

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018



*“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in
God my Savior.”*

Luke 1:46

Welcome visitors, newcomers, and friends worshipping here today! Feel free to take a *Welcome to Westminster* pamphlet from the pew rack. We hope you will worship with us again, whenever possible. If you're interested in joining our church community, please speak to a pastor after worship or contact the church office, 434-293-3133.

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Opening Voluntary *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* Johannes Brahms

◆ Processional Hymn 11 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* *Valet will ich dir geben*

◆ Lighting of the Fourth Candle of Advent

The time draws near, each moment magnified.

Nothing is impossible for God.

Listen to the prophet Micah: "But you, O Bethlehem...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth." A young woman shall give birth to peace, hope and joy. A young woman will give Love a name: Emmanuel – God is with us.

**We watch and prepare, for God is doing great things
when and where we least expect it.**

Let us look among the straw and stars.

A spark of love lights the way.

The Messiah is coming!

◆ Advent Song

1
Pre - pare the way of the Lord, pre - pare the way of the Lord,
2
3
and all peo- ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre-

Call to Confession

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims upon our lives. We acknowledge that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God's mercy and grace, let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God.

Though we have heard Mary's song,

we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.

The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule.

The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate.

We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty.

Forgive us, Mighty One, and look with grace upon us.

Help us to work for the justice you intend.

Make us messengers of the peace you bring.

Heal, restore and bless us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

♩ = 66
D Bm D A
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.
Em C Em A D
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al - le - lu - ia!

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Even now — in this very moment, God comes to us, bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, bringing grace.

Believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

◆ Congregational Response

Let the nations shout and sing, glory to their Savior bring;

All below and all above sing your praise with joy and love.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

◆ Sharing of the Peace

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

Announcements for the Church and Community

Participants in Worship

Liturgist

Ken Henry

Ushers

Paul Schakel (head),
Rich Gregory
Ruthie Buck

Greeters

Billie Best
Lucy Burnette

Fellowship Team

Anne Andrews
Ellen Hench
Sabra Timmons

Sound Engineer

John Kleinschmidt

Deacon of the Day

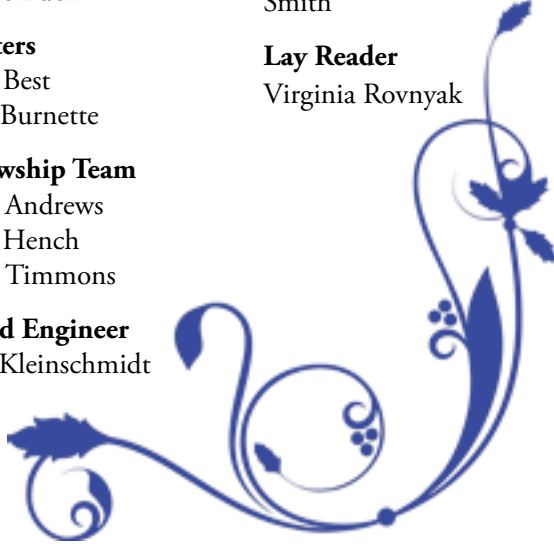
Cheryl Oliver

Advent Candle-Lighters

Rob Smith, Crystal
Steger-Smith and Anna
Smith

Lay Reader

Virginia Rovnyak



Christmas

AT WESTMINSTER

MONDAY DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Worship, 5 p.m. This child-friendly service includes carols and candlelight. Enjoy this creative retelling of the Christmas story through treasures stored in a simple, wooden box.

Christmas Eve Worship, 8:30 p.m. Share the joy of the season in a communion service with carols and candlelight on this holiest of nights.

Organ prelude begins at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

**First Sunday of Christmas
Worship, 11 a.m.**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

Epiphany of the Lord Worship, 11 a.m.

Christmas Eve Organ Prelude at 8 p.m. – For the 8:30 worship service this year, our organist Jonathan Schakel is preparing a 30-minute, all-Bach prelude that tells the Christmas story, from Mary's Magnificat and the arrival of the baby Jesus, to the shepherds in the field and the sound of angel wings overhead. If you arrive before or during the prelude, please enjoy this time of quiet reflection, peace, and inner joy.

Hearing Enhancement – Westminster is equipped with personal hearing assistance devices for use by our worshippers. These are available in the narthex, to be checked out from the ushers before services. Our sanctuary is equipped with “T-coil” technology.

Large-Print versions of *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, and our own *Hymnal Supplement* are available for use during the service. If you would like to use any of these large print copies, please ask an usher.

Children and Worship – Families are encouraged to worship together, whenever possible. We strive to include children who are first graders and older in our worship service. Children's pew Bibles, children's bulletins, and worship bags are available from the ushers. A “comfort room” is available downstairs for those with small children who might need a place to rest or play. A speaker in that room makes it possible to hear the service.

Westminster Staff

Ken Henry, *Pastor*

khenry@westminsterva.org

Lynne Clements,

Associate Pastor

Megan Sharp,

Director of Fine Arts

Jonathan Schakel, *Organist*

Brittany Caine-Conley,

Interim Dir. of Univ. Mission

Sanford Wilcox,

Church Administrator

Kate Brinkley,

Office Manager

Steve Brown,

Finance Administrator

Tom Mullen, *Sexton*

Alonzo Williams,

Assistant Sexton

Mission Statement

*Sustained by grace, we are called to serve Christ,
share God's love, and work for justice in a complex world.*

