

WESTMINSTER  PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

**Service for the Lord's Day
Holy Communion**

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020**

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Forest Green
Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

Craig Phillips
Gerald Near

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

A voice cries out in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

Let us line the road with beauty

and pave it with acts of justice.

For the Holy One is coming our way,

the giver of life and the source of living water.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

Loving God,

you sent your prophet John

to prepare your way among us,

to call us to repentance

and make our pathways straight.

Strengthen us to live lives

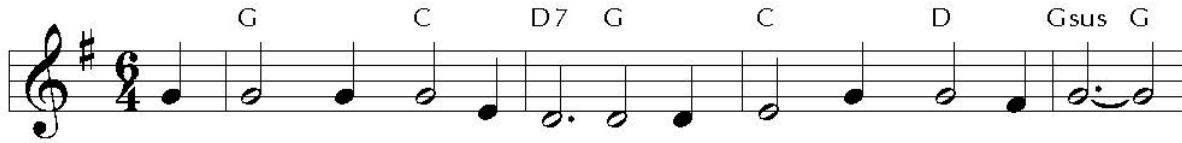
of steadfast love and faithfulness

as we await the Messiah's return,

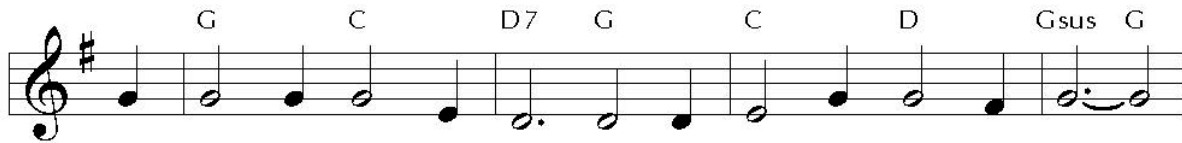
that all may see your reign of peace

through your just and gracious rule. Amen.

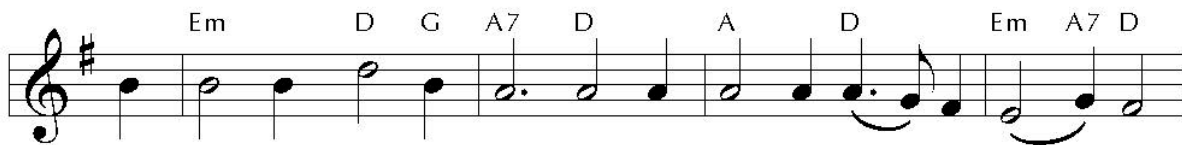
Prepare the Way, O Zion



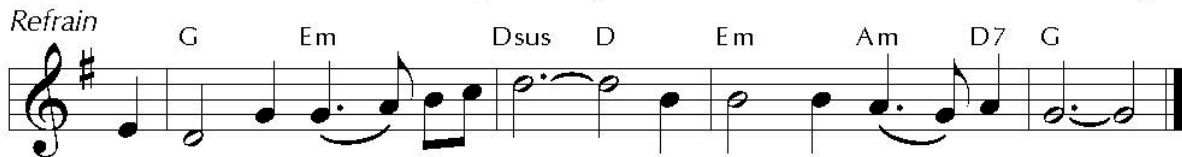
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

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

**“Prepare the way of the Lord,” your prophet
 says to us.
 Forgive us when we have failed to prepare
 your way.
 Forgive us when we have stood in your way,
 instead:
 when we let the challenging words of your
 prophets roll off of lives,**

rather than let them spark change;
when we walk around a neighbor in need,
rather than encounter a chance of
compassion.

Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us assurance
that the glory of your coming does not depend
upon the righteousness of your followers.

Forgive us, O Lord, and free us to try again.

(Silent confession)

Kyrie *(Sung responsively by the choir and congregation)*

James MacMillan

The musical score 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." 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.

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

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

Mark 1:1-8

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

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 (all sing)

FOREST GREEN

The Lord has long with favor looked
Upon the chosen land;
To Jacob's heirs, the wealth of earth
is lavished in their hand.
The captive chains of servitude
Are loosed, the slaves are free;
And through God's grace, the bonds of sin
Give way to liberty.

Restore to us salvation, Lord,
Let Thy displeasure cease;
And still the tempest of Thy wrath
With gentle winds of peace.
My humble heart the still small voice
Of Thy love yet attends;
The faithful God from death redeems,
The fearful, God defends.

Thy steadfast love and faithfulness
Will meet us face to face;
The arm of justice, mercy sways;
The righteous, truth embrace.
May wisdom dwell in human law,
And justice, courts display;
Let righteousness precede Thy steps,
And guide us on our way.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

- ³ A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
- ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
- ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
- ⁶ A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
- ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
- ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
- ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
- ¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
- ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

SERMON

“Believe the Good News!”

Donovan Drake

(A moment for meditation)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**God keeps his promises and gives us hope.
In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus
God kept his promises.
All that we can ever hope for
was present in Christ.
But the work of God in Christ is not over.
God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen.
The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence
that supports us when lesser hopes fail us.
In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth,
certainty of victory over death,
assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death.
This hope gives us courage for the present struggle.**

(From A Declaration of Faith)

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Anthem

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

John Ferguson

“Comfort, comfort now my people, tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald’s voice is crying, in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!

Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

***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.**

***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 to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you 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,
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
san - na in the high - est, 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.
Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

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

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.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Gather communion elements of bread and wine, such as crackers or pita and juice or water. Set out worshipful elements such as a white cloth, cross, candle, and Bible. If you are gathered with others, please serve one another communion, offering the elements with "This is the bread of life" and "This is the cup of salvation." If alone, know that others are sharing this meal with you, and that we are all part of the body of Christ whether we receive in solitude or with others.

Music during Communion

Anthem Prepare the Way of the Lord William Rowan

Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way! Make straight his path.
Every valley shall be exalted, every hill made low;
And the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all mankind shall see it together. Prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way! Make straight his path. (*Isaiah 40:4-5*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

***HYMN 163** Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice ABERSWTWYTH

***BENEDICTION**

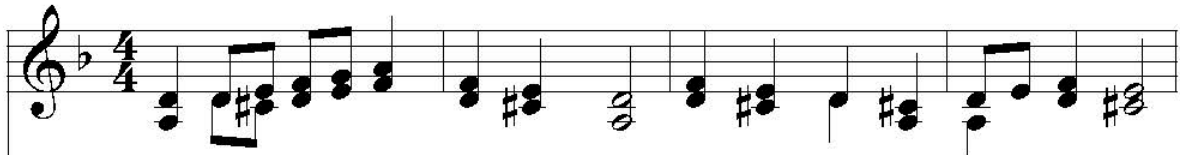
Choir: Lord Jesus, come soon! ***Congregation:* Lord Jesus, come soon!**

POSTLUDE

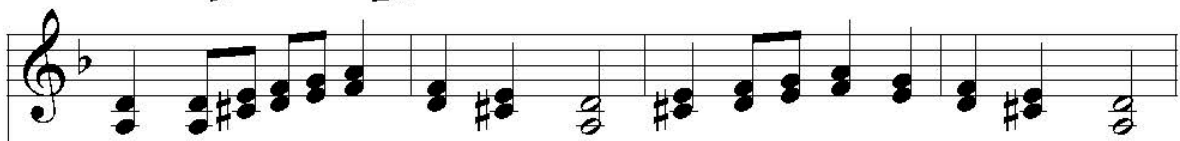
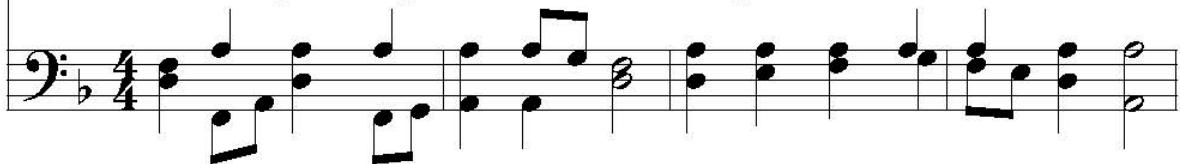
Rebecca Groom Te Velde
Carillon on Besancon/Carol of the Advent

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

163 Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice



1 Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech-oes through the des - ert still,
2 "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love.
3 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal-va - tion near,



call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:
Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.
and his time-less warn-ings hold words of hope to all who hear.



"Turn from sin and be bap-tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Soon the Lord will come in power, burn-ing clean the thresh-ing floor:
So we dare to jour-ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,



Quit-ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.
then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."
till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.



SERVICE NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS: Liturgist: Guy D. Griffith, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture.

MUSICIANS: 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.

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. Westminster celebrates the “Eucharist,” meaning “thanksgiving,” on the first Sunday of each month, on the first Sunday of each liturgical season, and on every Sunday during the Season of Easter, except Baptism Sundays.

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 6, 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 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) or Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (615.292.5526; hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org).

DEADLINE CHANGE TO WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 FOR 2020 POINSETTIA MEMORIALS AND HONORARIA: This year, Christmas Eve worship services may be different, but we will continue our treasured tradition, albeit on a smaller scale, of gracing our Sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent season. Proceeds will benefit the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to provide assistance to many in our community who are in great need. To purchase a poinsettia (\$10 each) in memory or in honor of a friend or family member, click here <https://bit.ly/3noEVi1> or email Terri Eckert at teckert@nashvillewpc.org. *The deadline for submitting names is Wednesday, December 9, 2020.*

We will be mailing to member households our Christmas Eve bulletin, which will include the poinsettia list for 2020.

“PILGRIM’S PROGRESS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC: FROM COPING TO ADAPTING TO TRANSFORMING” – continues with the fifth of eight classes on December 6, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. on Zoom. This session is on: **“Adapting to the Challenges of the Pandemic: Across Ages and Stages,”** and will feature a panel of speakers – parents with younger children (Melissa and Tony Threatt), a leading educator of adolescents (Jess Hill), and a couple in retirement (Joe and Lochiel Gaines). What helped to move from merely coping and surviving to adapting and growing? What have the challenges been, what has been learned, and how is growth being experienced amidst a trying time? Has faith played a role in the movement from coping to adapting? Kicked off by the panel’s stories, this session will include time for questions and discussion, and also seek to draw on the stories and experiential wisdom of class participants. Please send any questions or comments to Heidi Hudnut-Beumler: hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org.

To join the Zoom Meeting, click here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87117971143?pwd=dUVjTHZZdXlYODBNcGJpQ3o5NXhldz09> Meeting ID: 871 1797 1143 Passcode: 798020

HABITAT DEDICATION, 1:00 P.M., FRIDAY DECEMBER 11, 2020. PLEASE JOIN US! Our homeowner, Adel Maximous came to the United States from Egypt in 2015 to seek asylum. He currently holds two jobs: as a teaching assistant at Harris-Hillman School, and as a cashier at Goodwill Industries. Maximous would like to be a teacher someday. He has never lived in a residence that accommodated his wheelchair, but through your generosity, an empty lot was turned into a foundation that supported the building of a house that will now become a dream come true for Maximous. And even though this has happened during a pandemic, and we could not gather side-by-side to hammer nails and lay baseboards, we can share in the miraculous and life-giving joy of this ministry. *We will dedicate the home of Adel Maximous on Friday, December 11 at 1:00 PM. The address for the dedication is 3396 Woodland Star Way, 37207. We hope you will join us for this joyful occasion!*

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 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 passed away.

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 or 615-292-5526; Mike Koban, Finance Committee Chair at mkoban@prodigy.net; or Suzanne McLemore, Treasurer at suzannegm58@gmail.com.

October 31, 2020

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income:	\$206,784	\$2,777,909
Expense:	\$364,428	\$2,457,435
Net Income (loss):	<u>\$(157,644)</u>	<u>\$ 320,475</u>

**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, 334 families have contributed \$2,176,128 toward our pledge campaign.

Our 2021 Budget goal is \$2,958,900, and we need \$782,772 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.



THE 2020 ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT MARKET IS NOW OPEN!

Give Christmas gifts to friends and family while also giving to those in need – all from the comfort of your own home. This year, the Hands-On Mission Committee has chosen to feature sixteen local and international non-profit agencies and WPC missions. Also look for a special section created in connection with Children’s Ministry to guide children and families through the market. Your gifts will enhance the quality and faith-based nature of your gift giving this holiday season. Please visit http://nashvillewpc.org/Alternative_Gift_Market/ for more information and to access the giving website.

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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