

First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021
Holy Communion



Westminster
Presbyterian
Church

Cover Photo:
Donovan Drake

About the Prelude

The Prelude is a musical offering to help move the hearts and minds of the gathering community from the daily struggles of life to the worship of God. Today's prelude *Wachet auf* is from Bach's collection, the Schübler Chorales. *Divinum Mysterium* is a 12th-century chant of the Father's Love begotten.

"Advent" means coming or arrival. The season of Advent begins with an emphasis on final things (eschatology). We watch and pray with expectant hope for the establishment of God's justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come - Jesus Christ our Savior.

The primary symbolism of the Advent candles has to do with light growing in darkness - leading up to the coming of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Wachet auf, BWV 645

J.S. Bach

Divinum Mysterium

Craig Phillips

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*As the light is brought into the Sanctuary,
and the candle on the Advent wreath is lighted,
the congregation is invited to sing the following:*

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

**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.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

When will God's promise be fulfilled?

The days are surely coming.

When will we be saved?

The days are surely coming.

How will we know the signs to take place?

The days are surely coming

when a branch from David shall come forth

to execute justice and righteousness in the land.

What shall it be called?

The Lord is our righteousness.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

God of all glory,

come to us now, in spirit and truth.

Take us up into your presence,

and make us ready for your reign of peace;

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 367

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Please wear masks when singing.

About Hymn 367

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years. TEXT: Henry Alford, 1844; MUSIC: George Job Elvey, 1858.



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
 come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!



Call to Confession

A call to confession expresses God's initiative in calling for repentance and promising forgiveness in Christ. As members of Christ's body, we confess the reality of sin, captivity, and brokenness in personal and common life and ask for God's saving grace.

CALL TO CONFESSION

In this season, so many voices wish to claim
our attention, our time, and our dollars.
As this font one Voice claims our whole lives:
soul, body, heart, and mind.

In humility let us confess our faults
to the Voice who proclaims our forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Coming Christ,
you may not find us as you hoped.
We've looked away from signs
we do not wish to see.
We've stopped listening to distress
we do not wish to hear.
We are numb to inconvenient truths.
Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.
Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.
Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.
Sober our lives addicted to privilege.
Show us the signs of your coming,
that we may stand before you, the Son of man,
in whose name we pray.**

(Silent confession)

Kyrie

Hal H. Hopson

(Sung responsively by the choir and congregation)

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.")*

About the Kyrie

The Kyrie (Greek "kyrios" [Lord]) is a corporate musical prayer for grace.

Assurance of Pardon

A declaration of forgiveness proclaims the good news of God's mercy and offers the assurance of pardon in Jesus' name. The liturgist pours water into the font, which reminds us of the grace and cleansing of our Baptism, and the baptismal call to new life in Christ.

***ACT OF PRAISE**

(Hymn 513) FESTIVAL CANTICLE

This Is the Feast of Victory

(The congregation is invited to sing with the choir.)

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in
the hymn of all creation. Refrain.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

(Old Testament, page 738 in your pew Bible)

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

Psalm 25

Marty Haugen

Refrain



Lord, make me know Your ways, teach me Your paths,
and keep me in the way of Your truth,
for You are God, my Savior. **Refrain.**

For the Lord is good and righteous,
revealing the way to those who seek God,
gently leading the poor and the humble. **Refrain.**

To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to the Word,
who live God's love, God will always be near;
God will show them true mercy. **Refrain.**

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.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

(New Testament, page 204 in your pew Bible)

SERMON

“Thanksgiving Leftovers”

Donovan Drake

(A moment for meditation)

Affirmation of Faith

Responding to the word proclaimed, we affirm our faith in the holy, triune God. The affirmation of faith is drawn from sentences of scripture or the creeds, confessions, and catechisms.

To GIVE, please scan the QR code below.



André Thomas (b. 1952) is an American composer and conductor. He served as a professor of music at the College of Music at Florida State University. In addition to his conducting and composition credits, Thomas is a published author. He currently serves as the artistic director for the Tallahassee Community Chorus.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In Christ

God gave us a glimpse of the new creation
that has already begun,
and that God will surely finish.

We do not know when the final day will come.

In our time we see only broken and scattered signs
that the renewal of all things is underway.

We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering
in the world, the church, or our own lives.

But we see Jesus as Lord.

As he stands at the center of our history,
we are confident he will stand at its end.

He will judge all people and nations.

Evil will be condemned

and rooted out of God's good creation.

There will be no more tears or pain.

All things will be made new.

The fellowship of human beings

with God and each other will be perfected.

(From *A Declaration of Faith*)

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Anthem

Keep Your Lamps

André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children don't get weary, 'til your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over, The time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PREPARATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE**

***INVITATION**

***GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

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

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

God of Wonder: ... the very nearness of your kingdom.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the celestial choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord...
 God of pow-er and might... Heav-en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na
 in the high - est! Bles-sed is he who comes, he who
 comes in the name of the Lord... Ho - san - na, ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

(The congregation may be seated.)

Holy are you, God of all creation,...
so we might dance in your life forever.

Even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
and ache for his return, great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

Come to us in these moments, God of Advent ...
from the violence of war and fear.

Communion

The Presbyterian Church (USA) practices "open Communion" without regard to denominational affiliation. All who seek to become more faithful to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Then, when all time has ended,
 all pain and hurt is gone,
 you will welcome everyone to your Table,
 where we can sing “Glory!” with one voice
 to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Music during Communion

Anthem

Michael Praetorius

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
 of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
 It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
 when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
 with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
 To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,
 when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
 dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
 Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
 and lightens every load.

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) was a German composer, organist, and musical theorist. He was one of the most versatile composers of his age, being particularly significant in the development of musical forms based on Protestant hymns. Praetorius was a prolific composer; his compositions show the influence of Italian composers and his younger contemporaries. Praetorius composed the familiar harmonization Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming in 1609.

SENDING

*HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

*Please wear masks
when singing.*

About Hymn 93

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7-10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

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The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of worship. Today's Postlude is based on the advent hymn (349), "Sleepers, Wake!" *A Voice Astounds Us*. A.D. Miller is a renowned organ improviser and Director of Music at House of Hope Presbyterian, St. Paul, MN.

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Proclamation: Wachtet auf

A.D. Miller

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

OUR MISSION

*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)

TODAY@ WESTMINSTER

Worship Leaders

Preaching

The Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake
Pastor

Liturgist

The Rev. Dr. Guy D. Griffith
*Associate Pastor for Adult Education and
Spiritual Nurture*

Wreath Lighting

8:30 AM The Wilson Family
11:00 AM The Lyman Family

Lay Liturgists

8:30 AM Jennie Renwick
11:00 AM Bob Hines

Music

8:30 AM Laudate Choir
11:00 AM Westminster Choir

Dr. John Semingson

Director of Music Ministries

Dr. Polly Brecht

Organist

Childcare Room Locations

Classroom 146 - babies

Classroom 152 – toddlers

Classroom 151 – 2s and 3s

Classroom 160 – 4s, 5s and kindergarten

No Children’s Sunday School today.

No Youth Sunday School today.

Adult Sunday School Classes listed on
page 12.

TODAY @ WESTMINSTER

WORSHIP

Welcome

Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes you to share our common journey to become more faithful disciples of Christ. Any who are interested in joining us in this journey are invited to contact:
Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, 615.292.5526; hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org

Worship Services

To watch a service later in the day or the week, go to nashvillewpc.church and look for a Past Services box, go to Worship Service Archive and click on the service you would like to watch.

Mask Policy

An update from Session:
Mask-wearing is strongly-encouraged at the 8:30 AM service and mandatory at the 11:00 AM worship service. The balcony remains open only for people wearing masks.

Sanctuary and Parlor Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the Chancel urns in the Sanctuary (\$150) or the refectory table in the Parlor (\$75) during 2022, please contact Terri Eckert by email at teckert@nashvillewpc.org to select your Sunday. Please note that 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 or honor your loved ones.

GENEROSITY 2022



Please scan the QR code below to make your 2022 pledge.



In the bible, we have numerous stories where Jesus nurtured and lifted up those who were suffering, troubled and forgotten. He left us an example that we might follow Him (1 Peter 2:21). Westminster lives out the Word so that others can experience our generous hearts.

Each of our stories take twists and turns that could create barriers between us. Instead, because we choose whom we will serve, these experiences create momentum for tremendous gratitude. We replace the energy for 'more' with the energy of 'thank you'. We become the reason why someone else feels seen, heard and supported. There is no greater gift.

Our gifts sustain the provision of our community of believers, our worship services, care teams, dedicated staff, numerous youth activities, our outstanding music programs and our beautiful campus. As we consider our pledges for 2022, let us remember that our generous gifts to Westminster have the power to affect us and others in powerful and life-giving ways that honor everyone's humanity.

- Kelly Christie, Generosity Chair

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT EDUCATION

Classes begin at 9:45 AM

Today's Classes:

Faith & Fellowship • 214

Walking with Jesus - We will explore what it was like to Walk With Jesus. The travels of the Disciples with Jesus. What does our path with Christ look like today?

Search • 211

Mike Hassell will be leading our class discussion today.

The CALLING • Goodpasture Hall

No class this Sunday.

Young Families • Overlook Room

No class this Sunday.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Journey with Jesus Bible study group will be reading and discussing Jill Duffield's *Advent in Plain Sight*.

All are welcome for this study via Zoom on Sunday afternoons 12/5, 12/12 and 12/19.

If you are interested or want more information, contact the church office or Suzie Lane at suzielane0@gmail.com or 615-406-4915.

ENHANCE YOUR ADVENT EXPERIENCE WITH CENTERING PRAYER

The Westminster Centering Prayer Group gathers in the Harwell Chapel on Mondays from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM.

All are invited to join.

The prayer time begins with a brief liturgy and contemporary reading, and moves into 20 minutes of silent meditation. Participants have found it to be a peaceful and calming start to their weeks, sitting in holy silence and feeling the sacredness of shared intention and divine presence.

For more information, please email Elizabeth Trabue at elizabethtrabue@gmail.com or Heidi Hudnut-Beumler at hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org.

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS & HONORARIA

If you would like to give a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a friend or family member, please place your order by scanning the QR code below, email to Terri Eckert at teckert@nashvillewpc.org, or complete a form available at the Information Desk. A donation of \$10 per name is requested. Some of the funds received assist in the purchase of poinsettias for Congregational Care team ministries.

The deadline for submitting names to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins is Sunday, December 12, 2021.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you looking for an inspiring gift for someone that has everything?

The 2021 Alternative Christmas Gift Market is OPEN. This opportunity to shop for meaningful gifts that match the interests of everyone on your list is NOW AVAILABLE. The market features twenty local and international non-profit agencies. You can shop both online and in the parlor on Sundays between services now through Christmas. Don't miss our Agency Showcase in the parlor on December 5th.

Choose from a range of gifts such as:
\$5 for an all-day buss pass for a Room In the Inn client

\$25 to provide Cooking Club ingredients at Preston Taylor Ministries

\$100 to provide a portion of rent or mortgage assistance through Rooftop Nashville

Visit the Alternative Christmas Gift Market page by scanning the QR code below or visit the table in the Parlor for more information.



Room In The Inn is back at Westminster!

Room In The Inn is back at Westminster with many opportunities for engagement for singles, families, or small groups Wednesday nights through March 2022. This is a great opportunity to spend time with Westminster friends and eight homeless neighbors.

Inkeepers Call or email James Boswell if you'd like to serve overnight – 2 single openings in December with many more in January, February, and March (boswelljs@gmail.com or 704-533-5930)

Dinner hosts and servers Great opportunity to serve the least of these as a family or with your small group. Call or email Lindsay Ballew (lindsayballew@yahoo.com or 615-521-6195)

Provide sack lunches and breakfasts Easy service project can be done in advance and dropped off at the church before 5 pm. Call or email Beth Moore to discuss openings (bmoore@srvhlaw.com or 615-210-5841)

Mini-bus drivers Hugh has a great team in place for the rest of 2021, but if you'd like to help in this way January 5th – March 30th please call or email Hugh Harvey (hw.harveymst72@gmail.com or 615-973-2902)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAROLING, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

Sunday, December 5
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM • North Parking Lot

We will head out to the neighborhood around the church to go Caroling. Afterwards, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for boxed fried chicken dinners, hot chocolate and fun.

We will make cards for Alive Hospice and folks in nursing homes.

All are welcome! Bring friends, and bring some canned goods for Second Harvest.

Please scan the QR code to make your reservations for this fun afternoon.



SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING

Sunday, December 5
7:00 PM • Sanctuary

As we enter the Advent/Christmas season, many feelings well up in us. Joyful Christmas carols seek to bring good cheer, yet for many experiences of grief and loss, anxiety and health concerns, depression and painful relationships are on our hearts.

Through scripture and prayers, candlelight and music, this service is for all people seeking hope and healing during this season. Join us as we claim the promises of God in Emmanuel, God-with-us, and pray for Christ's peace to make us whole.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Advent-Christmas Candlelight Concert with David Angell & Co.

December 9 • 7:00 PM
Sanctuary

Changing Gears Handbells & Friends Christmas Program

December 15 • 11:30 am
Goodpasture Hall

Advent Choral Service

December 19
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM worship

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

2:00 PM Family Service
Children are invited to bring offerings of canned and boxed food for Second Harvest Food Bank

5:00 PM Candlelight Communion Worship Service • Sanctuary

8:00 PM Candlelight Communion Worship Service • Sanctuary

10:30 PM Candlelight Communion Worship Service

Childcare available during the 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM services.

Due to limited parking, please carpool.

Christmas Brass

December 26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Special Thank You From A Waverly Resident After The Flood

As victims of the devastating flood that hit our small Waverly town, we were overwhelmed by your kindness and hard work to tear out our damaged home.

While we were suffering from extreme exhaustion and total shock from the harrowing experience, the Lord sent your team to rescue us. The comfort of your prayers and shoulders to lean on, gave us the strength we needed to forge ahead. You all may remember the wet Bible that sat on our porch to dry had the bookmark still inside that read "Nothing is going to happen today that the Lord can't handle." With that reminder, we are moving forward in the rebuild process.

The new wiring is complete, drywall is hung, and we are beginning to paint now. Again, your hard work and loving kindness has touched our hearts! God's love abounds!

*Forever grateful,
Cindy and Dave Frazier*



THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

Sunday, November 28

- 8:30 AM Worship
- 9:45 AM Faith & Fellowship
Search Class
- 11:00 AM Worship

Monday, November 29

- 11:45 AM Centering Prayer

Tuesday, November 30

- 7:00 AM Daybreak Believers
- 7:30 AM Bible Study
- 8:00 AM The Isaiah Study
- 9:00 AM Harvard Handbells rehearsal
- 7:00 PM What Would Jesus Do?

Wednesday, December 1

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
- 11:00 AM Pearlseekers
What Would Jesus Do?
Pastor's Aides Meeting
- 6:00 PM RITI
- 6:15 PM Benevolence Committee Meeting
- 7:00 PM Westminster Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 2

- 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 PM Session

Friday, December 3

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study

Saturday, December 4

- 11:30 AM AA

For more information on the events listed here, please contact the church office, 615.292.5526.

You may also look at the calendar listed in our Church Life app for more details on all the events at Westminster. To learn more about the Church Life app, please contact Hannah Sims, 615.292.5526; hsims@nashvillewpc.org.

Contacts:

If you have questions about a certain event listed on our calendar, please contact a member of our program staff.

Donovan Drake
Pastor
ddrake@nashvillewpc.org

Guy Griffith, Assoc. Pastor
Adult Education
ggriffith@nashvillewpc.org

Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Assoc. Pastor
Congregational Care, New Members,
& *GETconnected*
hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org

Sophie Maness
Children & Young Families
smaness@nashvillewpc.org

John Semingson
Music
johns@nashvillewpc.org

Margie Quinn
Youth & Young Adults
mquinn@nashvillewpc.org

T.J. Piccolo
Youth
tjpiccolo@nashvillewpc.org

Katie Gossage
Youth
kgossage@nashvillewpc.org



3900 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205-1899
615.292.5526 | www.nashvillewpc.church