

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-

4

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

God's Word to Us

Old Testament Lesson Micah 5:2-5a OT pg. 815

Anthem *Jesus, Emmanuel* K. Lee Scott

O come, the broken heart to mend, the troubled soul to cure;
With treasures of your grace, come to the humble poor.
Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.
He comes, the prisoners to release, in Satan's bondage held;
Brass gates before him break, strong chains and shackles yield. Our glad hosannas. . .
How glad the sound, the Savior comes! The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song. Jesus, Emmanuel, come.

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:39-55 NT pg. 53

Sermon Lynne Clements

◆ Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God, the creator and giver of life,
who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us,
protecting, nurturing and cherishing us.
We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby,
embodying both love and the need for love,
and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth,
always drawing us on to be born again,
encouraging and nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.
We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ.
Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness
so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.
And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God,
a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.**

Written by Nathan Nettleton, 1999, incorporating some lines from "Midwife of our Lives," by Kathy Galloway, published in Kathy Galloway (ed.) The Pattern of Our Days, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 1996, p.138.

◆ Hymn **My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout** *Canticle of the Turning*

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forbears heard is the promise that holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

Prayers of the Congregation and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16

The Offering

Offertory *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* William Sandys
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance: Sing O my love, my love, my love; this have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance;
thus was I knit to human nature, to call my true love to my dance: Sing O my love. . .

In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor this was my chance, betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance. Sing O my love. . .

Then afterwards baptized I was, the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance: Sing O my love. . .

◆ Presentation of the Offering No. 414

**With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,
Not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neighbors too.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
Help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

◆ Prayer of Dedication

◆ Hymn 40 **Joy to the World** *Antioch*

◆ The Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary *Noël Suisse* Louis-Claude Daquin

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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

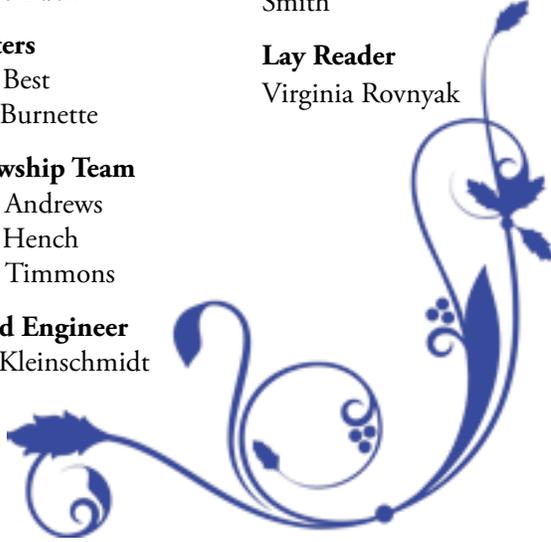
Cheryl Oliver

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.*

