

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

FROM GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

We can choose a better way



Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Pastor: Rev. Angela Ryo

Music Director & Organist: Verdeen Strain

Contemporary Worship Music Leader: Chris Gloff

Lay Leader: Sara Sweeney

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 18, 2022 - 9 a.m. Service

Please stand in body or spirit.* ▪ **BOLD text is sung or spoken in unison.

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Prepare a Way for the Lord

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Jenny Coble & Family

Reader One: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14)..

Reader Two: God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

Reader One: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.'" When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25).

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges.

We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.

And so we strive to live our lives in love and to be the people that God calls us to be.
It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.

*HYMN #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The prayer of confession is an opportunity to slow down. We reflect on the decisions that we've made this past week and we ask for God's mercy to be in all of them. And without fail, God moves into the cracks of our lives, and we are made better for it. With that confidence, let us go to our God in prayer.

**Prayer of Confession*

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

**Silent Prayer*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Family of Faith, hear this good news: We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance. We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known. This is the good news of the gospel.

No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way, God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love. Thanks be 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.

*PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #147

The First Nowell (Verse 1, 2 & 4)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD THROUGH MUSIC

Candlelight Carol

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

Manger Medley

Barry and Beth Reasoner

(During this time, children K-5th grade are invited to join us for Sunday School. Parents may pick them up at 10:30a.m.)

*Doxology #606

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, We long to hear your voice—loud and clear, impossible to miss. We long for invitations to something more, something deeper. And we long to be like Joseph and find the courage to follow. So clean out our ears. Brush the dust off our hearts. Trace us back to our roots—back to Joseph—who heard and followed. With gratitude we listen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

We Can Choose a Better Way

Rev. Angela Ryo

*HYMN #132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Keith Chapman



THE COURAGEOUS CHOICE
by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

(The Advent liturgy has been adapted from A Sanctified Art.)

WPC PRAYER REQUESTS

Our deepest sympathies...

to the family of John Anderson

John was a long time member of WPC he passed away on the morning of December 14. Please keep his family in your prayers. In life and in death we belong to God.

New Concerns

Nancy Cieflak– Lung problems

(sister of Mary Kopasz)

Mary Kopasz– leg condition

Surgeries or Procedures in December

Laura Shields– surgery this week

Jim Yackel–surgery at the end of the month

Weekly Concerns

Prayers for relief /healing/other

Ray Anna

Lou Anselmo– recovering, shoulder surgery

Mario Bravo–92 years old, brain bleed

(friend/Barbie Cook)

Rachel Cook–macular degeneration and abdominal surgery (family/Barbie Cook)

Betty Curvey– recovering/shoulder surgery

Family of Dan Fieldhouse

(friend/Shirley Golden)

Donna Gross– surgery (friend of Pam Yttri)

Kim Karlen

Koenes, Leonard– nerve pain/Shingles

Medd Family (friend/Karen Comstock)

Kim Piekarski– breast cancer

(sister-in-law of Patty Yackanich)

Continuing Care & prayers

Ron Allen

Jean Armstrong

Buddy Borbely

Morgan Borbely Orrick

Tom Brown

Jessica Cook, (friend/Daun DePaul)

Jennifer Dye Foreit (friend/Michelle Pedrick)

Jack Estill (father of Gene Estill)

Mike & Terri Feege/Fehring

Taddy Ferguson (sister of Gene Estill)

Fiegle Family (passing of Carol)

Mary Lou Feist (Family/Cheryl Anderson)

Ed Harrison

Don Hill

Elaine Kirk (mother of Ann Williams)

Eden & Eliana Les (friends/Wendy Borbely)

Joe McDaniel

Hunter Mitchell– return of brain cancer

(friend/Diane Hart-Coons)

Tracy Mitrano (niece of Art Morgan)

Denny Orr

Pedrick family

Abigail Poerio (Niece of Sue Cook)

Eugene Pidzarko

Nancy & Terry Quinn

Robbins Family

Jeff Rothstein (friend of Sandy Baker)

Jim Siergy

Richard Simkins

Susan Geri Snider (Zora Ludwig/sister)

Trent Family (passing of John & Sally)

Sally VanBokkelen

Robin Webber– health concerns

Yackel Family (passing of Erna)

Natalie & Jeff Ziemendorf

(daughter & son-in-law/Sonja Ross)

DECEMBER 18, 2022



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

Contemporary Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022 • 10:45AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Castro Family

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Little Drummer Boy

For King and Country

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Caedmon's Call

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

MESSAGE

We Can Choose a Better Way

Rev. Angela Ryo

REFLECTION

Love Came Down At Christmas

Shawn Colvin

CLOSING SONGS

Angels We Have Heard On High

Chris Tomlin

BLESSING

Today's Events



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

Join us for donuts and a devotion.

Middle School - Room 401 • High School - Room 305



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

K-5th Grade will attend Sunday School.



Westminster Forum at 10:30 a.m. in Room 209

Join us for this week's Westminster Forum with Fred Niedner from Valparaiso University. He will be discussing "When Theologies Fail and Worlds Crumble."



Dungeons & Dragons

Play D&D with us at 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in room 401 - Door 7 will be open



2022 Giving Tree - Now through Dec. 19

You're invited to participate by making a donation to an organization of your choice now through December 19th either between services on Sunday or online at www.wpcmunster.org. As a gift of thanks, Missions has handmade ornaments and thank you cards available.

Upcoming Events



Longest Night - December 21 at 7 p.m.

Christmas may not be joyful for everyone, especially if you're grieving over the loss of loved ones during this time. Join us for a service of comfort and hope on this longest night.

***If you have a loved one lost during 2022, we will say their name during this service. Please submit the names to Gina at gnida@wpcmunster.org



Christmas Eve Services at 4 p.m., 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Our annual Children's Christmas pageant will be a part of 4 p.m. worship service. The Contemporary Service will be at 7 p.m. and our Traditional Service at 10 p.m, both will be candlelight services.



Christmas Morning Service at 10 a.m.

Come celebrate Christmas with us! You can even come in your pajamas to sing carols and share the joy of this special Sunday!

2023

New Years Day 10 a.m. Worship Service

Start out your 2023 with worship and let's ring in the new year together! Join us for a special Sunday service on Jan. 1!



WPC Blood Drive - Jan. 6 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Visit our app or website under upcoming events to schedule an appointment.



New Member Meet & Greet - Jan. 22 at Noon

Are you interested in becoming a part of our church family? Come meet the pastor and other members and find out more about our church!

There are a few ways you can sign up

1. Sign up at the visitors table
2. Call the church at 219-838-3131
3. Email gnida@wpcmunster.org
4. Or, visit the app/website under upcoming events to register!