



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GLORIFY • NURTURE • PROCLAIM

December 10, 2023

Worship Service

8 AM & 11 AM

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

FOR REFLECTION: "When you look at it closely, drunkenness is a lordship problem. Do you desire God above all else, or do you desire something in creation more than the Creator?" (Ed Welch, *Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave*).

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

PRELUDE	<i>Christmas Medley</i> (Hymns 195, 208, 204)	arr. G. Lanier
	<i>Silent Night! Holy Night!</i> (Hymn 210)	arr. D. Marvin
	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i> (Hymn 201)	arr. L. Nelson
	Bruce Deisinger, euphonium Frank Dodd, piano	

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH Dr. Cureton

CALL TO WORSHIP * *Doxology* (Hymn 731)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

SILENT PRAYER/INVOCATION (8:00) Dr. York, (11:00) Dr. Kieffer

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #194

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height, in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny, from depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
5. O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CONFESSION OF SIN * Psalm 51:1–4, 9–12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE: * Ephesians 2:1–6

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

People: Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION 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.

** The word catholic means universal*

SONG OF PRAISE * *Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor* (Hymn 230, stanzas 2 & 3)

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man; stooping so low, but sinners raising, heav'n-ward by thine eternal plan. Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee. Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be. Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

MISSIONS MOMENT

Dr. Tucker York

ANTHEM (11:00) *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* arr. D. Wagner
Sanctuary Choir

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem
(Hymn 201, stanzas 1, 2, & 3)
Elsa Rogers, soprano

arr. S. DeFord

HYMN (overleaf) *

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

GENEVAN 42

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Proverbs 23:29–35 (Pew Bible Page 545)

SERMON

Addictions: Ensnared, Enslaved, Set Free Dr. Barry Cureton
#21 in a Series on Proverbs—*Wisdom: Living Life in the Fear of the Lord*

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come #195

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE *

(11:00) *A Festive Gloria*

P. Kern

POSTLUDE

People, Look East!

Arr. K. Langlois

*Worshippers, please stand if physically able.

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At the Morning Worship Service:

Organist: Frank Dodd

Choral Director: Floyd Rawleigh

Evening Service: 6 PM

Westminster Music presents *Soli Deo Gloria: Service of Lessons and Carols* this evening at 6 PM. Join Westminster musicians and readers for a glorious night of Christmas music and worship, featuring combined children's choirs, festive brass, and the Sanctuary choir in a presentation of John Rutter's *Gloria*.

Addictions: Ensnared, Enslaved, Set Free

Proverbs on Guarding against Addiction

Wisdom is an attentiveness to God's Word, God's character, and God's created order in order to live life knowledgably and well as God intended it to be lived.

- 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.
- 21:7 The violence of the wicked will sweep them away, because they refuse to do what is just.
- 23:19–21 Hear, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way. Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat, for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags.
- 25:28 A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

(Overleaf Hymn)

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1. Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.
2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed; all that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed. She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away; God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.
3. For the herald's voice is crying in the dessert far and near, bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here. O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away; let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
4. Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain; let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad; and all flesh shall see the token that his word is never broken.

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 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** (*library is 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 by Judith and Dutt Read in this season of Advent in memory of loved ones who have gone before us; and by Roy and Theresa Wenger in loving memory of their son, Ernest Lindquist.

Note: The *Hallelujah Chorus* will be presented at the conclusion of the morning services **next Sunday, December 17**, with the congregation being invited to sing along from the choir loft.

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).

Ministry Highlights

- **Missionary prayer requests are available** after the services this morning. The printed version contains prayer requests for sensitive-area missionaries that aren't included in the WPC App.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **The Youth Group hosts its annual Cookie Bake** on December 13, 5–8 PM, in the church kitchen area. Please RSVP and sign up to bring cookie dough, a side, or a drink **by tomorrow, December 11**, at westpca.com/events/cookie-bake.
- **Senior high students are invited** to assist with candle lighting during the 10 PM Christmas Eve service. **The registration deadline is TODAY**. For more information and to register, visit westpca.com/events/Christmas-eve-volunteers.
- **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).



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