



Welcome
TO
Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24, 2023

Pastor: Rev. Angela Ryo

Music Director & Organist: Verdeen Strain

Contemporary Worship Music Leader: Chris Gloff

Lay Leader: David Radovich

8955 Columbia Avenue, Munster, IN

219.838.3131 • wpcmunster.org

Sunday, December 24, 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.)*

Pianist for the service: Jim McNabney

INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Solis Family

Reader One: How does a weary world practice love?

Reader Two: By sending cards, and picking up the phone.

Reader One: By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others.

Reader Two: By learning people's stories, and finding common ground.

Reader One: By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.

Reader Two: There are a million ways to practice love.

Reader One: So today we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge.

Reader Two: With God's help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

How does a weary world rejoice?

We sing songs of hope.

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship.

We hope.

Against all odds, we hope.

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

Let us worship the holy God.

*HYMN #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Family of faith, we all know that a small group of convicted people can change the world. That's how it's always been. People like Mary, people like Zechariah, people like John the Baptist. And yet, we rarely feel like we can be one of those people. We downplay our ability to make a difference. We choose pessimism over optimism. Fortunately for us, our God carries enough hope and grace for all of us. So let us go to God in prayer.

**Prayer of Confession*

Holy God, More days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world. With open hearts we pray, amen.

**Silent Prayer*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Body of Christ, no matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers, we still belong to God. So hear and repeat these words after me: I am God's beloved.

I am God's beloved.

I am forgiven.

I am forgiven

I am blessed and sent to serve.

I am blessed and sent to serve.

This is the good news of the Gospel.

Thanks be to God for God's unending love. 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 #135

There's a Star in the East

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD THROUGH MUSIC

The Reasoners

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

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.

Offertory

The Reasoners

(Children and youth are invited to stay through the duration of the service this morning.)

**Doxology #606*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, the grass withers and the flowers fade, but your Word stands forever. So today we pray—help us to truly hear it. Allow your words to sink deep into the marrow of our bones. Allow your words to lift our hearts in hope, that we might feel one day closer to your promised day. With hopeful and grateful hearts we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

A poetic reading of John 1:1-5

MONOLOGUES

Mary's Story by Sara Solis

What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

The Wonder of His Birth by Brandon Smith

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Joseph's Story by Craig Thompson

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

***HYMN #114**

Away in a Manger

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

WPC PRAYER REQUESTS

Heartfelt Sympathy

The family of Carl Strain

New Concerns

Judith Mills (niece of Sandy Walsh)
Glenn Rhodes
Pat Snyder (mother of Christine Cangiano)
Patty Yackanich

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)
Mary Lou Crowley (leader of The 3 BBBs)
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
Stacy Pierce (relative of Sandy Walsh)
The Strand family in the passing of Paul
Jim Vliet
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
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)



Christmas Poinsettias

In Joyful Recognition of
Pastor Angela Ryo, "Welcome"
From: The WPC Staff

In Joyful Recognition of
Our 60th Wedding Anniversary
From: Jim & Margaret McNabney

In Memory of
Husband/Father: Buddy Borbely
From: Wendy Borbely
& Morgan Orrick

In Memory of
Joan Cerajewski
From: Jean Dixon

In Memory of
Karyn Emily Colias
From: Jim & Susan Colias

In Memory of
James Fitzgerald Jaracz
From: Pat Jaracz

In Memory of
James Francis Jaracz
From: Pat Jaracz

In Memory of
Doris & Earl Knudson
From: Mike Moses

In Memory of
Sally Erica Maggio
From:
Joe & Sally Van Bokkelen

In Memory of
Karen & Bruce Moses
From: Mike Moses

In Memory of
Eugene Pidzarko
From: Zora Ludwig

In Memory of
Tim Sweeney
From: Sara Sweeney

In Memory of
Vern & Bette Schindler
and Roland Strains
From: Holly
& Steve Strains

In Memory of
Our Parents:
Mae & Jim Smith
From: Robin Webber
& Wendy Borbely

In Memory of
John & Sally Trent
From: Joe & Diane Coons

In Memory of
Our Parents
From: Holly Ptacek
& Daun DePaul

*Thank
you* for the
Beautiful
Christmas
Poinsettias!

Today's Events



Nursery, Sunday School and Disciples & Donuts -No Meeting Today
These groups will not meet today to give our teachers a holiday break. However, the nursery is open for parents to use if need arises.



Christmas Eve Services
5:00 p.m. - Christmas Pageant with Contemporary Worship
10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service

Upcoming Events



Youth Group Tuesday Activities
Will resume January 9 with afterschool study time from 3 - 4:30 p.m. and activity from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.



Youth Group Volleyball
Practice will resume January 4 at regular times. Then the players will kick off their season with a scramble tournament on January 6 from 9 - Noon at Westminster.



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.



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!



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 dsr@dsmrad@sbcglobal.net or register through the app.



College Student Reunion Night - Tuesday, January 2 from 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Students home from college on break are invited for an evening of food, fellowship and volleyball.



Youth Group Ski Trip - January 27
Youth 6-12th grade are invited to the annual ski trip to Bittersweet on January 27, 2023. Contact Tricia for more details.