



*Welcome*  
TO  
*Westminster*  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021 - 9:00AM**

**8955 COLUMBIA AVENUE, MUNSTER, IN  
219.838.3131 - [WPCMUNSTER.ORG](http://WPCMUNSTER.ORG)**

**PASTOR: REV. QUINCY A. WORTHINGTON**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR: REV. AUSTIN WICKS**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST: VERDEEN STRAIN**

**LAYLEADER: SARA SWEENEY**

# PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Speaker 1: In the Third Week of Advent, we sing John the Baptist's song for the gifts and graces we received in our baptism.

Speaker 2: We ask, "Does my life today fulfill the expectations and responsibilities of bearing the name of Christian?" What are we doing for the hungry, the oppressed, the sick, the lonely? Do we truly care about the needs of others? Do we accomplish cheerfully all that is expected of us in the work place or the classroom?

**People: Almighty and loving God, Your Son has taught us the way to live as Your children. We were blessed in our baptisms with special gifts and graces, and still there are times when we find it hard to be all that we should be. We ask for an increased awareness of the needs of others and for the courage to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. Please, God, help us to live in Your grace that all who know us will know You and Your love. Amen.**

## INTROIT: CAROL OF THE BELLS - WESTMINSTER HANDBELL CHOIR

### CALL TO WORSHIP - LUKE 3:1-18:

Leader: As Sarah waited, 90 years for a son to fulfill God's promise.

**People: We wait in hope for what we thought had been spoken to us.**

Leader: As Moses waited, 40 years in the desert, being prepared by God to lead his people.

**People: We wait for emptiness and humility; for bravado to wither.**

Leader: As Israel waited, 40 years of wandering, hungry, depressed, thirsting, unsure.

**People: We wait for the right time to act.**

Leader: As the Prophets waited, 1000 years of promises that God would raise up a Saviour.

**People: We wait for the signs that God has not forgotten.**

Leader: As Mary waited, 9 months of her 14 years for the child of God.

**People: We feel the birth-pains, yet fear for the child.**

Leader: As John the Baptist waited, Scanning the crowds for the one whose sandals he would not be worthy to untie.

**People: We long for an experience of the Divine.**

Leader: As Jesus waited, 30 years of creeping time. 40 days in the desert of temptation. 3 years of misunderstanding. 3 days in the depths of hell.

**People: So we wait for God's time. Preparing the way. Our turn to toil on leveling mountains and straightening paths. Our turn to watch the horizon. Our turn to pass on the hope that He who promised is faithful and will come back.**

**\*HYMN #97 WATCHMEN, TELL US OF THE NIGHT**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**People: Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world.**

**\*SILENT REFLECTION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Leader: Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah:**

**People: "I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you."**

**\*THE GLORY TO GOD #581 Gloria Patri**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

**HYMN #108 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN (VERSES 1, 2, 3 & 5)**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## **HEARING THE WORD**

### **WORD THROUGH MUSIC**

**As Latelyl We Watched, Austrian Folk Song arr. Charles Black  
The Westminster Chorale with soloist Holly McCain**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**People: As streets fill with shoppers Bright lights and tempting offers Christmas songs and children's laughter You lead us along a different path. To a desert river and a Prophetic voice. A call to repentance. A call to service. A call to immerse ourselves. In living water that will never run dry. A call to prepare a way in our own lives. For the Savior of the world to enter in. To know the touch of tender mercy. And rest in your forgiving love. For your faithful prophet. And your Living Word. We give you thanks. Amen**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Isaiah 12 (NRSV) • Luke 3:1-18 (CEB)**

**SERMON: REVEREND QUINCY WORTHINGTON**



# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## THE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY: TWAS IN THE MOON OF WINTERTIME**  
ARR CATHY MOKELBUST • THE WESTMINSTER HANDBELL CHOIR

**\*DOXOLOGY #606**

### **\*THE OFFERING PRAYER**

**People: Generous God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have shown us what it means to love. And you call us to follow Your example— to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.**

**Continue to write your law of love on our hearts. Give us an unwavering passion for justice, and a tenacious faith that will not rest until the hungry are fed, the oppressed find relief, and the outsider finds a welcome. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #142 TWAS IN THE MOON OF WINTERTIME**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE: WAKE, AWAKE FOR NIGHT IS FLYING - M. BURKHARDT**

## PRAYER LIST

Baker, George (father of Sarah Baker Kerrick)	Kirk, Elaine (mom of Ann Williams)
Berzinis and Lively families (in loss of Frank's sister Kay)	Largus, Carol
Boender, Jim (husband of Linda, Sam)	LeMonnier, Shari
Bolitho, Albert (Austin's Grandfather)	McDaniel, Joe
Borbely, Buddy	Morgan and Kopper families (in loss of Heidi's brother Hilmar)
Borbely-Orrick, Morgan	Morrow, Adelia (Paige Stephan's daughter)
Boyd, Richard (Rhonda Reynold's brother)	Mullins, Kay (friend of Shirley Golden)
Brown, Tom	Myer, Family
Cook, Barbie (grandson Logan, friends, Kevin, Becky, Michelle, and Jean)	Orr, Denny
Dickman-Lopez Family, (Matthew Beechler, Ginny's cousin, Kelda Lopez, Rob's Sister-in Law)	Pedrick Family
Feege Mike & Terri & Family	Poerio, Kelly (Sue Cook's sister-in-law)
Fehring Family (Nancy Echterling's family)	Rogala, Cheri (Aunt of Heater Bognar)
Henderson, Cathy (sister-in-law of Cheryl Anderson)	Ross, Natalie (Sonja's daughter)
Golden, Bob	Saculla, Sally
Hill, Don	Scahill, Caryl
Holden, Karen (in loss of her father Arnold Handlon)	Siergey, Karen and family (sister-in-law of Cindy Siergey)
Hudson, Ann	Trent, John & Sally
Hughes, Beverly	Troeger, Christine (Glenn Rhodes' sister)
Iwachiw, Myrna (mother of Jerry Iwachiw)	Truhlar, Kathy (friend of Shirley Golden)
Johnson, Carolyn	VanSenus, Matthew
Jones Family	Weier, Chuck, (friend Sheila)
Karlen, Kim	Wright, Donna (friend of Wendy Borbely)
	Yackel, Erna

***If you have a prayer request, please contact Mary Lomey.***



# Upcoming Events

## LIVING NATIVITY & BETHLEHEM MARKET

Our Living Nativity will have a performance at 5pm and 6pm.



Check out vendors while enjoying a hot cup of soup. For a full list of our vendor line-up, please pick up a flyer from Fellowship Hall.

## YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 17 AT 6PM



Enjoy Christmas themed games, snacks, and a white elephant gift exchange. Students should bring a wrapped gift for the exchange of no more than \$10. For more info, please contact Pastor Austin at [awicks@wpcmunster.org](mailto:awicks@wpcmunster.org). *6th-12th grade are invited!*

## LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP

Join us for the longest night of the year remembering loved ones lost on Tuesday, December 21 at 7pm. Together we will have a service of light in the midst of darkness.



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Contemporary Worship at 7pm  
Traditional Worship at 10pm



## THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Visit us on Sunday, December 26 at 10am. Wear your comfiest PJs & come sign Christmas carols during worship.



## CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 6:30PM

Listen to our Worship Band during this service while enjoying coffee, a hot cocoa bar and homemade cookies from all of you!

*Bring your favorite Christmas cookie to share.*

## 2021 CHECK REQUESTS & GIVING STATEMENTS

All Check Requests for 2021 must be dated and submitted to the Financial Secretary by Sunday, December 26, 2021. The Financial Secretary's mailbox is located on the bottom left side of the mailboxes in the work room (102A), next to Austin's office.

All contributions to Westminster Presbyterian Church that are to be included on your 2021 giving statement must be received by 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 30.