



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GLORIFY • NURTURE • PROCLAIM

January 7, 2024

Worship Service

8 AM & 11 AM

As you enter, begin to worship quietly. Please silence your phone.

FOR REFLECTION: "I am deeply convinced that healthy church revitalization is led from your knees. No pastor can do anything of value no matter how much he preach or declare if he is not first praying" (John Currie).

PRELUDE

We Three Kings

arr. J. Raney

Gesú Bambino

P. Yon

What Child Is This (Hymn 213)

arr. R. Bölting

Jonathan Humbert & Patricia Bleecker, *piano & organ*

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Walker

CALL TO WORSHIP: * Psalm 84:1–4 (UNISON)

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

SILENT PRAYER/INVOCATION

(8:00) Dr. Cureton, (11:00) Rev. Collins

(January Hymn of the Month)

As with Gladness Men of Old #226

1. As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed, there to bend the knee before him whom heav'n and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare; so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

4. Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.
5. In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light; thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down; there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

CONFESSION OF SIN *

Gracious God, you have given us your Son that we might become your children. You have sent your Spirit, that your power might be at work among us. And you have invited us to commune with you and bring everything in life before you through prayer.

And yet, we confess that we have not treasured this gift of prayer as we ought. We pray out of habit but not often out of hunger for your presence. We pray out of anxiety when we are desperate, but not "at all times and in all circumstances." We pray for ourselves and our physical needs and desires, but rarely for spiritual growth and the progress of the gospel.

O Spirit of God, give us a renewed sense of the privilege of prayer. Cause us to long for communion with you. May you be glorified by our dependence upon you in prayer. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE: * Galatians 4:4-7

Pastor: This is the grace of God for our salvation.

People: Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: * *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

** The word catholic means universal*

SONG OF PRAISE * *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*, Hymn 30, Stanzas 1 & 2

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Hymn 193)
Vocal Ensemble

arr. J. Carter

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ephesians 1:15–20 (Pew Bible Page 976)

SERMON

Prayer: The Power of a Vital Church

Dr. Chris Walker

#1 in a Morning Sermon Series for the New Year—*Three Pillars of a Healthy Church*

Beneath the Cross of Jesus #251

- 1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land; a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.**
- 2. Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me: and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess, the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.**
- 3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place: I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss; my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE LORD'S TABLE (Our communion bread is gluten-free.)

When the elements are passed, we partake of the bread individually to signify our personal relationship with Christ. Please hold the cup, so we may partake together, as one body in Christ.

Thou Dost Reign on High #241

- 1. Thou dost reign on high with a kingly crown, yet thou camest to earth for me, and in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for thy holy nativity: O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee.**
- 2. Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming thy royal degree; but of lowly birth didst thou come to earth, and in great humility: O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee.**
- 3. The foxes found rest and the birds their nest, in the shade of the forest tree; but thy couch was the sod, O thou Son of God, in the deserts of Galilee: O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee.**
- 4. Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word that should set thy people free; but with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn, they bore thee to Calvary: O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, thy cross is my only plea.**
- 5. When heav'n's arches shall ring, and her choirs shall sing, at thy coming to victory, let thy voice call me home, saying, "Yet there is room, there is room at my side for thee." And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, when thou comest and callest for me.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In Thee Is Gladness, BWV 615

J. S. Bach

*Worshippers, please stand if physically able.

At the Morning Worship Service:

Organist: Frank Dodd

Today's prelude and opening hymn are Epiphany themed. Epiphany is a season in the church year that begins on January 6 and highlights the arrival of the Magi to the Christ Child.

Vocal Ensemble: Elissa Morgan, Rebecca Forbes, Kris Kroll, Paula Smith, Peter Achor, Mark Espenshade; Frank Dodd, *piano*

Communion Musicians: Cheryl Elliott, *violin*; Tom Elliott, *trombone*

Welcome visitors: Please complete the Connect Card in the pew and drop it in the offering plate. You will receive an informational, one-time mailing.

Help us minister to you; complete a Connect Card each week you worship with us.

Sanctuary flowers are given by Dan and Ronnie Jean Klim in memory of loved ones; and by Rose Gerlach in loving memory of her husband, Clayton Gerlach, who died January 10, 2012.

Connections class is held TODAY. This monthly, two-week informal session is offered for visitors and those who desire an informative introduction to the life and ministry of Westminster Church—without obligation. *Connections* is **located in the library** (located across the Gathering Space), 9:30–10:30 AM.

Child of the Covenant

The rosebud announces our newest Child of the Covenant:
Beckham Byler, son of Roy & Hannah Byler, born December 31, 2023.

Evening Prayer Service: 6 PM

Dr. Chris Walker and Dr. Dave Kieffer will lead in a time of prayer in the Reformation Room as the new year begins.

Officer and Deaconess Candidates

These Westminster members are nominated to serve in the following offices for 3-year terms (*first time serving, ordained/installed if elected):

RULING ELDER: *Matt Allgyer, *Mark Bleecker, Rick Frey, Bob Hivner, Michael Mante, Tim Sidebothom, Kevin Snoke (one-year term), Bill Ziegler

DEACON: John Davies, *Aaron Donnachie, *Ben Hagan, *Landon Horst (two-year term), Jim Oosting, Tim Sheetz, *Kyle Wenger

These Westminster members are nominated to serve as deaconesses for 3-year terms (*first time serving, installed if elected):

DEACONESS: Sue Anderson, Shelley Armstrong, Deb Chapin, *Brenda Fentiman, Dawn Fortna, *Judith Mattson Read, *Kathy Newhard (one-year term), *Doris Nolt, *Linda Phillips, *Marge Styer

The candidates will be presented for election at the annual congregational meeting on February 4, 2024. A booklet with names and testimonies of new/re-elected candidates will be available after the service and at the kiosk. Please take one per family.

Ministry Highlights

- **This week's Wednesday dinner entrée is chili & baked potato bar.** Dinner is available 5–6:30 PM. Tell us on your Connect Card or RSVP online by noon on Monday (www.westpca.com/wednesday) if you plan to attend.
- **2024 “Bible Reading Plan” pamphlets** are available in the kiosks and online at westpca.com/adult-ministries.
- **Is getting deeper into God's Word part of your 2024 plans?** If so, consider joining Men's or Women's Bible Study at Westminster. See the announcement sheet for more information and to register.
- **Men, join us this Saturday, January 13, 8–9:30 AM**, in the church gym for breakfast and fellowship. Boys 8 and older are welcome to attend with a parent or guardian. **Please register online at westpca.com/events/mens-breakfast by this Wednesday, January 10.**
- **The early bird deadline for short-term mission trips** to Colombia and LEAP (London) is **next Sunday, January 14**. Find details at westpca.com/outreach/stm, at the kiosk, or in the jr./sr. high Sunday school rooms.
- **Weather-related cancellations:** We prefer not to cancel, but we do consider the safety of our people. We rarely cancel anything the night before. **Sunday morning cancellation messages will be posted by 6:45 AM (not earlier) in three places:** church phone message (717.569.2151), church website (westpca.com) and cancellation list on the radio, WDAC 94.5 FM and WJTL 90.3 FM. Even if we do cancel the 8 AM service and Sunday School, we will try to hold an 11 AM service if conditions allow.

Pastoral Staff

Dr. Christopher Walker
Senior Pastor

Dr. John Light
Senior Associate Pastor

Dr. Tucker York
Executive Pastor/Missions

Dr. David Kieffer
*Associate Pastor/Discipleship &
Outreach*

Dr. Barry Cureton
*Associate Pastor/Shepherding &
Visitation*

Rev. Matthew Collins
Associate Pastor/Youth

Dr. Michael Rogers
Pastor Emeritus



Worship: 8 AM & 11 AM, 6 PM Sunday School: 9:30 AM

2151 Oregon Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601

Church Office Hours:

Monday–Friday, 8 AM–4 PM

717.569.2151 / www.westpca.com