

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

THE LORD'S DAY OF WORSHIP — 22 December 2024

## 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.

## Offering Stones

If you give financially 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 during the offertory as a physical token of your offering to the LORD. (This is also a great way to teach children and others about sacrificial giving.)

## Meditation: Preparing our Hearts for Worship

(Numbers 21:4-9; Galatians 4:4)

*From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.*

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law. ESV*

**Welcome + Announcements**

## Fourth Week of Advent: The Angels' Candle (purple candle)

The fourth candle is the angels' candle, representing the angels, who heralded the Good News of Light to a darkened world. The angels were created by God to fill His heavenly court with the praise of His name. They devote themselves to serving God in heaven by delighting to do His will. God also uses them as messengers of His Good News to men and women on earth.

## God Calls Us to Worship Him (Psalm 106:47-48)

### Call to Worship:

Leader: Save us, O Lord our God,  
and gather us from among the nations,

People: that we may give thanks to your holy name  
and glory in your praise.

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting!

All: And let all the people say, "Amen!"  
Praise the Lord!

### Prayer of Invocation + Adoration

### Hymns of Praise + Adoration

### Angels from the Realms of Glory (Hymn #218)

Public Domain. CCLI License #1148879

# God Graciously Renews Us in Christ

## Corporate Confession of Sin:

Leader: *He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)*

Let us then confess our sins saying ...

All: God of everlasting love,  
we confess that we have been unfaithful  
to our covenant with You.  
We have worshipped other gods: money, power, greed,  
and convenience.  
We have served our own self-interest  
Instead of serving only You and Your people.  
We have not loved our neighbor as You have commanded.  
Forgive us, gracious God,  
and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with You.  
Through Christ, our Lord, we pray...

## Silent Confession & Reflection

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

Leader: *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13-14)*

All: Amen!

## Hymn of Renewal

To Us a Child of Hope is Born (Hymn #233; Tune: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

Public Domain. CCLI License # 1148879

# God Calls Us to Make Offerings

## Tithes + Offerings:

The Offering of the Prayers of the People: Paul McDonald

Missionaries: Jim & Carin – MTW New York City

Ministry: Gideons International

WPC Ministry: Grow - Children's Ministry [Summer Programs & Volunteers]

All: 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 [wpcbryan.org](http://wpcbryan.org) to give online, and navigate to the Giving + Membership tab. You may give online using a credit card or bank draft through our ChurchTrac portal. If you prefer to set up text giving, text the number of an amount to 844-987-4483 and you'll be guided through setup.

## Offertory

## The Presentation of our Tithes + Offerings

## Prayer of Dedication

# God Gives us His Word

*New Life: Nothing is Impossible with God = You*

John 3:1-16

REV. JACK DABNEY

Hymn of Response:

Good Christian Men, Rejoice (Hymn #207)

Public Domain Arr. A. Mikeal. CCLI License # 1148879

## God Feeds Us His Covenant Meal

The Lord's Supper:

Preparation for Communion

Words of Institution: I Corinthians 11:23-26

Invitation + Warning

Prayer + Setting Apart the Bread and Wine

Holy Communion

Distribution of Communion Elements

Communion Hymn:

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Hymn #201)

Public Domain. CCLI License # 1148879

Taking Together the Bread and Cup

## Confession of Faith

### Philippians 2:6-11

Leader: Let us confess our faith and loyalty to God...

All: We believe in our hearts and confess with our lips  
that Christ Jesus "being in very nature God,  
Did not consider equality with God something to be grasped  
But made Himself nothing taking the very nature of a servant  
Being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself  
And became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place  
And gave Him the Name that is above every name,  
That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow  
In heaven and on earth and under the earth  
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord  
To the glory of God the Father!

## God Blesses Us and Sends Us Forth

Benediction:

### 2 Corinthians 13:14

Leader: *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

All: AMEN!

### Benediction (vs. 2) (Songbook #26)

## Passing of the Peace

Leader: 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."