

The Second Sunday of Advent | How does a weary world rejoice?

We find joy in connection



Westminster **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

WHO WE ARE:

Westminster is a community where people of all ages are transformed by God's love to serve and grow as disciples of Jesus.

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Pastor: Rev. Angela Ryo

Music Director & Organist: Verdeen Strain

Contemporary Worship Music Leader: Chris Gloff

Lay Leader: Tom Reynolds

8955 COLUMBIA AVENUE, MUNSTER, IN • 219.838.3131 • WPCMUNSTER.ORG

Sunday, December 10, 2023 - 9 a.m. Service

**Please stand in body or spirit. - BOLD text is sung or spoken in unison.
(The Advent liturgy has been adapted from A Sanctified Art.)*

Guest Organist - Don Hill

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations Come

INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Kelly Rhodes and Janet Krieger

Reader One: How does a weary world practice peace?

Reader Two: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to. By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven. By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

Reader One: There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge. With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We believe in a God who knows our fears.

We believe in a God who says, "Be not afraid!"

We believe in a God who hemmed stars into the night sky so that we can find our way home,

and who sends us friends with open doors, so we can find our way to love.

We believe in a God who finds us in our fear and does not leave us alone.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

*HYMN #116

The Snow Lay on the Ground

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, In the prayer of confession we get to come before God with our full, messy, honest selves. And in the midst of that mess, God tells us that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven. There is no greater joy than that. So join me in the prayer of confession, not because you have to, but because you can. Let us connect with our merciful God.

**Prayer of Confession*

God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news.

We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.

Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.

**Silent Prayer*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives, God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown open. There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing—and it is holy.

We trust and believe this: We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven. And we are sent to serve. We find joy in that. Amen!

**Response*

Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

HYMN #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PNC UPDATE

John Castro

WORD THROUGH MUSIC

I Wonder as I Wander

Westminster Chorale with Kathy Madgiak as soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND PRAYER

O Lord, you bring hope to the despairing and healing to the sick. Direct our gifts to fulfill your purpose as we await the time when all creation is one in your love, by the grace of Jesus Christ and the community of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offertory

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Westminster Handbell Choir

(Children ages Kindergarten through Fifth Grade are invited to exit at this time for Fellowship time in Room 301/302. Parents may pick up after Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.)

**Doxology #606*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, We know that you are near. We know that you are standing at the door, you are running down the driveway, you are inviting us in— into your Word, into relationship, and deeper into joy. So as we approach your Word, O God, we pray: do not let us pass you by. Do not allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us. Do not let us walk down this road without you. Instead, give us the wisdom to turn and run your way. Give us the wisdom to hear your wisdom, to let it sink into our bones and change us. With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:24-45

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Leaping for Joy

Rev. Angela Ryo

*HYMN #93

Lift Up Your Heads

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
Westminster Handbell Choir

WPC PRAYER REQUESTS

New Concerns

Kimberly Bronisz Gardner
Dave Cafmeyer
Carl Strain
Chuck Weier

Weekly Concerns

Linda Bishop (friend of Chuck Weier)
The Borbely family in the passing of
Wendy's husband, Buddy.
The family of Barbara Cook
Cheryl Clement (Alan Carlson's niece)
Charlotte (niece of Barb McKinney)
Patty Dawes
Dave Ferguson
Grace Delcano (friend of Amy Carter)
LuAnn Franklin
Sharon Flinspach (Alan Carlson's daughter
and Bruce Carlson's sister)
Diane Golden (neighbor of Chuck Weier)
Julie (niece of Zora Ludwig)
Paul Hoekstra
Zora Ludwig and family
Susie Nastos (cousin of Cindy Siergey)
Dawn Nielsen (niece of Sandy Walsh)
Sharon Orr and family
Sonja Ross
Donna Sharp
John Shields
The Strand family in the passing of Paul
Jim Vlieg
Kimmy Walker (friend of Nora Alfonsi)
Sandy Walsh in the passing of her cousin
Roland Tapper Jr.
Wendy Wilke-Sola

Continuing Care & Prayers

Ron Allen
David Cafmeyer
Jennifer Dye Foreit (friend/Michelle
Pedrick)
David Dal Santo (Husband of Dawn)
Jack Estill (father of Gene Estill)
Bruce Elliot (cousin of Chuck Weier)
Mike Feege
Ed Harrison
Don Hill
Pat Jaracz
Kim Karlen
John & Carole Keener (family of Ron
Robbins)
Joe McDaniel
Betty Morris
Pedrick family
Morgan Borbely Orrick
Holly Ptacek
Jan Quintelier (cousin of Barb McKinney)
Family of Keith Robbins (brother of Ron
Robbins)
Richard Simkins
Elaine Schnider and her friend Debbie
(friends of Robin Webber)
Colleen Splant (friend of Chuck Weier)
Susan Geri Snider (Zora Ludwig/sister)
Shelly Walsh (friend of Chuck Weier)
Natalie & Jeff Ziemendorf (daughter &
son-in-law/Sonja Ross)

Dec, 10, 2023

Join us for our holiday services this year!



Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

9:30 a.m. - Meditative Morning

5:00 p.m. - Christmas Pageant with Contemporary Worship

10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service



New Year's Eve Service

Sunday, December 31 at 9:30 a.m.

Come celebrate and give thanks for 2023 with one Sunday morning service!

CONTEMPORARY *service*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 • 10:45AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE & WORSHIP

My Soul Magnifies the Lord
Chris Tomlin

Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven
Paul Baloche

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Uidl Family

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:24-45

MESSAGE

Leaping for Joy
Rev. Angela Ryo

REFLECTION

Do You Hear What I Hear?
For King and Country

CLOSING

Glory (Let There Be Peace)
Matt Maher

BLESSING

Today's Events



Sunday School- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School (K-5th) will meet from 10 - 10:30 a.m. in Room 301/302.



Disciples & Donuts - 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

The group will continue their Advent Study today in Room 401.



Bethlehem Market & Living Nativity - 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Join us for two beautiful outdoor Living Nativity shows, at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. with live animals and our annual Bethlehem Market. You will have a chance to shop at local vendor tables and purchase some yummy food from our concession stand!



Quilt Raffle

Quilt Raffle, holiday table runners, small quilts and other items will be available at the Bethlehem Market. Raffle tickets will be sold between worship services. Drawing for the quilt will be at Marketplace.



Adopt-a-Family - Deadline is Today!

Today is the last day to turn in donations! Donations may be placed in the Adopt-A-Family "gift" box in Fellowship Hall. Non-monetary donations may be dropped off in the collection box near the church office.



Westminster Forum - 10:30-11:30 am.

Join us as Rev. Dr. Robert Cathey, professor emeritus from McCormick Theological Seminary, discusses the *"Parliament of the World's Religions: Chicago, August, 2023."*



Poinsettia sales

Poinsettia sales start today! Envelopes are available at the table by the Christmas tree.

Upcoming Events



Suppers of 8

Sign up for 2024 Suppers of 8 today! Suppers of 8 is an opportunity to get to know members and friends of our WPC community better, while sharing a meal. Please read more about it on the card-signing table and sign up today!



Westminster Forum - December 17

Join us as Rev. Dr. Robert Cathey, professor emeritus from McCormick Theological Seminary, discusses the *"Parliament of the World's Religions: Chicago, August, 2023."*



Youth Group Tuesday Activities - December 12

Come right after school for study time or join us from 4:30-5:30 p.m. for fun activities.



Youth Group Volleyball - December 14

Middle School practices 4:30-5:45 p.m. and High School practice is 5:30-6:45 p.m. No practice Dec. 21 or 28 but we will resume at 4:30 on January 4.



Giving Tree - Through December 25

You're invited to participate by making a donation to the organization of your choice after each service on Sundays through December 25 or by visiting our website. As a gift of thanks, we will have thank you cards and handmade ornaments available from the Missions Team.



Congregational Meeting - December 17

There will be only one service at 9:30 on Dec. 17. Please stay afterwards for our congregational meeting to vote on the pastoral candidate presented by PNC.



Blue Christmas - December 21 at 7 p.m.

This service is for those who are feeling weary this Advent season. It will also provide comfort and hope for those who have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief. Join us for a beautiful service of hope for all who are weary and grieving.

If you would like to have a loved one's name to be read during this service, please write