

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

We allow ourselves to be amazed



Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Pastor: Rev. Angela Ryo

Music Director & Organist: Verdeen Strain

Contemporary Worship Music Leader: Chris Gloff

Lay Leader: Rebecca McCauley

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

Sunday, December 17, 2023 - 9:30 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.)*

GATHERING MUSIC

Light of the Stable by Lowen and Navarro
Angels We Have Heard on High by Awaken Music
Worship Band

INTROIT

Wait for the Lord

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Russell & Yvonne Loquist

Reader One: How does a weary world practice joy?

Reader Two: By dancing, and throwing birthday parties. By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and looking for good news. By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God can part the sea.

God can bring water from a rock, and provide bread in the desert.

Our God can walk on water.

He can heal the sick, and turn water into wine.

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

God hears our voice when we cry, and is closer than our own breath.

There is nothing our God cannot do.

Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

*HYMN #100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

*CALL TO CONFESSION

When we forget our God is a God of awe and wonder, we distance ourselves from God. In confession, we have the opportunity to close that gap. Let us return to God with hearts wide open. Let us return to God in prayer. Please join me in the prayer of confession:

**Prayer of Confession*

Holy God, in our busy world of data and facts, we face pressure to outgrow awe. We praise those who have answers and assume that wonder is an answerless game. Forgive us for closing that door to you. Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children. Teach us the ways of awe and wonder, so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless, our first words will be words of praise. With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.

**Silent Prayer*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, just as we marvel at sunrises and sunsets, God marvels at us.

There is nothing we could do or leave undone that could prevent God from loving us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

We are forgiven. We are loved. We belong to God. 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 #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD THROUGH MUSIC

The Angel Gabriel

Westminster Chorale

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

We give you thanks, O God, for the great love that you have lavished upon us in Christ Jesus. Teach us to share this love with others through the offerings we present today, bringing the good news of your holy realm to all the ends of the earth. Amen

Offertory

Holy Emmanuel by City on a Hill

Worship Band

(Children Kindergarten through Fifth Grade can exit for a holiday party and movie being shown in the nursery. Parents may pick up their child after today's congregational meeting.)

**Doxology #606*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of the universe, make our hearts porous. Open our eyes, as if for the first time, so that we might see your world with awe and wonder once again. Help us to greet your word with awe and gratitude today so that we will not only find you in the hallways of our thoughts, but in the pathways of our hearts. Keep us open to you. With gratitude we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 126

Luke 1:57-66

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Amazed

Rev. Angela Ryo

*HYMN #137

He Came Down

*BENEDICTION

YEAR-IN-REVIEW SLIDESHOW

Please enjoy the year-in-review slideshow as we transition to our Congregational Meeting. All are invited to stay for the congregational meeting!



Join us for our holiday services this year!



Blue Christmas

Thursday, December 21

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 their names and drop them off in the blue box at the card signing table.



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!

WPC PRAYER REQUESTS

New Concerns

David Cafmeyer
Mary Lou Crowley (leader of The 3 BBBs)
Stacy Pierce (relative of Sandy Walsh)
Carl Strain

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 Vliek
Kimmy Walker (friend of Nora Alfonsi)
Sandy Walsh in the passing of her cousin
Roland Tapper Jr.
Russ Terpstra
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, 17, 2023



Christmas Poinsettias

will grace our sanctuary for all services on **December 24th**

The deadline to purchase a plant is TODAY!

Poinsettia envelopes can be found in the church office.

Please put the completed envelope and check on Gina's desk.

Westminster Connection Point

HOW CAN WE HELP?

_____ A PASTOR _____ A DEACON _____ NEW MEMBER
_____ STEPHEN MINISTER _____ PRAYER REQUEST _____ OTHER
_____ PHONE CALL _____ HOME COMMUNION

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION TO THE OFFERING BOX OR EMAIL THIS INFORMATION TO

Today's Events



Nursery - 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Nursery will be open this morning and care provided through the congregational meeting. Nursery will not be open Dec. 24 or January 31.



Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

Kindergarten through Fifth grade will enjoy the movie "The Star" in the nursery.



Disciples & Donuts -No Meeting Today

The group will not meet today so that they can participate in the congregational meeting. The group will resume on January 7, 2024.



Congregational Meeting

Please stay after service today for our congregational meeting to vote on the pastoral candidate presented by PNC.

Upcoming Events



Suppers of 8

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!



Youth Group Tuesday Activities

Due to finals week, the group will not meet until Thursday, Dec. 21 for the Holiday Party.



Youth Group Volleyball

No Practices until January 4 at regular times. Volleyball Scramble on January 6 from 9 - Noon.



Whole Foods Partnership - Through December 26

Tackling hunger is a critical step in helping families making tough choices in Northwest Indiana. Shop at @WholeFoods and donate at the register until 12/26/23. All proceeds benefit local food rescue and redistribution organizations.



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.



Youth Holiday Party - Thursday, December 21 from 5-7 p.m.

Fun, Food and Games to celebrate Christmas. Bring a \$10 gift for the gift exchange.



Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsal - Friday, December 22 from 10:30 a.m. until Noon

Practice for children ages 3 and up participating in the Christmas Eve pageant (as part of the 5 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service on Dec. 24).



Westminster Forum - Rescheduled for January 7 at 10:30 a.m.

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



Pickleball - Starts January

Interested in playing pickleball? Join us on Saturday, January 6 from 4-6 p.m. and/or Sunday, January 7 from 2-4 p.m. Contact Dave Radovich at dsrmd@