As Christians, we are called to pray for the spreading of peace and justice and an end to violence. If someone in your family is serving in the military, please let us know, so that we may include that person on our prayer list. Contact Colleen Falasco: 302-654-5214 ext. 131, or cfalasco@wpc.org.

This week we pray for

- Those known to the WPC Community presently serving in Afghanistan:
Richard Barnet, Edward Maloney, Ann Exline Starr, Russell Lee Thomas
- The families of those from the U.S. who have died recently:
1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno, age 26, of San Antonio, Texas
Specialist Francisco Briseno-Alvarez, Jr., age 27, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Lance Corporal Franklin Watson, age 21, of Vonore, Tennessee
Specialist Garrett Fant, age 21, of American Canyon, California
Sergeant Christopher Diaz, age 27, of Albuquerque, New Mexico
Staff Sergeant Nicholas Sprovtsoff, age 28, of Davison, Michigan
1st Sergeant Billy Siercks, age 32, of Velda Village, Missouri
Specialist James Butz, age 21, of Porter, Indiana
Lance Corporal John Cagle, age 19, of Tucker, GA
1st Lieutenant Ryan Lannelli, age 27, of Clarksboro, New Jersey
1st Lieutenant Ivan Lechowich, age 27, of Valrico, Florida
Specialist Steven Gutowski, age 24, of Plymouth, Massachusetts
Private 1st Class David Drake, age 21, of Lumberton, Texas
- Those who have returned from service, possibly suffering from wounds or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

ORDER OF WORSHIP AT 9:00 A.M.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Eternal God, in our times of darkness, you send your light. When we are weary and discouraged, you lift us up. Open our eyes to the joy of discovery that we may catch a glimpse of the possibilities you put before us. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Ah, Jesu Christ With Us Abide

Sigfrid Karg-Elert
(1877-1933)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Mary Lou and Charlie McDowell

We have lit the candles for hope and peace.

Today we light the third candle – the candle of joy.

Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude.

Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised.

So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us.

Let us nurture it and share it with others.

RESPONSE

“He Came Down”

1st time: Choir

2nd time: All

**He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forever more.**

ADVENT PRAYER

Loving God, we open ourselves to you,

trusting that this is how you made us:

you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.

Show us the creative power of hope.

Teach us the peace that comes from justice.

Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,

that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 2

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

At the asterisk (), please stand as you are able.*

ANTHEM

“Awake, Arise and Hail the Morn”
Westminster Choir

arr. Mack Wilberg

Awake, arise, and hail the morn,
For unto us a Savior’s born,
See how the angels wing their way,
To usher in the glorious day.

Come, join the angels in the sky,
Glory to God who reigns on high,
Let peace and love on earth abound,
While time revolves and years roll ‘round.

To us a child is born in heav’n,
To us the Son of God is giv’n
His name the wonderful shall be;
His wonders heav’n and earth shall see.

Hark! What sweet music, what a song,
Sounds from the bright celestial throng!
Sweet song whose melting sounds impart,
Joy to each raptur’d listn’ing heart.

Our faith in grateful triumph boast,
These wonders of the Lord of Hosts,
And trust the zeal that form’d the plan,
To perfect what that zeal began.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 126

Old Testament, page 535
Mark Mosher, Lay Liturgist

SERMON

“May Those Who Sow in Tears Reap with Shouts of Joy”

Greg Jones

Take a moment to reflect on God’s message to you

*HYMN NO. 237

“When God Delivered Israel”

SHEAVES

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.
In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives.**

A Brief Statement of Faith

OFFERING

*During the offering, please sign your name and pass the red folder down your row.
As folders are returned to the center aisle, note the names of fellow worshippers on your pew.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”
(Text: Hymn #5)

arr. Gustav Holst

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER (page 16 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, using "debts" and "debtors")

*HYMN NO. 9

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

VENI EMMANUEL

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

GOING FORTH

If you are visiting with us for the first time, we invite you to meet today's ambassador, Bill Nace, at the back of the sanctuary. He will have a gift for you, and can share information regarding our many ministries for children, youth and adults.

~ CORRECTION ~

In the December 4 bulletin, we listed names of members with 40 or more years of membership at Westminster. With deep regret, we inadvertently omitted **Sue Weissinger**, who has been a loyal and very active member for 50 years. This omission was caused by an incorrect database entry made many years ago. The entry has been corrected and the church staff expresses their sincerest apologies to Sue.

If you noticed other names that were missing from the December 4 list, please call the church office so that we can check and correct our records. Thank you.



REPLENISH



RENEW



REJOICE

Thank you to all who made a 2012 pledge! If you have not yet made a 2012 pledge, please complete a card today to support continuing Westminster ministries in 2012.

"Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want." (Proverbs 11:24)



Adult Education Classes This Morning

Fire on the Mountain, by Ray Vander Laan – December 11 – February 5

DVD class and discussion in the Meeting Room

Today: The Lord Who Heals You (*Red Sea and Sinai*)

Come along as we join Ray Vander Laan in the Holy Land, showing us where the Israelites would have gone after they left Egypt. When the Israelites left Egypt, they were finally free – free from persecution, free from oppression, and free to worship their own God. But with that freedom came a new challenge – learning how to live together the way God intended. In this ninth volume of Faith Lessons, discover how God taught the Israelites what it means to be part of a community that loves him, and the lessons we can begin to live out in our lives today.

POLO (Parents of Little Ones) - Today in Rodney Chapel

Every Sunday this class gathers and enjoys discussion sparked by a YouTube video, an article, a book, or a guest. Topics range from nurturing faith development in our children to carving out family time in today's world. On the first Sunday (October – March) of each month we host local parenting consultant Yvonne Nass.

Christmas at Westminster 2011

Please mark your calendars and join us for the many ways we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Today at 4:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BOX PACKING PARTY

Friday, December 16, at 6:00 p.m.

Bring holiday joy to neighbors in need by packing boxes with food and gifts.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO THE HOMEBOUND

Sunday, December 18, at 3:30 p.m.

Share the joy of Christmas by caroling to those in our faith community who can no longer attend church.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24

Family Services – 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Informal, lively 45-minute services combining the story of Jesus' birth with the singing of familiar carols.

Candlelight Communion Services – 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Traditional worship with choirs and communion.

ONE-SERVICE SUNDAYS TO NOTE

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day) – Worship at 10:00 a.m. (no child care)

Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day) – Worship at 10:00 a.m. (Cribbery only)

Sunday, January 29 (Annual Meeting) – Worship at 9:00 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP AT 11:15 A.M.

Preparation for Worship

Eternal God, in our times of darkness, you send your light. When we are weary and discouraged, you lift us up. Open our eyes to the joy of discovery that we may catch a glimpse of the possibilities you put before us. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

*Passing of the Peace

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Erik Underhill and Claudia Van Lenten and their children, Hugh and Ellery

We have lit the candles for hope and peace.

Today we light the third candle – the candle of joy.

Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude.

Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised.

So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us.

Let us nurture it and share it with others.

Response

“Christ Be Our Joy”

1st time: Ensemble

Repeat: All

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Christ, be our joy! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness." The second staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Christ, be our joy! Shine in your church gath-ered to - day." There is a small number '9' at the beginning of the second staff.

Words and music: Bernadette Farrell
© 1993 Bernadette Farrell Seeking permission

Advent Prayer

Loving God, we open ourselves to you,

trusting that this is how you made us:

you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.

Show us the creative power of hope.

Teach us the peace that comes from justice.

Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,

that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

At the asterisk (), please stand as you are able.*

*Songs of Celebration

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, his name is called
7 Em - man - u - el. God with us, re - vealed in us,
13 his name is called Em - man - u - el.

Words and Music: Bob McGee © 1976 C.A. Music
admin. Music Services Used with permission: CCLI #1827303

*Hymn No. 8

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

Children’s Time

Susan Moseley

Scripture Lesson

Psalms 126

Old Testament, page 535
Sue Linderman, Lay Liturgist

Sermon

“May Those Who Sow in Tears Reap with Shouts of Joy”

Greg Jones

Take a moment to reflect on God’s message to you

Offering

*During the offering, please sign your name and pass the red folder down your row.
As folders are returned to the center aisle, note the names of fellow worshippers on your pew.*

Offertory Anthem

Prayers of the People

Prayer Refrain

“Wait for the Lord”

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
5 Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Words and Music: Jacques Berthier © 1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé
Used with permission: Onelicense.net #A-715702

*Song

“Joy Comes with the Dawn”
Verses: Ensemble; Refrain: All

Joy comes with the dawn; joy comes with the morn-ing sun; joy springs from the
6 tears and scat - ters the night with her song, joy comes with the dawn.

Words and music: Gordon Light © 1985 The Common Cup Co.
Seeking permission

*Benediction

*Response

“The Trees of the Field”
1st time: Ensemble; 2nd time: All

You shall go out with joy — and be led forth with peace;
5 — the moun - tains and the hills will break forth be -
9 fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, — and all the trees of the
13 field will clap, will clap their hands.
17 And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
21 — the trees of the field will clap their hands,
25 — the trees of the field will clap their hands —
29 — while you go out with joy.

Words: Steffi Geiser Ruben Music: Stuart Dauermann
© 1975 Lillenas Publishing Co. Used with permission: Onelicense.net #A-715702

~ CORRECTION ~

In the December 4 bulletin, we listed names of members with 40 or more years of membership at Westminster. With deep regret, we inadvertently omitted **Sue Weissinger**, who has been a loyal and very active member for 50 years. This omission was caused by an incorrect database entry made many years ago. The entry has been corrected and the church staff expresses their sincerest apologies to Sue.

If you noticed other names that were missing from the December 4 list, please call the church office so that we can check and correct our records. Thank you.

Christmas at Westminster 2011

Please mark your calendars and join us for the many ways we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Today at 4:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BOX PACKING PARTY

Friday, December 16, at 6:00 p.m.

Bring holiday joy to neighbors in need by packing boxes with food and gifts.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO THE HOMEBOUND

Sunday, December 18, at 3:30 p.m.

Share the joy of Christmas by caroling to those in our faith community who can no longer attend church.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24

Family Services – 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Informal, lively 45-minute services combining the story of Jesus' birth with the singing of familiar carols.

Candlelight Communion Services – 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Traditional worship with choirs and communion.

ONE-SERVICE SUNDAYS TO NOTE

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day) – Worship at 10:00 a.m. (no child care)

Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day) – Worship at 10:00 a.m. (Cribbery only)

Sunday, January 29 (Annual Meeting) – Worship at 9:00 a.m.



Music at Westminster

presents

KNEELING IN BETHLEHEM

A Festival of Readings and Carols for Advent and Christmas

Poetry by **Ann Weems**

Carol Arrangements by **Michael Burkhardt**

Today at 4:00 p.m.

featuring

The Westminster Choir and
Soloists, Orchestra, Bells,
and Organ

No admission charge; offering received.
Child care provided.

CHRISTMAS 2011 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

You are invited to place poinsettias in our Sanctuary for services on Christmas Eve in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. Please complete the form below, make checks payable to *Westminster Presbyterian Church* and return to Susan Alexander at the front desk by **this Tuesday, December 13.**

Number of plants: _____ @ \$20 each

_____ Deliver my poinsettia to a homebound member.

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia after the Christmas Eve service I attend.



In Memory Of:

Deceased Name

In Honor Of:

Given By:

Donor's Name and Telephone Number