

4. This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill. How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

CONFESSIOIN OF SIN * Based on a prayer from *Prone to Wander* by Barbara Duguid and Wayne Houk

Heavenly Father and King, we come to you today as people who would rather govern our own lives than submit to your rule. Instead of bowing down in reverence that you, the almighty King of the universe, should stoop to love and care for us, we often treat you as a servant who should do our bidding and meet all our desires. And when you don't do what we want you to do, we often look to this world and its pleasures to meet our desires instead.

Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. Press the truth of your gospel deep into our souls. May we find hope in the work of our triune God: Father, the Potentate of time and lover of our souls; Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, bleeding for us, yet at the same time the glorious Lamb on the throne; Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life. Open our lips to sing your praises today, tomorrow, and forever. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE: * Hebrews 2:14-17

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

People: Thanks be to God!

CONFESSIOIN OF FAITH: * *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

²* *The word catholic means universal*

5. O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know, bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and to the endless day.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Proverbs 31:10–31 (Pew Bible Page 552)

SERMON

A Wife of Wisdom

Dr. Chris Walker

#22 in a Series on Proverbs—*Wisdom: Living Life in the Fear of the Lord*

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen #211

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day, to save
us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

*REFRAIN: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O
tidings of comfort and joy.*

2. From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came; and unto
certain shepherds brought tidings of the same; how that in
Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. (*REFRAIN*)

3. "Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright; this day
is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright, to free all those who trust
in him from Satan's pow'r and might." (*REFRAIN*)

4. The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind, and left
their flocks afeeding, in tempest, storm, and wind: and went to
Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find. (*REFRAIN*)

*To sing the Hallelujah Chorus, go to the choir loft as soon as the hymn introduction begins.
Use the stair towers or the main staircase.*

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE *

Hallelujah Chorus from 'MESSIAH'

G. F. Handel

POSTLUDE

(8:00) *From Heaven High I Come to You* (Hymn 220)

J. B. Bach

(11:00) *Joyous Proclamation* (Hymn 203)

S. Caudill

*Worshippers, please stand if physically able.

The singing of the “Hallelujah Chorus” serves as our choral response today. Anyone in the congregation is invited to sing along with the choir. To do so, please go to the choir loft as soon as the closing hymn begins. Sheet music will be provided at both entrances to the loft and signs will direct singers where to stand.

At the Morning Worship Service:

Organists: Jonathan Humbert, 8 AM; Frank Dodd, 11 AM

Choral Director: Floyd Rawleigh

Westminster Ringers: Eva Train, Jody O’Neal, Paula Smith, Karen Koch, Doris Nolt, Sherry Haverstick, Jan Schutsky, Audrey Epps, Kris Kroll, Peter Achor, Steve Nolt; Frank Dodd, *director*

Timpani: Dave Yarnall

Visitors

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.

Connections class is held the first and second Sunday of each month. 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.

Everyone

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

Hearing devices to use in the Sanctuary are available from the ushers.

Sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Katherine Lea from the Miller family; and by the Sanctuary and Matins Choirs in memory of their members who have gone to be with the Lord.

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in *memory* of a loved one or in *honor* of a 50th, 55th, or 60th wedding anniversary, there is availability in January and February. Please contact James L. Adams (610.406.3229 or flowers4505@aol.com). The cost is \$35.

Evening Service: 6 PM

Rev. Matt Collins preaches on Jeremiah 23:1–6, *The Good Shepherd*, #2 in an Advent series—*Worship the King*. This evening’s music will include a congregational carol sing and a musical offering featuring an orchestra and a vocal quartet.

At Home With the Lord

Westminster charter member Anna M. Martin passed into glory on Saturday, December 9, 2023. A memorial service will be held in our Sanctuary on Tuesday, December 19, at 11 AM. Visitation begins at 10 AM. A luncheon will be served in the activity room.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Martin family.

Christmas Eve Service Times

8 & 11 AM services, **no Sunday school classes**

6 PM (prelude begins at 5:40) *tableaux, childcare available*

10 PM (prelude begins at 9:30) *candle lighting service*

Session has designated the Christmas offering be split equally between Korah Kids School, recently renamed Bridge School, where missionary Molly De Bruin serves in a community located in a trash dump in Ethiopia, and a partnering seminary's highly sensitive "Project M," which will enable believers in a closed country to receive theological training. Use the "Christmas Offering" envelope, mark a gold pew envelope "Christmas," or give online at westpca.com/give.

Christmas Eve volunteers are needed for nursery. See the announcement sheet for more information or contact Amanda Geib (geib@westpca.com).

Child of the Covenant

The rosebud announces our newest Child of the Covenant:

Elliott James Henry, son of Laura & Colton Henry, born December 10, 2023.

Ministry Highlights

- **Offering envelopes for 2024** are available today in the Narthex (the area between the Sanctuary and Gathering Space). To request envelopes, please contact our financial coordinator, June Robinson, at robinson@westpca.com.
- **Advent services continue through Christmas.** Pick up a flyer at the Information Center for details or visit westpca.com/church-events or the WPC App.
- **Wednesday evening dinner, kids' clubs, and Bible study groups** have ended for the year and resume on **January 10**. Primary and Junior Choir rehearsals continue through December 20.
- **2024 Bible Reading Plan pamphlets** are available in the kiosks and online at www.westpca.com/adult-ministries. The pamphlet includes 2024 Communion dates.
- **Short-term mission trip information is available!** We hope to send teams to Colombia, Easton, Lancaster (Kingdom Builders), LEAP, and Yakama. Find details and applications on the website (westpca.com/outreach/stm), at the kiosk, or in the jr./sr. high Sunday school rooms. Application deadlines and team size limits vary by trip; do not delay. Contact Jen Barrall with questions (barrall@westpca.com).

Please note: the church office will have limited hours during the Christmas holiday. The office is closed on Friday, December 22, Monday, December 25, and Monday, January 1. It will be open Tuesday–Friday (12/26–29), 9 AM–2 PM.

*Get more information on these and other announcements in any of the following ways: our Westminster Announcements sheet, online at westpca.com/bulletin, in the weekly update sent via email, or on the WPC App. **To be added to the email update or to get more information on the WPC App, visit the Information Counter or contact the church office (717.569.2151).***

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