

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



An Inclusive Community of Faith
United by Our Belief in and Commitment to Jesus Christ



**Westminster Presbyterian Church
A Service for the Worship of God**

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

We Gather in God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

René Wilson

Jesus says, I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Interlude

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Wilson Family

Family: We light one candle expecting hope.
It is a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, in the days to come...
The people who walk in darkness, will see a great light.

**People: Those who live in a land of deep darkness,
on them, light will shine.**

Prayer of the Day

***Hymn #2**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

HYFRDOL

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

Call to Confession

HYMN #4

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.*

Prayer of Confession

Lord we pray that you will break through the heavens and come down. Shake up our complacency. Stir up our comfort with the way things are. Turn over the established order of what has always been. Wake us up, for heaven's sake. For we confess that sleep has overcome us. Sin has ordered our lives. And injustice has shaped our common life. Forgive us.

Silent confession of personal and corporate sin.

Remembering God's mercy, we continue our prayer.

You, O Lord, are our Father, we are the clay and you are our potter. We are the work of your hand. Shape us again in your likeness and fill us with your Spirit. Make us lanterns through which the light of your hope might shine. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Response of Praise

*To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.*

*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

We Hear God's Word

Time for All God's Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
² ^[a] as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered^[c] us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 13: 24-37

²⁴ “But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he^[a] is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert;^[b] for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

“Expecting Hope”

*O that you would tear open the heavens and come down...
Isaiah 64:1*

We Respond to God’s Word

***Hymn #8**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here!
Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.*

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Amen.*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Prayers of the People and the 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.

*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey.
Show forth the glory of your God, Which shines on you today.
Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captives' liberty, Good tidings to the poor.
Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken hearted ones And comfort those who mourn.
Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Organist: Larry Dozier

Vocalist: John Lake

Announcements

Be an Angel for Meg's House

Celebrate the gift of Christ's coming by providing gifts for a family sheltering at Meg's House. Next week, look in the narthex for a tree decorated with angel ornaments. Each ornament will have information about a particular wish from one of the members of the family we are adopting. Enjoy shopping to fulfill that wish, and bring the gift to church by Sunday, December 20th. New Faith is also adopting a Meg's House family. We hope to get together to organize and deliver the gifts.

Joint Lessons & Carols

This Joint event will be held on December 13th. More details will be coming.

One Can Donation

During Thanksgiving, we hope to spend time with families. Due to COVID many families will not be together AND many more are struggling with financial needs that we can only imagine. Please think of those in need and donate food supplies. No one wants to be hungry on any day, but especially not on Thanksgiving.

Wednesday, December 2

Bell Choir Rehearsal: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (in Sanctuary). To make friends and to make music.

Evening Study Group: 7:00 p.m. in person or via Zoom. Preapre for the coming of the “Mighty God.”

Thursday, December 3

Pop Up Prayers: 8:30 a.m. LIVE in the narthex now that the weather has turned chilly.

Sunday, December 6

Communion

Quest: Youth

Lunch Leisure and Learning.