

Service for the Lord's Day

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Westminster Presbyterian Church
400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, Virginia
www.westminsterva.org · 434-293-3133



*W*elcome visitors, newcomers, and friends worshipping with us today! If you're interested in joining our church community, please speak to a pastor after worship or contact the church office, 434-293-3133. We hope you will worship with us again, whenever possible.

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

Fantasia on Greensleeves

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Welcome

◆ Call to Worship

A voice cries, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Lift every valley. Lift every voice.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

◆ Hymn 347

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

v. 1, all; v. 2, upper voices; v. 3, lower voices; v. 4, all

Lighting of the Second Candle of Advent (Peace)

8:30 Debby and James Wolfe

11:00 Dorothy and Catalina Piatt-Esguerra

I am sending my messenger, says the Lord, to prepare the way before me.

Indeed, Christ is coming.

Can you hear it? God's word is coming. A voice cries out in the wilderness and declares the promise of peace, a promise that struggle, violence, and cruelty will be overcome.

We stand in awe of that promise.

We watch and wait to see God's glory revealed, together.

A spark of peace lights the way.

With courage, we will follow the voice calling us toward Shalom.

Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal no. 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

*In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin.
With humility and hope let us make our confession.*

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God,
you who shaped out of nothing all that is,
forgive us for returning empty-handed.
You who called forth light,
forgive our preference for the shadows.
You who sent John to be a voice crying,
forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all.
Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal no. 83

**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.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.*

**Christ is our peace.
Let us rejoice and walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

◆ Sung 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.**

◆ Passing of the Peace

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

God's Word to Us

The Canticle Luke 1:68-79

The Gospel Lesson Luke 3:1-6

◆ Hymn 109 **Blest Be the God of Israel** MERLE'S TUNE

Poem *The Coming of the Cold* Theodore Roethke

Anthem *In the Bleak Midwinter* Harold E. Darke

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter, a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty—Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him—give my heart.
—Christina Rossetti

Poem *First Coming* Madeleine L'Engle

Anthem *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* arr. Richard Proulx
Text can be found at no. 87 in the Glory to God hymnal.

Poem *Advent: A Carol* Patric Dickinson

Anthem *A Stable Lamp Is Lighted* David Hurd
Text can be found at no. 160 in the Glory to God hymnal.

◆ The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Congregation

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

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.

It is truly right and our greatest joy ...

who sing forever to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blest is the one, O blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

GTG Hymnal, p. 35

HS No. 75

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

Communion Anthem *Midnight Clear* Russell Schulz-Widmar
Text can be found at no. 123 in the Glory to God hymnal.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God our hope, we give you thanks for the offerings given today,
and for this foretaste of the justice, righteousness,
and peace of your promised new creation.
Lead us to live in the joyful expectation of the glorious return
of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

- ◆ Hymn 105 **People, Look East** BESANÇON
- ◆ The Charge and Benediction
- Postlude *Christmas Concerto: Allegro-Pastorale* Arcangelo Corelli
- ◆ Please stand, as you are able.

Participants in Worship

Adult Choir

Sopranos: Betsy Bloom,
Marijke Durieux, Carolyn Kelly,
Dana Patek, Nadine Roddy

Altos: Sara Chambers,
Vivian Dillard, Erika Herz,
Lydia Peale,
Jane Edmister Penner

Tenors: Winston Barham,
Steve Patek, Dick Redding

Basses: Jim Allison,
Bill Chambers,
George Stetkevych, Steve Wilson

Soloists: Dana Patek, Steve Patek

Violins: Amy Walder,
Ray Van Ausdal

Viola: Beverly Van Ausdal

Cello: Lynanne Wilson

Readers: Jim Allison,
Winston Barham, Vivian Dillard,
Carolyn Kelly, Nadine Roddy

What's Happening

at Westminster

Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. In-person Worship in the Sanctuary, Special Music

9:30 a.m. Church School

10 a.m. Coffee with Ken in the Gathering Place

12 p.m. UKirk and 20/30 CreW Bagel Brunch at Common Grounds

12 p.m. Fellowship Hour in the Fellowship Hall

12:15 p.m. Singers Rehearsal

1 p.m. UKirk and 20/30 CreW Feeding Families Service Project

Thursday, December 9

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. In-person Worship in the Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Church School

10 a.m. Coffee with Ken in the Gathering Place

12 p.m. UKirk and 20/30 CreW Bagel Brunch at Common Grounds

12 p.m. Fellowship Hour in the Fellowship Hall

2:15 p.m. Lessons & Carols Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

4 p.m. Lessons and Carols followed by cider and caroling

5:30 p.m. Session Meeting

Westminster Staff

Ken Henry, *Pastor*

khenry@westminsterva.org

Lynne Clements, *Associate Pastor*

lclements@westminsterva.org

Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra

*Assoc. Pastor for Social Justice
and University Mission*

dpiatt@westminsterva.org

Max Michaels

Seminary Intern

Megan Sharp

Director of Fine Arts

music@westminsterva.org

Jonathan Schakel

Organist

Sanford Wilcox

Facilities Manager

Ashley Dunn-Jalenak

Communications Manager

Steve Brown

Finance Administrator

Tom Mullen

Sexton

Alonzo Williams

Assistant Sexton

Through a series of online and in-person messages, devotionals, and worship opportunities, we hope to keep you connected to — and nurtured by — the Westminster community. Make sure you're signed up for our eNews, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, @westminsterville.

Visit www.westminsterva.org.