

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

THE LORD'S DAY OF WORSHIP — 04 December 2022

## The Sanctuary: A House of Prayer and Preparation

Welcome to Westminster! We offer a short time for meditation at 9:40, before the service starts. Join us to prepare your heart for worship, and we will begin our time of announcements and the call to worship at 9:45.

### **Meditation: Preparing our Hearts for Worship (Matthew 1:20-25)**

*But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:*

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call His name Immanuel"*

*(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a Son. And he called His name Jesus.*

## Welcome + Announcements

*The Bethlehem Candle ~ The Triolo Family*

### **Second Week of Advent: The Bethlehem Candle (purple candle)**

The second candle is the Bethlehem candle whose light bears witness to the Savior who was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King. From Bethlehem, though little among the clans of Judah, the light has shined around the world to bring people of all nations out of darkness into His marvelous Light. King David had been born in Bethlehem a thousand years before Jesus, and it had become known as the City of David. God highly honored David by promising him that the Messiah would come from one of his descendants and from the city of Bethlehem. David's greater son, Jesus, is also a King who reigns over His Kingdom, a Kingdom that has no end.

## God Calls Us to Worship Him (Psalm 66:1-2 & 4)

### Call to Worship:

Leader: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

People: sing the glory of His name;  
give to Him glorious praise!

Unison: All the earth worships You  
and sings praises to You;  
they sing praises to Your name."

### Prayer of Invocation + Adoration

### Hymn of Praise + Adoration

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Songbook 115)

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## God Graciously Renews Us in Christ

### Corporate Confession of Sin:

Leader: *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, (Jeremiah 17:9-10a). Therefore, let us confess our sins saying ...*

People: **Awesome and compassionate God, You have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved You. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive Your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.**

Silent Confession & Reflection

The Words of the Gospel for those who repent and believe:

Leader: *Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53: 11-12).*

People: **Amen!**

### Hymn of Renewal:

**God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen (Hymn #211)**

## God Calls Us to Make Offerings

### Tithes + Offerings:

The Offering of the Prayers of the People: Mike McDonald

Missionaries: Nolton & Kate Beale ~ Reynosa, Mexico

Reach South Texas

People: 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.

### The Collection of our Tithes + Offerings

While there are many ways to contribute financially to God's Kingdom, the church is the primary means by which that kingdom is established on earth. Thus, God calls us first and foremost to be faithful in the regular, ongoing support of one's local church body through tithes and offerings. If you haven't made tithing a practice, please consider adopting tithing or generous giving as a spiritual practice—that you might grow in faith and that together we might increase Westminster's capacity to be the body of Christ in Bryan & College Station for the world.

If you give to Westminster online or by mail, please take a stone as you enter the sanctuary. You may place your stone in the offering plate as it comes your way as a physical token of your offering to the LORD. (This is also a great way to teach children and others about sacrificial giving.) If you would like to participate with your giving in real time, visit our website to give online, under the Giving + Membership tab. Or, set up text giving: text the number of an amount to 979-200-4600 and then enter your credit card information.

### Offertory

### The Presentation of our Tithes + Offerings

### Prayer of Dedication

### Hymn of Preparation:

### Immanuel (vvl-2) (Songbook #73)

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# God Gives Us His Word

## Morning Lesson

*Immanuel*

Isaiah 7:1-14

REV WADE COLEMAN

## Hymn of Response:

### Immanuel (vv3-4) (Songbook #73)

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## God Feeds Us His Covenant Meal

### The Lord's Supper:

#### A Word about Communion at Westminster

This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or The Eucharist, which means 'thanksgiving') is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat bread and drink wine. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to an evangelical church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ. We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from partaking until doing so.

### Preparation for Communion

#### Words of Institution: I Corinthians 11:23-26

#### Invitation + Warning

#### Prayer + Setting Apart the Bread and Wine

## Holy Communion

Westminster uses wine and grape juice in serving the Lord's Supper. You will find pre-packaged cups of grape juice marked "J" on the outer row of each tray and pre-packaged wine marked "W" in the inner rows of the tray. Each person may take the element according to his or her conscience.

We offer an alternate bread wafer for those with gluten and dairy allergies (also soy and egg free). These cups are marked gluten free in the service trays.

### Prayers for Those Not Communing:

Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who You are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of You that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that You promise. Amen. **Prayer of Searching for Truth**

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that You have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive You as my savior. Amen. **Prayer of Believing on Jesus**

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in You the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on You, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me and run with perseverance the race that You have set before me, looking only to You, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen. **Prayer of Struggling Against Sin**

### Distribution of Communion Elements

#### Communion Hymn:

#### **Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground) (Songbook #45)**

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### Taking Together the Bread and Cup

## Confession of Faith

### Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 1:

Leader: What is the chief end of man?

People: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

## God Blesses Us and Sends Us Forth

### Benediction: Numbers 6:24-26

*The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

People: Amen!

### Benediction (verse 1)

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## Passing of the Peace

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

GREET ONE ANOTHER WITH A SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP SUCH AS:  
"THE PEACE OF CHRIST BE WITH YOU" & "AND ALSO WITH YOU."