

WESTMINSTER  PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

**Service for the Lord's Day**

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 13, 2020**

**GATHERING**

*(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**PRELUDE**

Helmsley  
Veni, Veni Emmanuel

Alan Ridout  
Gerald Near

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us worship God.

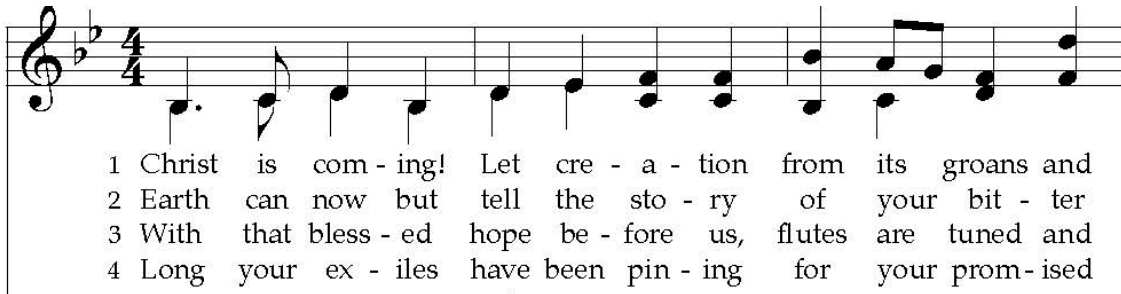
*(Those who are able may stand.)*

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

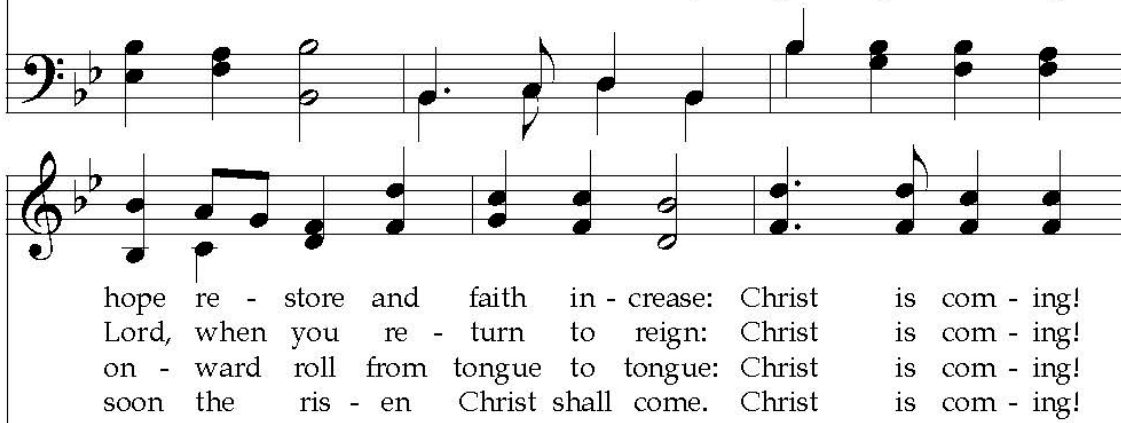
**Almighty God,  
you have made us and all things to serve you,  
now prepare the world for your rule.  
Come quickly to save us,  
so that divisions shall end,  
and your children may live in peace,  
honoring one another with justice and love;  
through Jesus Christ,  
who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**



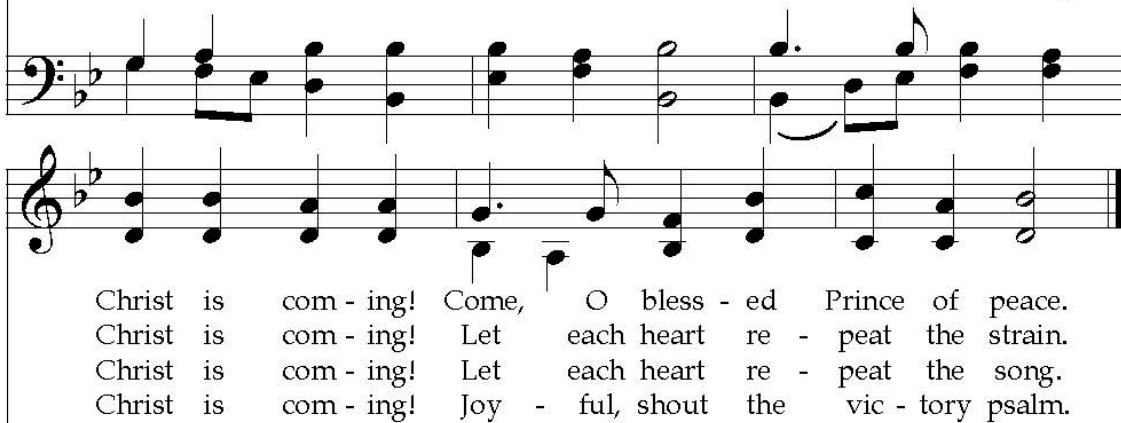
1 Christ is com - ing! Let cre - a - tion from its groans and  
 2 Earth can now but tell the sto - ry of your bit - ter  
 3 With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, flutes are tuned and  
 4 Long your ex - iles have been pin - ing for your prom - ised



la - bor cease; let the glo - rious proc - la - ma - tion  
 cross and pain; we shall yet be - hold your glo - ry,  
 harps are strung; let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus  
 rest and home, but in heaven - ly glo - ry shin - ing,



hope re - store and faith in - crease: Christ is com - ing!  
 Lord, when you re - turn to reign: Christ is com - ing!  
 on - ward roll from tongue to tongue: Christ is com - ing!  
 soon the ris - en Christ shall come. Christ is com - ing!



Christ is com - ing! Come, O bless - ed Prince of peace.  
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the strain.  
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the song.  
 Christ is com - ing! Joy - ful, shout the vic - tory psalm.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed:  
The night is far gone; the day is near.

*(Romans 13:11)*

Therefore, let us confess our sin  
before God and one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**God of life, eternity cannot hold you,  
nor can our few words catch the magnificence of your kindness.  
Yet even in the space of our small hearts,  
you can come close and repair us.  
O God, grant us your forgiveness for careless thoughts,  
for thoughtless deeds, for empty speaking,  
and for words or silence with which we have wounded others.  
Grant us your forgiveness for false desires,  
for hateful actions, for persistent wastefulness,  
and for all that we have left untended.**

*(Silent confession)*

## Kyrie

James MacMillan

The musical score for the Kyrie consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy." The score is divided into sections for Choir and Congregation. The first staff is for the Choir, the second for the Congregation, the third for the Choir, and the fourth for both Congregation and Choir. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a focus on the text.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*(The liturgist pours water, which reminds us of our baptism.)*

Friends, believe the Good News: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

### **\*The Peace**

Since God in Christ has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*(Please exchange the peace with the words,  
“The peace of Christ be with you.”)*

### **\*ACT OF PRAISE**

WINCHESTER NEW

**All praise to You, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore.**

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

### THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Choir:* Lord Jesus, come soon!

***Congregation:* Lord Jesus, come soon!**

*Refrain*

God has done great things for us,  
filled us with laughter and music; \_\_\_\_\_  
God has done great things for us, filled us with  
laugh-ter and mu - sic. \_\_\_\_\_

When our God led us back to freedom,  
like dreamers we beheld the promised land again;  
our mouths were filled  
with laughter and rejoicing. *Refrain.*

We proclaimed to the nations what God has done for us;  
your mighty deeds of love, restoring us to life,  
you lead your people home to you rejoicing. *Refrain.*

Come restore our fortune, renew us in your love,  
as rivers through the sand, as springs within the desert;  
those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing. *Refrain.*

**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those

who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup> He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup> John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**SERMON**

"Your Christmas Credentials"

Donovan Drake

*(A moment for meditation)*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

*(From A Brief Statement of Faith)*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

## THANKSGIVING

### OFFERING

Anthem

Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirrett

Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by any din of drums,  
Nor his manners, nor his airs,  
Nor by anything he wears.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by his crown or by his gown,  
But his coming known shall be,  
by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen, amen.

### \*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Gracious God,  
teach us to give thanks  
in all circumstances,  
for you are always with us.  
Thank you for the privilege  
of sharing what we have with others,  
of giving ourselves away in love,  
and of receiving the gifts that others share with us.  
With our whole being, spirit and soul and body,  
we rejoice in you.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Prayed in unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*HYMN 83**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

STUTTGART



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



## \*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

Andrew Carter

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*\*(Those who are able may stand.)*

## SERVICE NOTES

**WORSHIP LEADERS:** Liturgist: Katie Gossage, Associate Director of Youth and Programming.

**MUSICIANS:** Susan Kelly, Cantor; Chamber Choir; John W. Semingson, Director of Music Ministries; Polly Brecht, Organist.

**LORD JESUS, COME SOON!** “Lord Jesus, come soon!”, which we sing responsively in our worship services during Advent, comes directly from 1 Corinthians 16:22. It is one of the oldest prayers of the Christian Church. It expresses the deepest longing of the Christian – that the Lord will come to us and to our world, bringing the fullness of the peace, joy and healing that God has promised.

**ADVENT:** Advent is the first season of the liturgical year, consisting of four Sundays in which the church prepares for the celebration of the Incarnation. The seasonal color is royal blue, symbolic of kingship and of hope. Each Sunday an additional candle on the Advent wreath is lighted, symbolic of the dawning of the light of God’s Kingdom, inaugurated in the birth of the infant of Bethlehem. As we approach Christmas, the Sanctuary will change in appearance. Each Sunday decorations will be added as the Church’s hopeful joy increases.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COVID-19 Update:

- The Church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and closed on Friday. Meetings with Staff are by appointment only. Please call 615.292.5526 to schedule as we are limiting the number of people in the office.
- Please contact the church office for up-to-date information on reserving outside and indoor space.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:** For Sunday, December 13, 2020 the 8:30 a.m. worship service will be LIVE streamed. There will not be an outdoor worship service at 11:00 a.m. If you miss the service at 8:30 a.m., you can watch it later in the day or week. Go to [nashvillewpc.org](http://nashvillewpc.org) and in the Quick Links box, click on WPC Live Stream Services. The newest service may not yet be dated. Midweek services also will continue to be LIVE streamed on Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m.

**WELCOME:** Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes you to share our common journey to become more faithful disciples of Christ. If you are interested in learning about membership, please contact Melissa Threatt (864.506.0267; [melissa.threatt@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.threatt@gmail.com)) or Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (615.292.5526; [hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org](mailto:hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org)).

**WPC MONTHLY FINANCIAL OPERATING SUMMARY:** Each month the Finance Committee provides a summary of the church operating income and expenses. If any members wish to have more information about church finances, please contact: Jo Ann McFarlin, [jmcfarlin@nashvillewpc.org](mailto:jmcfarlin@nashvillewpc.org) or 615-292-5526; Mike Koban, Finance Committee Chair at [mkoban@prodigy.net](mailto:mkoban@prodigy.net); or Suzanne McLemore, Treasurer at [suzannegm58@gmail.com](mailto:suzannegm58@gmail.com).

**November 30, 2020**

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income:	\$247,036	\$3,024,947
Expense:	<u>\$201,332</u>	<u>\$2,658,767</u>
<b>Net Income (loss):</b>	<b><u>\$ 45,704</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 366,180</u></b>

**CHRIST HIMSELF IS BEFORE ALL THINGS,  
AND IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER.**

*Colossians 1:17*

We go out into the world sharing the good news and return praising God for what we have seen and heard.

As of this week, 353 families have contributed \$2,319,218 toward our pledge campaign.

Our 2021 Budget goal is \$2,958,900, and we need \$639,682 to make the goal a reality.

Though in-person worship is limited, the work of Westminster has continued - Fellowship and Bible study gatherings on Zoom, streaming Sunday and mid-week worship services, online book studies, film reviews, choir recordings, knitting circles, and more. By contributing to Westminster, we are using what God has given us to share the good news of Jesus by serving others - through our many ministry partners - Home Connection, Room in the Inn, and Habitat, to name just a few. Westminster has an amazing ministry. We hope you will be a part of it by making your pledge.

To make a general donation or your pledge payment, please click here <https://bit.ly/3dcoSzD> or scan the QR code below to take you directly to the Donations/Payments webpage.



To make your 2021 Generosity Pledge, click here <https://bit.ly/2GUERXm> or scan the QR code below to take you directly to the 2021 Pledge webpage. We hope you will continue your support.



**“PILGRIM’S PROGRESS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC: FROM COPING TO ADAPTING TO TRANSFORMING”** – continues on December 13, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. on Zoom. This session is on **“Reframing Our Challenges from Flood to Pandemic: Growing Our Action Steps as Individuals, Families, and Church.”** An essential human endeavor is the making of meaning out of crisis and loss, finding purpose in the midst of what life throws at us. In the 2010 flood, Westminster responded immediately to the needs of our members directly impacted, then became a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance site for multiple years in response to the massive damage caused by the flood’s devastation. As a result, out of disaster came new life for many, eventuating later into a new sense of call to mission through the establishment of Westminster Home Connection to help lower-income seniors to age in place. How does that history – our communal faith response to disaster – lead us forward in this pandemic? What are the many ways we are being moved by God from adapting to transforming for mission in this devastating, pandemic time? This session will begin by reflecting on the many ministries and missions of WPC that are being transformed through a narrated slide show, and will move into the foundational story of God’s transformation of WPC through the 2010 flood and all that followed. Additionally, participant experiences of being moved from adapting to transforming in this lengthening pandemic will be lifted up. We hope you will join us! Please send any questions to Heidi Hudnut-Beumler: [hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org](mailto:hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org).

To join the Zoom Meeting, click here: <https://bit.ly/2Leqxeb> Meeting ID: 871 1797 1143 Passcode: 798020

## **THE 2020 ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT MARKET IS NOW OPEN!**

Since 2008, our congregation has supported local and international ministries at Christmastime through the Alternative Christmas Gift Market. This year, we are supporting sixteen agencies with current needs during the pandemic. Please consider giving a \$5, \$25 or \$100 gift to one or more of these worthy agencies through our ONLINE market. Click here or scan the QR Code below to select meaningful gifts that match the interests of your neighbors, co-workers, teachers, families, children, parents, grandparents, and anyone else on your list OR to simply give a donation to an organization you care about.



## **SANCTUARY AND PARLOR FLOWERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021:**

Please note that beginning January 1, 2021, the cost of flower arrangements will increase to \$150 for Sanctuary flowers and \$75 for Parlor flowers. This increase will ensure continuation of the highest quality arrangements and supplies. If you would like to provide flowers for the Sanctuary or Parlor during 2021, please contact Terri Eckert by email at [teckert@nashvillewpc.org](mailto:teckert@nashvillewpc.org) to select your Sunday. As well, reservations for flowers do not carry over from year-to-year. Arranged by members of Westminster's talented Flower Guild, this is a wonderful way to celebrate your loved ones or honor those who have died.

**COPYRIGHT INFORMATION:** The music used in the service this morning is copyrighted under Christian Copyright Licensing International, Inc., No. 11221525.

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

#### ***Purpose Statement***

*Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light  
found in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

“For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

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