

# Service for the Lord's Day

4th Sunday of Advent

December 19, 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

*The Holly and the Ivy*

Herbert Sumsion

Welcome

◆ Hymn HS 7

**Of God's Very Heart Begotten**

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Lighting of the Fourth Candle of Advent (Love)

8:30 Beth and Will Hochstetler

11:00 Rosemary and David Heflin and family

*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 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!**

Sung Response

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

**Let the light banish darkness.**

**He is coming; tell the glad tidings.**

**Let your lights be shining.**

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

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

*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.**

## ◆ 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 of the Peace

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

## God's Word to Us

Old Testament Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

Anthem (11:00)

*Mary's Magnificat*  
 Ellie Weikle, soprano

Andrew Carter

Softly a light is stealing, sweetly a maiden sings, ever wakeful, ever wistful,  
 Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Mary her song to Jesus softly, serenely sings:

'I will love you, I will serve you, may my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of kings'.  
 Lullaby.

## Responding to God's Word

### ◆ 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 99 (11:00)                      **My Soul Gives Glory to My God**                      MORNING SONG

Prayers of the Congregation and the Lord's Prayer                      Glory to God Hymnal, p. 35

### ◆ Hymn 123                      **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**                      CAROL

### ◆ Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son,  
whom you so freely share with us.**

**Bless these gifts that we offer  
to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry  
in your coming reign of justice and peace;  
in Christ's name. Amen.**

### ◆ The Charge and Benediction

Postlude                      *Noël Étranger*                      Louis-Claude Daquin

### ◆ Please stand, as you are able.

# What's Happening

*at Westminster*

## **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

10:00 a.m. Coffee with Ken in the Gathering Place

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour in the Fellowship Hall

3:00 p.m. Caroling, meet in the Gathering Place

## **Monday, December 20**

6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Gathering via Zoom

## **Tuesday, December 21**

6:00 p.m. In-person Longest Night Service in the Sanctuary: Known also as “Blue Christmas,” a Longest Night gathering is a safe and sacred space to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to be held in community as we acknowledge the hurting places in our own lives, as well as in our country and our world. This informal service will include Taizé songs with stringed instruments, Scripture, poetry, prayer, and candle lighting and will not be live-streamed.

## **Thursday, December 23**

7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday, December 24**

5:00 p.m. In-person Christmas Eve service in the Sanctuary

8:00 p.m. Organ Prelude

8:30 p.m. In-person Christmas Eve service in the Sanctuary

Share the joy of the season in a communion service with carols and candlelight on this holiest of nights. The 5:00 service includes a ‘pick-up pageant’ for children of all ages complete with costumes, a short retelling of the Christmas story and a choir. If you’d like to participate in the pageant, you are invited to arrive at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall to pick out a costume before heading over to the Sanctuary. The 8:30 service also includes communion, candlelight and carols, as well as the story from Luke’s gospel with congregational participation. You are invited to arrive at 8:00 p.m. for an organ prelude of seasonal music.

## **Sunday, December 26**

11 a.m. In-person Worship in the Sanctuary