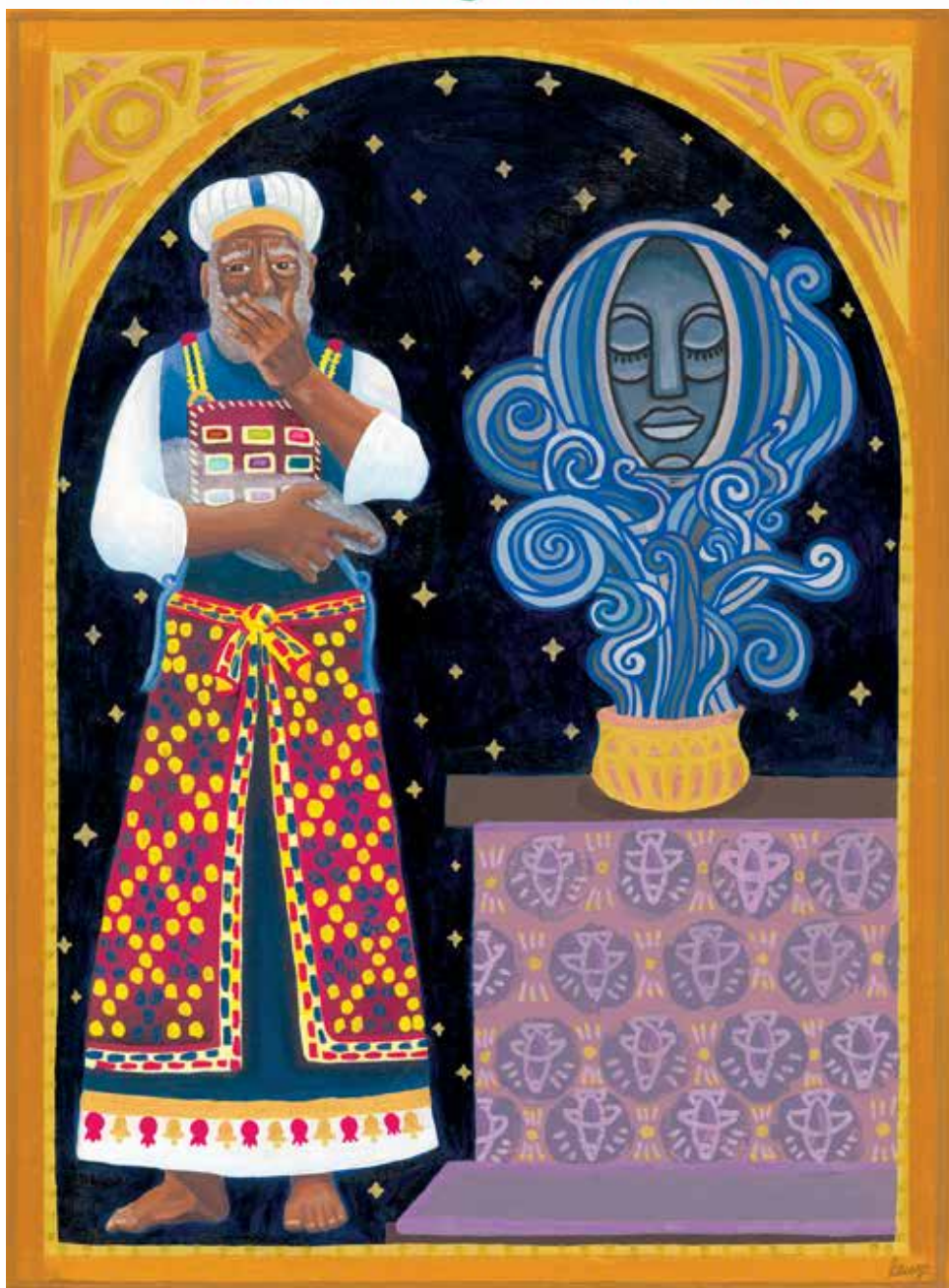


The First Sunday of Advent | How does a weary world rejoice?
We acknowledge our weariness



Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Pastor: Rev. Angela Ryo

Music Director & Organist: Verdeen Strain

Contemporary Worship Music Leader: Chris Gloff

Lay Leader: Craig Thompson

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

Sunday, December 3, 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.)*

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations Come

INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Smith Family

Reader One: How does a weary world hope?

Reader Two: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring. By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk. By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

Reader One: There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious, and everything in between.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

*HYMN #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1, 6 & 7)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, scripture tells us over and over again of a loving, generous, and gracious God. So may we come to the prayer of confession today, not with fear, but with an awe so deep that we ask ourselves, "How can this be?" Let us pray responsively.

**Prayer of Confession .*

Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

**Silent Prayer*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?" God's love keeps showing up for us.

We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. 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, amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

HYMN #85

Light One Candle

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH IN ACTION

Barb Terpstra on the Giving Tree

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND PRAYER

O Lord our God, You are faithful to your promises, showing steadfast love to your people. Receive this offering of our lives as a sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise. Let our lives show forth to all the world the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Offertory

John Magrou

(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

Loving God, the source of our joy, as we turn our hearts toward your Word, we ask that you would soften us. Soften the callouses on our hearts. Weave yourself in between the cracks in our spirits. And plant hope where there is room. And as you do this, like flowers toward the sun, we will turn ourselves toward you, eager to hear a Word so good that we cannot help but ask ourselves, "How can this be?" With openness and gratitude we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:5-20

SERMON

How Can This Be?
Rev. Angela Ryo

COMMUNION

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Communion Music

Of The Father's Love Begotten

Westminster Chorale

Prayer after Communion

***HYMN #106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Westminster Connection Point

HOW CAN WE HELP?

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A PASTOR | <input type="checkbox"/> A DEACON | <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STEPHEN MINISTER | <input type="checkbox"/> PRAYER REQUEST | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PHONE CALL | <input type="checkbox"/> HOME COMMUNION | |

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION TO THE OFFERING BOX OR EMAIL THIS INFORMATION TO
GNIDA@WPCMUNSTER.ORG

CONTEMPORARY *service*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023 • 10:45AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE & WORSHIP

King of Kings
Brendon Heath

Come Thou Long Expected
Red Mountain Music

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Jean and Robbie Dixon

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:5-20

MESSAGE

How Can This Be?
Rev. Angela Ryo

COMMUNION

Shelter
Pat

CLOSING

For Unto Us/Open the Eyes of My Heart
Paul Baloche

BLESSING

WPC PRAYER REQUESTS

New Concerns

John Shields
Paul Hoekstra
Grace Delcano


Weekly Concerns

PNC Committee
Linda Bishop (friend of Chuck Weier)
Cathy Bomberger and family in the passing of her son Craig.
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 (family of Gene & Paula Estill)
LuAnn Franklin
Sharon Flinspach (Alan Carlson's daughter and Bruce Carlson's sister)
Diane Golden (neighbor of Chuck Weier)
Julie (niece of Zora Ludwig)
Zora Ludwig and family
Susie Nastos (cousin of Cindy Siergey)
Dawn Nielsen (niece of Sandy Walsh)
Sharon Orr and family
Sonja Ross
(Sandy Coxhead's niece-in-law)
Donna Sharp
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.
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)
The Family of Larry Toll
Shelly Walsh (friend of Chuck Weier)
Natalie & Jeff Ziemendorf (daughter & son-in-law/Sonja Ross)

Dec, 3, 2023

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



How does a weary world rejoice?



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.