



December 3, 2023

Worship Service

8 AM & 11 AM

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

FOR REFLECTION: "If we could condense all the truths of Christmas into only three words, these would be the words: 'God with us.' We tend to focus our attention at Christmas on the *infancy* of Christ. The greater truth of the holiday is His *deity*. More astonishing than a baby in the manger is the truth that this promised baby is the omnipotent Creator of the heavens and the earth" (John MacArthur, Jr.).

PRELUDE	'IV. Andante espressivo' from <i>Five Sketches on HELMSLEY</i>	P. Moore
	'Alleluia' from <i>Christmas Oratorio</i>	Saint-Saens/arr. D. Bish
	<i>Sleepers Awake</i> , BWV 645 (Hymn 317) Frank Dodd, organ	J. S. Bach

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH Dr. Chris Walker

CHORAL INTROIT	(8:00) <i>Keep Silence</i>	J. Helgen
	(11:00) <i>Christmas Intrada</i>	D. Lantz III

SILENT PRAYER/INVOCATION Dr. Walker

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus #196

- 1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou
art, dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**
- 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high,
appear; come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long
to hear! O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tiding of a
birth: "Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has
come to earth."**

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end; by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend. Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall; this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.
4. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

CONFESSION OF SIN *

Our great God and Father, we come with joy in the coming of Christ, the One who stooped in great humility to become a man and to go to the cross for our sins. We are broken before you as we confess the sins that still cling to us. We have beheld the beauty of Jesus by faith, but the fading treasures of earth still enthrall us. We cherish the Lord of glory, but the glory of sinful pride still ensnares us. Our highest joy is knowing Jesus, but sinful desires still entangle us. Grant us your grace to see Christ more clearly with the eye of faith as we hold fast to your promises. Lift us up with the assurance of gospel hope in Jesus Christ, who came to save us from our sins. 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 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 * *Gloria Patri* (Hymn 735)

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

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 (8:00)

Unexpected and Mysterious
Matins Choir

R. B. Farlee

OFFERTORY (11:00)

Salvation Is Created
Sanctuary Choir

P. Tschesnokoff

HYMN (overleaf) *

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Selections from Proverbs (see page 6)

SERMON

True Friendship

Dr. John Light

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence #193 (stanzas 1 & 2)

- 1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for which blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.**
- 2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.**

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.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence #193 (stanzas 3 & 4)

- 3. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.**
- 4. At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"**

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE *

(8:00) <i>Keep Silence</i>	J. Helgen
(11:00) <i>A Festive Gloria</i>	P. Kern

POSTLUDE	(8:00) <i>Fanfare</i>	C. S. Lang
	(11:00) <i>Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661</i>	J. S. Bach

*Worshippers, please stand if physically able.

(Overleaf Hymn)

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward; without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand; shine forth, and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free; whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

At the Morning Worship Service:

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

Choral Director: Floyd Rawleigh

Evening Service: 6 PM

Dr. Chris Walker preaches on Psalm 45, *Anticipating the King*, #1 in an Advent series—*Worship the King*. This evening's music will include a prelude by Susan Hagan and Patricia Bleecker, pianists, and a musical offering with several pieces sung by the Youth Choir.

True Friendship

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.

- 16:28 A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.
- 17:14 The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.
- 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
- 17:27 Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.
- 18:13 If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.
- 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
- 19:11 Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.
- 24:28–29 Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause, and do not deceive with your lips. Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done."
- 25:20 Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda.
- 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.
- 27:9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.
- 27:10 Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away.

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 Mr. and Mrs. Anson Loose in memory of their parents and their daughter, Carlene; and by Robert and Jean Gibb in loving memory of Jean's father, George Kummer, Sr.

Child of the Covenant

The rosebud announces our newest Child of the Covenant:

Hollis Tyndale LaTourette, son of Katherine & Justin LaTourette, born November 27, 2023.

Christmas Offering

Session has designated the 2023 Christmas offering to be split between:

- **Korah Kids School**, where missionary Molly De Bruin serves. Located in a trash dump community in Ethiopia, the school serves at-risk children who would otherwise receive no education. Morning devotions and weekend Bible clubs with the children are an essential part of the school's ministry.
- **A partnering seminary's highly sensitive "Project M,"** which will enable believers in a closed country to receive theological training in their own heart language.

Use the "Christmas Offering" envelope, mark a gold pew envelope "Christmas," or give online at westpca.com/give.



UPDATE FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Due to unforeseen plan review items that needed to be addressed, we don't yet have our permits to start construction. Given those delays, we have made a decision to begin construction after the New Year. You may see equipment being brought in and staged ahead of the actual construction start, but we will not begin any major construction before the New Year. We plan to provide future updates on the project, particularly when the library and restroom areas will be impacted by construction.

Ministry Highlights

- **The winter Sunday School quarter begins TODAY.** See the sign at the Information Center or visit www.westpca.com/sunday-school to locate the class you would like to attend.
 - **Advent services begin TODAY.** Pick up a flyer at the Information Center for information on the Advent service series, or visit westpca.com/church-events or 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.
 - **This week's dinner entrée is chicken tenders and oven fries.** Dinner is available 5–6:20 PM. Tell us on your Connect Card or RSVP online by noon on Monday (www.westpca.com/wednesday) if you plan to attend. Cost is \$5 per person, aged 6 and older, maximum \$15 per household.
- The last fellowship night for the year is this Wednesday, December 6.** Wednesday evening dinner, kids clubs, and Bible study groups will resume on January 10.
- **Sign up by today for the 55+ Film and Finger Food event.** Sign up at the Registration Desk or online at westpca.com/events. We will meet this Thursday, December 7, from 1–4 PM in the Reformation Room, to watch the film "I Can Only Imagine," the story of Bart Millard's abusive upbringing and his path to reconciliation and forgiveness. Questions? Contact Tom Hawk (717.355.6838) or Ann Deschler (717.581.5659).

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).**



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