



First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community and the world beyond.



**Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Matthew 25 Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

1502 West 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org

We hope you will stay connected with our community of faith during this season of social distancing by subscribing to the *Westminster Weekly Word* e-newsletter through the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org), liking us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware), or following us on Instagram (www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware).

Today at Westminster

9:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Worship

Anyone over the age of five is required to wear a mask and children must remain with their parents.

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Single, Covid and the Holidays...How to Survive and Thrive on Zoom (please see p. 6)

- **Bible Box** for children ages 2 through 4th grade is available today on YouTube (please see p. 6)
- **More Educational Offerings for Adults** – please see pages 6 & 7 for information.

Save the Dates

December 12 • 4:00 p.m. – Christmas Concert: Wilmington Handbell Ensemble
December 20 • 4:00 p.m. – Virtual Christmas Caroling

See the upcoming December *Chimes* and the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter for more details.

The sanctuary flowers this morning are given by the Stephen Ministry Group in honor of Nancy Doyle for her 15 years of serving as a Stephen Minister. Nancy just retired from Stephen Ministry this summer. We are so thankful for all the care and love Nancy has given our congregation through the Stephen Ministry Program.

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. December 27, January 3, 17 and 31 are currently available.

Recently hospitalized: Joyce Dinsel and Tom Shaw

Westminster's Prayer Team prays for the needs of our community of faith. You may submit a prayer request by sending an email to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website www.wpc.org and click the "Donate Now" button or scan the QR code on your smart phone.



The mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace by working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.

Westminster is certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (USA). This honor means that we have exhibited exceptional leadership in protecting God's creation and being good stewards of earth's resources through our worship, education, outreach and advocacy. Only 2% of the 10,000 Presbyterian congregations in this country have earned this honored distinction.



Westminster is a Matthew 25 Congregation that strives to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle structural racism, and build congregational vitality. The gospel calls us to actively engage in the world so our faith comes alive.

ORDER OF WORSHIP- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

TOWER CHIME

Craig Checkel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on St. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Jason Payne

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Dan Weintraub and Nancy Fleming

Light one candle for hope.
Because the world is broken and the wait is long,
but hope just won't let go.
Hope holds space for all our longings
lingers on the edge of harsh reality
like the dawn gently awakening the sky.
"Keep awake," she whispers,
"for the world is being made new."
So we light one candle, because it only takes one:
Christ with us.

The candle is lit.

The wait is long, the candle lit,
and we call, "Come, Emmanuel!"

With hope in our hearts, let us worship God.

HYMN NO. 367

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Vs. 1 & 4

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest home.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come;
raise the glorious harvest home!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One,
Christ is coming; your kingdom is drawing near.
We cannot remain unchanged.
As we prepare to welcome the Christ Child,
help us abandon wayward wanderings
and return to faithful paths.
We have neglected to plead the case of the poor,
and ignored the needs of the afflicted.
We have denied our part in systems that oppress,
and turned a blind eye toward injustice.
Renew our minds and transform our hearts,
that our lives might bear the fruit of compassion and care.
Baptize us with your Spirit,
and claim us again for your holy work,
until you come in glory. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

[Click here](#) to watch today's TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN on Westminster's YouTube channel.

ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sin,
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 soon.
E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come, and night shall be no more.
They need no light, no lamp, nor sun for Christ will be their all!

—Revelation 22, adapted by Ruth Manz

SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

Sudie Niesen Thompson

HYMN NO. 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper
Vs. 1 & 3

JEFFERSON

Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Christ, eternal Sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view:
child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Greg Jones

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN NO. 357

The Days Are Surely Coming
Vs. 1 & 2

LLANGLOFFAN

The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.

The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

Manz

*At the conclusion of the Postlude, please exit the sanctuary, row by row, beginning with the last pew to the front pew. Those sitting in the side transepts exit from the front pew to the back pew down the center aisle to the narthex. **Please wait until an usher directs you to leave.** Upon exiting the sanctuary, please leave the building. You may want to have a conversation with others you have missed during the lockdown. We ask that you meet them outside, maintaining the required six-foot social distancing, while continuing to wear your mask.*

GOING FORTH: OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES TO GOD

With gratitude for the grace we have received, we go forth from worship to offer our energy, our hands, and part of our income in service to God. One way we respond to Christ's call is by giving our financial gifts to further God's mission in the world. You may mail a check to the church or make an online offering to support the many ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church by clicking "Donate Now" on the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org).

PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
Director of Music/Organist: Dr. F. Anthony Thurman
Choristers: Hye Eun Choi, soprano; Sharon Babcock, mezzo soprano
Jason Berger, tenor; Brenton Mattox, bass
Videographers: Chip Pfleegor, Roger Reinicker, Baden Saathoff and Sophia Wolff
Tower Chime: Craig Checkel

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Advent Candle liturgy is adapted from “One Candle: An Advent Liturgy for 2020” by the Rev. Karen Ware Jackson (used with permission). The resources for children attached at the end of the bulletin are provided by Illustrated Ministry. Please print them to participate in this service or for family devotions throughout the week. You can find educational offerings on pages 6 and 7.

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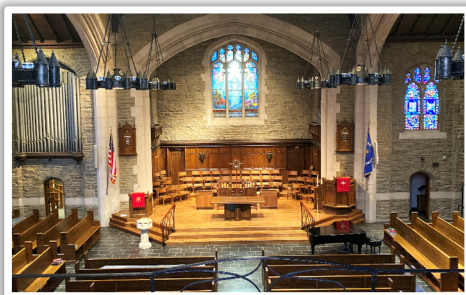
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Join Us for In-person Worship in Our Sanctuary

Sunday, December 6, 9:00 a.m.



We have reopened our sanctuary on Sunday mornings for one worship service at 9:00 a.m. Attendance is limited and an online reservation (one per family) is required. When we reach the maximum number of reservations we can host, the reservations will close. We have established a number of guidelines for your safety, which include social distancing, wearing a facial mask/covering, and the use of no-touch sanitizing stations. [Click here](#) to read all of the guidelines. The liturgy will be emailed to you after you make your online reservation.

Congregants are encouraged to print the liturgy from home and bring it to the service or pull it up on your mobile device; a limited number of printed copies will be available. *The decision to attend in-person worship rests with each individual.* A virtual option will continue to be available on our website at www.wpc.org.

To make your online reservation for December 6 worship in the sanctuary, [click here!](#)

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

You can find virtual Christian education and small group opportunities on the homepage of the Westminster website (www.wpc.org) and check out other Education Offerings for Adults on [YouTube](#).

Bible Boxes for Children (Age 2 – Grade 4)

Westminster's virtual Sunday school programming continues with Bible Box, a [YouTube series](#) that combines Bible stories, crafts, and music. Materials for the crafts are provided for free. New content uploaded every Sunday. The program runs through December 20. If you have questions about the Bible Box program or would like to sign up to participate in the spring of 2021, please email Alexis Droke at alexisdroke@wpc.org.

180 Youth – There will be no 180 today as it is our Thanksgiving break. See you in December!

Single, COVID-19, and the Holidays...How to Survive and Thrive

TODAY (November 29), 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 999 4853 1730, click "Join"

Join an informal discussion group as we share our plans, hopes, fears and challenges about the approaching holidays during these challenging times. If possible, let Margo Reign (margoreign@gmail.com) know you will be attending so you can receive some of the discussion questions ahead of time. Last minute drop-ins are welcome.

Online Bible Studies

Wednesday afternoons, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. on Zoom

Midweek Manna Bible Study – NEW Zoom Login!

<https://zoom.us/j/97700423780?pwd=b1dGL2c4NXRjMIRBOWJWWElsTTg3dz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 977 0042 3780 | Passcode: 547264

In Advent, the Midweek Manna Bible Study, facilitated by the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, will turn to the Gospels and read different accounts of Jesus' birth. We begin with the first chapter of Luke on Wednesday, December 2. We will then turn to a full reading of the Gospel of Matthew in the new year. New faces always welcome!

Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88941171153?pwd=MmxuZWVREhZSVExS3IveXQvTUhaQT09>

Facilitated by Randy Williamson and Mary Anne Peters. Our Bible study continues and new faces are always welcome.

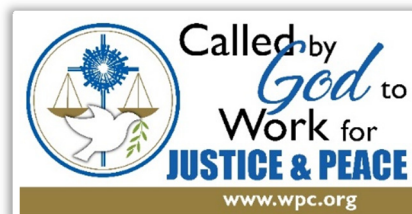
WPC Peace & Justice Online Education Events

A Conversation On How To Be An Antiracist with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86027521655>

Westminster was a primary sponsor of Dr. Kendi's Zoom appearance on Sunday evening, November 15, as he discussed the premises expressed in his new book. Original plans for his appearance involved speaking in the Westminster sanctuary for this community event, as part of our Peace & Justice Work Group's ongoing speaker series. Whether or not you were able to participate in the November 15 event, please join us on Thursday, December 3, as Janet Steinwedel facilitates a conversation on the themes of Dr. Kendi's book and talk. Use the Zoom link above, or go to zoom.us/join, enter Meeting ID **860 2752 1655** and click "Join."



Christmas Boxes Are Under Way!

Every year, Westminster fills boxes at Christmas for families in need in our community. Due to the pandemic, our Christmas Box Project has been reimagined, and we can still bring holiday cheer to 75 families. Be a part of this joyful project!

- **Check and Online Donations Can be Made Now through Sunday, December 13**

Instead of collecting non-perishable foods and taking stars from the “Star Trees,” we are accepting check and online donations so that we can purchase ShopRite food gift cards for each family, a \$20 Walmart gift card for each child 18 and under, and seasonal art supplies for the youngest children to feel the joy of having a gift to open. Please write and mail checks to *Westminster Presbyterian Church* with “Christmas Box Project” on the memo line or visit www.wpc.org, click the “Donate Now” button at the top of the page, and select “Christmas Boxes Project” from the list of options.

- **Bake Cookies for the Christmas Boxes and Drop Off on December 13**

If you would like to bake cookies in your home, please email Cookie Elves Polly and Jim Carter (pylecarter@comcast.net) and they'll put you on the Cookie Angels list. Pack each dozen in quart size zip-lock baggies for our recipient families and follow the drop-off instructions below.

- **Make Cards for the Christmas Boxes and Drop Off on December 13**

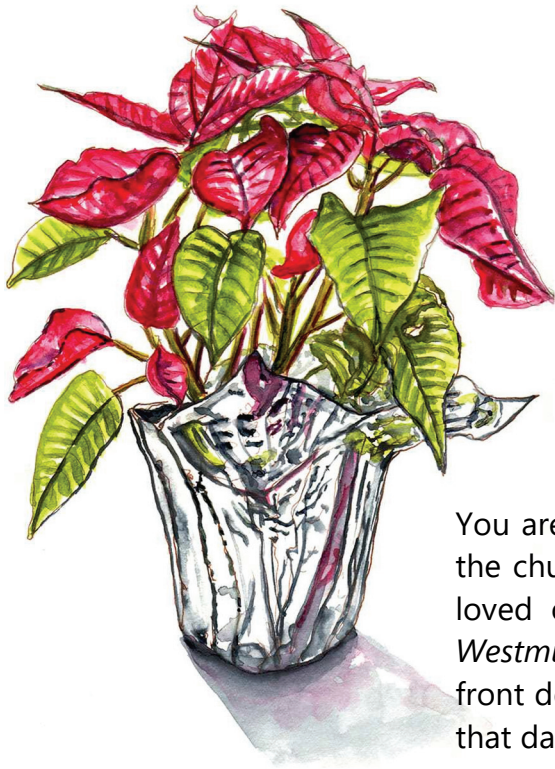
Instead of making cards together on Zoom as described in the October/November *Chimes*, card-making kits were handed out at WPC's Fall Festival for children to make at home for our Christmas Box recipients. Drop-off instructions below.

- **Drop Off for Cookies and Cards**

Please bring your homemade cookies and cards to the church parking lot on **Sunday, December 13, between 8:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** For COVID safety, place your homemade cards and cookies in the trunk of your car. When you see the Elf, just pull up and pop open your trunk. The Collection Elf will unload your donation from your open trunk. Please stay safe inside your car.

Check the *Westminster Weekly Word* e-newsletter each week for any unanticipated updates and additional information. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ!





2020 Christmas POINSETTIAS

You are welcome to make a contribution toward the decoration of the church for the Christmas season in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. Please complete this form, make check payable to *Westminster Presbyterian Church*, and mail to Susan Alexander at the front desk by **Thursday, December 10**. For any form received *after* that date, the names will be listed in the December 27th bulletin.

DONATION AMOUNT

☐ \$20 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$60 ☐ \$80 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

❖ In Memory Of: (FOR THE DECEASED)

Deceased Person's Name

❖ In Honor Of: (FOR THE LIVING)

Living Person's Name

❖ Given By:

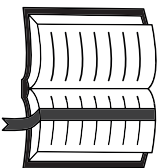
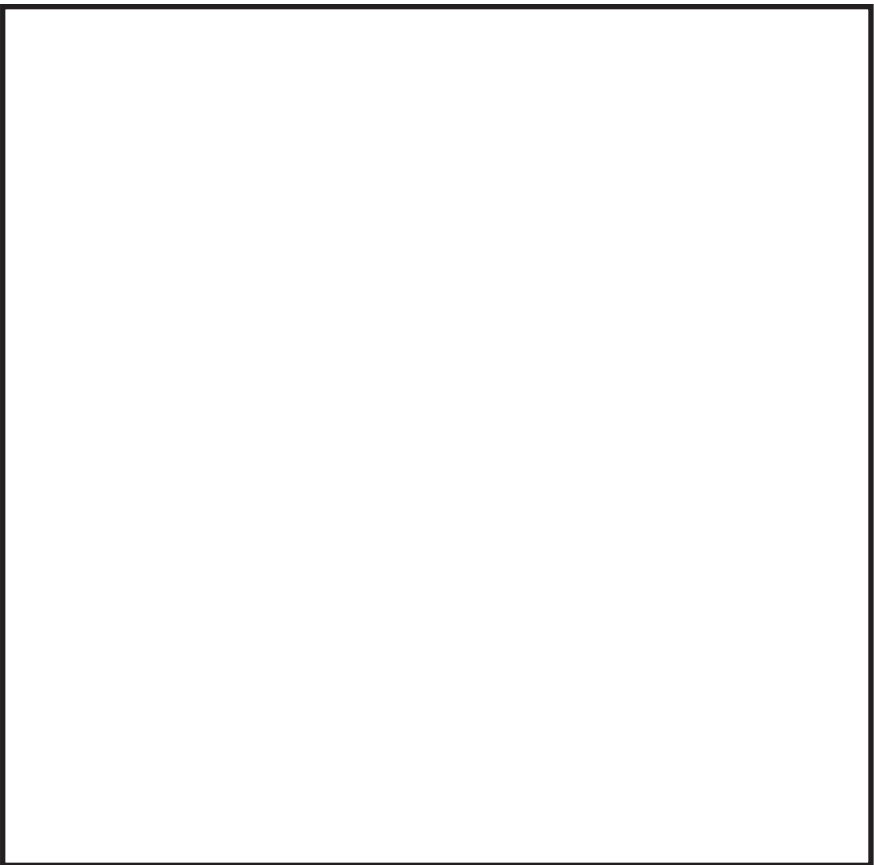
Donor's Name and Telephone Number

You may take a poinsettia home following the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. We are delivering poinsettias to local retirement communities to share the joy of the season.



DRAW IT

In 1 Corinthians, we are promised God will strengthen us our whole lives because God is faithful. Draw a picture of how God gives you strength! Or draw a picture of you asking God for new strength.

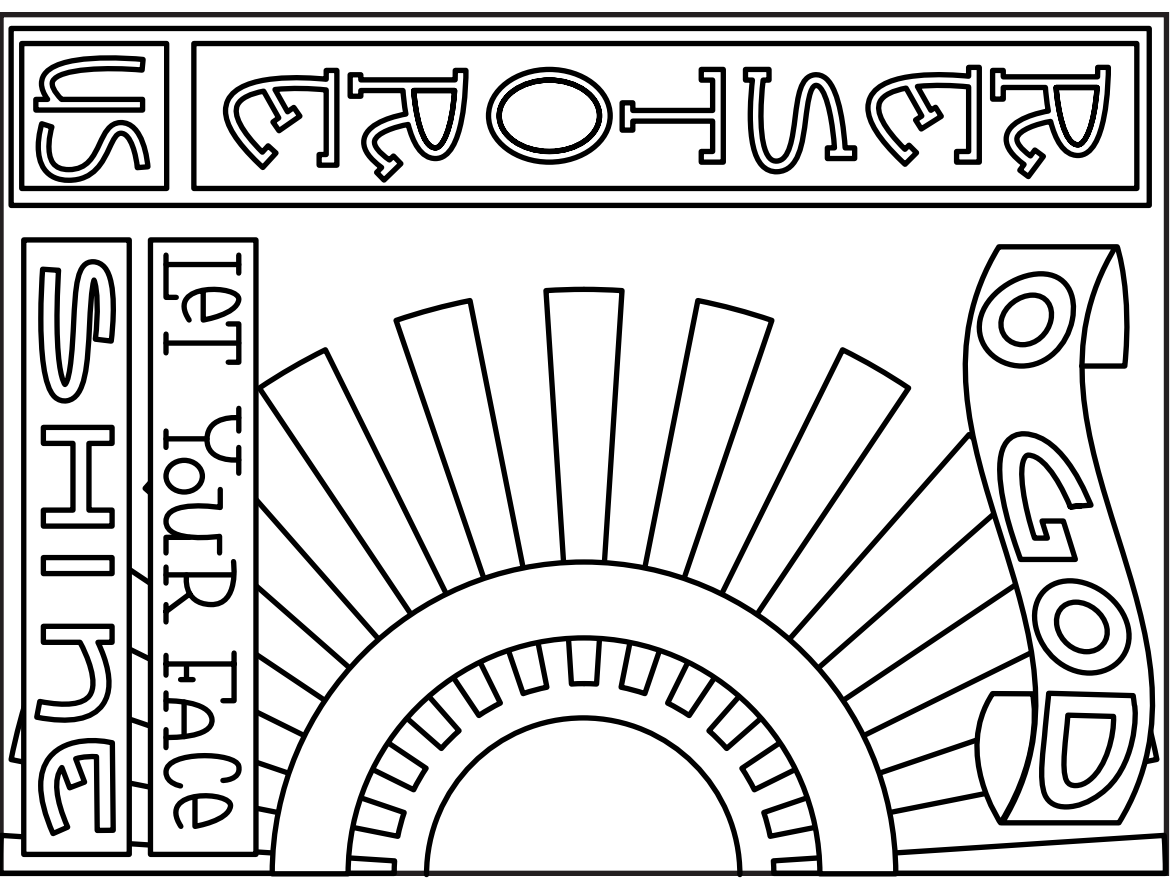


Illustrated
— MINISTRY —

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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Isaiah 64:1-4, Psalm 80:1-7, 1 Corinthians 13:4, Mark 13:24-37.



WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Mark 13 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

Y O W J B K P P Z A R K H M K
K A U S U A L E R T O T S B U
D A Y B B J G B N E A R F J E
D I D S E Y U L I K A A V S Y
J T A A V L I G H T T R L R Q
N B R S I W Q D S H G Y O I Z
R K K U W R L W E V I L L F K
T K P K E O E R Y Z G N A C G
N E L K P B T W L C B X C L L
E S A A K H K S O E W Y R O B
V W N K O A L G X P S A C U E
A N O Q Q V E R A D R N S W D A
E J O Q Q U P F U N U F O S R
H W M N O Q N K T A S J U N T
P B A H F Z I S A O A I Z E H

SUN	HEAVEN	DAY
DARK	POWER	HOURL
MOON	GLORY	FATHER
LIGHT	LESSON	ANGELS
STARS	NEAR	ALERT
CLOUDS	EARTH	AWAKE

FOLLOW the PATH

In Isaiah 64, we are described as clay in God's hand. How is God described? Follow the path of letters, and each time you come to a capital letter, write that letter down at the bottom of the page. When you get to the end of the path, see the name for God spelled out below.

