

# Service for the Lord's Day

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 12, 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

*Freu dich sehr, o liebe Seele*

Georg Böhm

Welcome

### ◆ Call to Worship

based on Isaiah 12:2-3

*Proclaim the mercy of the one who comes as one of us.*

**We will trust and not be afraid.**

*With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.*

**God is our strength and our salvation.**

**Hallelujah! Amen.**

### ◆ Hymn 106

**Prepare the Way, O Zion**

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent (Joy)

8:30 Laura and Jorgen Vik  
11:00 Members of WPC UKirk

*Sing aloud, O children! Rejoice and exult with all your hearts!*

**The Lord renews us with love.**

*It's getting closer! The light burns brighter. We are gathered in this House of Joy,  
eager to hear the good news, ready to worship and praise God.*

**We watch and prepare, for the Word is coming, full of grace and truth.**

*A spark of joy lights the way.*

**Though the flame flickers against the shadows,  
we rejoice in God's covenant of everlasting love.**

Sung Response

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:**

**let the light banish darkness.**

**Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.**

## Call to Confession

*As John the Baptist called the people to repent, as Jesus calls us now,  
we turn to the one who is both judge and savior,  
trusting that grace opens the door to new life,  
and God promises us peace beyond all measure.*

## Prayer of Confession

**Emmanuel, we wait for you. We are impatient for you to come and set things right.  
We are insecure with our world, fearful in our streets, and anxious about ourselves.  
We seldom pause to consider that you are waiting for us — waiting for repentance  
and change, waiting for us to listen and respond with passion to your truth,  
your justice, and your mercy.  
Give us humble hearts and willing spirits to receive you anew as you come to us  
through all the experiences of our lives.**

## 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 the Lord.  
Thanks be to God. 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.**

### ◆ Sharing the Peace

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

## God's Word to Us

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12:2-6

### ◆ Hymn 71 (11:00)

**Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me**

FIRST SONG

Nancy Paulson, cantor

*The cantor will introduce the refrain; the congregation joins on the refrain each time it is repeated.*

◆ Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that God has come to us;  
that God brought us into being,  
that this God gave us breath and purpose,  
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others.**

**We believe that God is coming to us;  
that God is not happy to leave us alone,  
that this God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,  
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.**

**We believe that God will come to us;  
that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,  
that this God will give us the Spirit to continue our work,  
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,  
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless "Alleluia!" Amen.**

*Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing*

Anthem (11:00)

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

arr. John Scott

Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting light,  
O Jesu, Savior of us all,  
Regard thy servants when they call.

At thy great name, majestic now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,  
And things in heaven and earth shall own,  
That thou art Lord and King alone.

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry  
Of all creation doomed to die,  
Didst come to save a ruined race  
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.

To thee, O holy One, we pray,  
Our judge in that tremendous day,  
Preserve us, while we dwell below,  
From every onslaught of the foe.

Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to eveningtide,  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,  
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
Whose advent sets thy people free,  
Whom with the Lord most high adored,  
And Spirit blest, for evermore.

Prayers of the Congregation and the Lord's Prayer

Glory to God hymnal p. 35

◆ Hymn 134

**Joy to the World**

ANTIOCH

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Benediction

**We give you thanks, living God, that you have called us to be your people  
and given us gifts through which you bless the world.**

**In gratitude for your grace, we give back our gifts and our lives to you.**

**Bless these offerings, that through them your love may be known,  
your justice may be lived, and your peace may reign.**

**Lead us to live in the joyful expectation of the glorious return  
of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

- ◆ Please stand, as you are able.

*The flowers today are given in memory of loved ones from Wendy and Jim Craig.*

## What's Happening *at Westminster*

### **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

### **Tuesday, December 14**

7 p.m. Tuesday Evening Bible Study via Zoom

### **Wednesday, December 15**

7 p.m. 20/30 CreW Christmas Party

### **Thursday, December 16**

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **Saturday, December 18**

5 p.m. Christmas Stories on Zoom

### **Sunday, December 19**

#### *Fourth 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. Fellowship Hour in the Fellowship Hall

12:15 p.m. Deacon's Meeting in the Library

3 p.m. Caroling, meet in the Gathering Place

## Westminster Staff

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