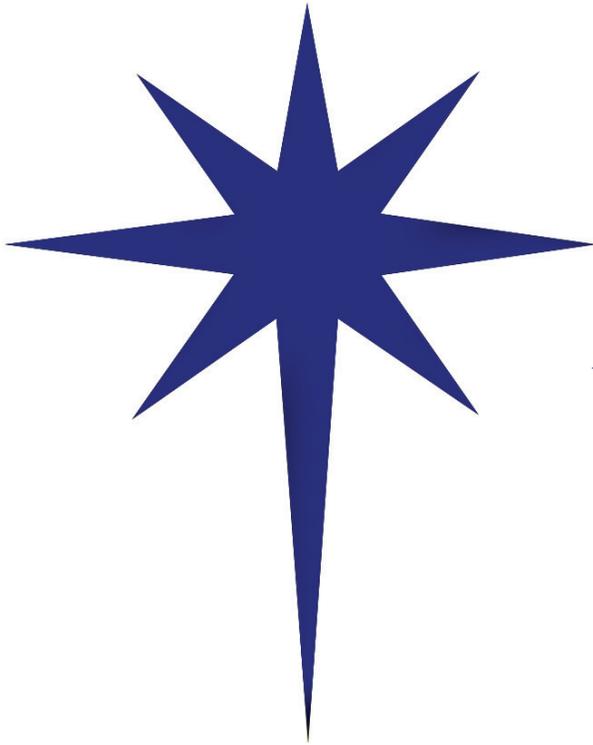


Service for the Lord's Day

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019



Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love,

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

St. Francis of Assisi

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, VA ♦ 434-293-3133 ♦ www.westminsterva.org

*W*elcome 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 one of us after worship or contact the church office, 434-293-3133.

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Opening Voluntary *Passe & medio - Les quatre branles - Bergerette sans Roch* Tielman Susato

◆ Hymn 106 **Prepare the Way, O Zion** *Bereden Väg för Herran*

◆ Lighting of the Second Candle of Advent

*As we light our second Advent candle,
we pray for the holy peace of God.
Come now, O Child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Peace.*

◆ Advent Song Hymn 85

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**

Call to Confession

*We come before God seeking light and guidance in the darkness of our lives.
Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion, together let us confess our sin.*

Prayer of Confession

**God of peace who seeks the lost and heals the broken,
we lose sight of those who are lost and broken.
You have said that when we touch other's pain
and help others through hardship, we do it unto you.
Forgive our reluctance to show compassion.
Settle our restless hearts that we will see and know the pain and suffering around us.
Pardon our sin that we might know again your mercy
and share it with all whose lives are burdened by sin.
In the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray.**

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins, release us; let us find our rest in thee.**

Hymn 83

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is merciful and forgiving, a great and compassionate savior.

God rescues us from darkness and delivers us from our fears.

Therefore, people of Advent, be set free of all that burdens and weighs you down.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. 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

Time with Youth and Children

God's Word to Us

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

NT pg. 2

Anthem

In Night's Dim Shadows Lying

arr. George Guest

In night's dim shadows lying, our limbs fast locked in sleep,

To Thee with faithful sighing, our souls their vigil keep.

Desire of every nation, hear, Lord, our piteous cry,

Thou Word the world's salvation, uplift us where we lie.

Lord, be Thine Advent hastened lest sin Thy people mar,

The gates which Adam fastened, the gates of heaven unbar.

Son, to Thine endless merit, Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

With Sire and Holy Spirit be praises without end.

text, C. Coffin

Old Testament

Isaiah 11:1-10

OT pg. 602

Sermon

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Ken Henry

◆ Affirmation of Faith

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.**

**We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 77

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

Samanthra

Prayers of the Congregation and the Lord's Prayer

hymnal, p. 35

The Offering

Offertory

Midnight Clear

Russell Schulz-Widmar

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
 from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's gracious king."
 The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
 and still their heavenly music floats over all the weary world;
 above the sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
 and ever over its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
 beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
 and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;
 Oh hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
 when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold.
 when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
 and all the world give back the song, and which now the angels sing.

◆ Doxology

No. 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Christ, all people here below;
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
 Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

◆ Prayer of Dedication

**We thank you, Holy One, for all your good gifts,
 especially the gifts of prophecy, promise, and calls for preparation.
 As a thankful response to these gifts, we offer our belief, our commitments,
 and our worldly goods, that we may hasten the time
 when no one will hurt or destroy on all God's holy mountain. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 109

Blest Be the God of Israel

Merle's Tune

◆ The Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland

J. S. Bach

◆ Please stand, as you are able.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Arloine Hood.

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 bulletin, *Glory to God* 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.

Portions of the service are reprinted by permission from the *Book of Common Worship*, copyright © 2018 Westminster/John Knox Press, and *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long, WJK: Louisville, KY, 2015. Words to the choral responses are reprinted by permission.

Participants in Worship

Liturgists

Lynne Clements
Dorothy Piatt

Ushers

Ken and Lucille
Digges
James Burch

Deacon of the Day

Dick Haines

Candlelighters

Peter, Melanie,
Annabelle, and
Eden Garth

Lay Reader

Judy Dunscomb

Sound Engineers

Michael Constanzo

Fellowship Team

Barb Mann

Musicians

Violins: Amy Walder,

Paul Schakel

Viola: Colin Lee

Cello: Lynanne Wilson

WESTMINSTER NEWS & EVENTS

Glory to God hymnals for your home: If you have been enjoying the new *Glory to God* hymnal during worship and would like to purchase one for personal use, please contact Kate at the office 434-293-3133. We will put in an order (with free shipping) later this month. Hymnals are \$15 each and orders should be placed by Wednesday, December 18.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study group will gather on December 10 for a special holiday observance in the Lower Lounge at 6 p.m. with warm fellowship and a covered-dish dinner. Friends from the choir will join us for Christmas carols and to share a favorite Christmas book. Please come as our guest and begin the season with joy and a holiday spirit! If you have questions, please contact Lucy Burnette.

Stewardship 2020: The Stewardship Committee thanks all who have pledged to support our ministries and programs in 2020, and a special thank you to new members who have pledged. We’ve reached over 90% of our goal, but 37 households who pledged last year have yet to pledge for 2020. If you have not yet pledged, please return your pledge card to the church office Call 434-293-3133 and one can be mailed to you or pledge at www.westminsterva.org. Thank you!

The **Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention** will once again host a vigil to remember the slain at Sandy Hook. The vigil will take place at 2 p.m. on December 14 (the date of the shooting) at the Downtown Mall. We will gather at the Christmas Tree to read the names of the children and teachers who died.



Advent & Christmas

AT WESTMINSTER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Second Sunday of Advent Worship, 11 a.m.

Singers Rehearsal, 12:15 p.m.

Session Meeting, 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Kick-Back, 1 p.m.

Open Study Hours begin, 2 to 10 p.m., and run through December 16

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Tuesday Evening Study Group, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

20/30 CreW, Wednesday Wind Down, 7 p.m.
Peloton Station

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Choristers Rehearsal, 4 p.m.

Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Third Sunday of Advent Worship, 11 a.m.

All-Youth Brunch, 9:30 a.m. Common Grounds

Singers and Readers Rehearsal, 3:15 p.m.

Choristers and Ushers Rehearsal, 4 p.m.

Lessons & Carols, 5 p.m.

Come enjoy a traditional service of Lessons and Carols led by the Choristers and Singers choirs. Readings and carols retell the story of Christ's birth, with candlelit singing of Silent Night. A potluck meal and carol singing in fellowship hall will follow.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

20/30 CreW, Wednesday Wind Down, 7 p.m.
Hardywood

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

Youth Christmas Party, 6:30 p.m. Common Grounds

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship, 11 a.m.

No classes for adults, youth, or children.

Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.

Caroling, 3 p.m. All are welcome to join in song and share carols with those in our congregation in need of Christmas cheer. Directions and song sheets available when we gather in fellowship hall.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Worship, 5 p.m. This child-friendly service includes carols and candlelight.

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 29

First Sunday of Christmas Worship, 11 a.m.
Guest preacher, Colleen Earp

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Epiphany of the Lord Worship, 11 a.m.
Church school resumes for everyone!

Staff

Ken Henry, *Pastor*, khenry@westminsterva.org

Lynne Clements, *Associate Pastor*,
lclements@westminsterva.org

Dorothy Piatt, *Assoc. Pastor for Social Justice and University Mission*, dpiatt@westminsterva.org

Megan Sharp, *Dir. of Fine Arts*

Jonathan Schakel, *Organist*

Sanford Wilcox, *Church Admin.*

Kate Brinkley, *Office Manager*

Steve Brown, *Finance Admin.*

Tom Mullen, *Sexton*

Alonzo Williams, *Assistant Sexton*