

# *Westminster Presbyterian Church*

222 Schoolhouse Lane ~ Columbus, OH 43228 ~ 614-878-4623 ~ westminstercolumbus.org

Disciples – Everyone here!

January 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

**As we prepare to worship** “And that, within the New Year spread before us, Our feet may tread the path thy Saints have trod, And thy bright angels watching ever o’er us Lead us in safety to thy home, O God!” (Marcella Agnes Fitzgerald, “A Winter Day,” 1886)

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**Ringing the church bell calls us to worship**

**Welcome & Prayer requests – joys and concerns**

**Announcements**

## **Prelude**

**\*Call to Worship** Isaiah 49:7 and 60:6 , Liturgist

Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One... “Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you... the young camels of Midian and Ephah; They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD... Let us worship God with the joy and anticipation of the Magi!

**\*Hymn** “We Three Kings” # 151

**Call to Confession** (Please be seated) I John 1

“If we claim that we’re free of sin, we’re only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is sheer nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins – make a clean breast of them – God won’t let us down... God will forgive our sins.

**Unison Prayer of Confession** (by Laura Jean Truman, “A Prayer for the Tired, Angry Ones”)

**Grant us the courage to take the single step that is in front of us, Jesus. Keep our anger from becoming meanness. Keep our sorrow from collapsing into self-pity. Keep our hearts soft enough to keep breaking. Keep our outrage turned toward justice, not cruelty. Remind us that all of our efforts are for love. Keep us fiercely kind. Grant that we may pass through the coming year with faithful hearts... Jesus, hear our silent prayers...**

## **Declaration of Forgiveness**

"But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds" (James 3:17 NLT). Because of Jesus Christ, and by his grace, we are all forgiven.

**Thank you, God!**

## **\*Joyful Response "You Belong to Christ" # 492**

(based on Galatians 3:27 + 29 and I Corinthians 3:23)

## **\*Pass the Peace of Christ**

The Peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Let your Living Word be our guiding star. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## **Old Testament Lesson** Isaiah 60:1-6

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Lesson** Matthew 2:1-12

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon "A Time for Kneeling"**

"They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh."

(Matthew 2:11)

Good News for us who wonder  
if God is doing anything all these days in the church.

Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle, Gap Pastor

## **\*Statement of Faith**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.**

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.

### **Invitation to Our Joyful and Generous Stewardship Together –**

As we acquire more things in our lives, we do not become more and more independent. We must not build larger storehouses in order to preserve our riches. We can choose to find new outlets for sharing, for helping and for giving. We are not free *not* to give. *Not* giving imprisons us. *Not* giving reduces the breadth and depth of our living. *Not* giving, the narcissistic obsession with self, forges manacles on our spirit. (Eugene Peterson *Traveling Light*)

### **Offertory**

**\*Doxology** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" # 606

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Thomas O. Chisholm, hymn # 39

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!**  
**Morning by morning, new mercies, I see.**  
**All I have needed thy hand hath provided.**  
**Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me! Amen.**

**\*Hymn** "The First Noel" # 147

### **The Invitation to the Lord's Supper**

All who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and confess their sins are invited by him to come to his table.

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 God our thanks and praise.**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, 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.**

## Acclamation of Faith

According to Christ's commandment:

**#553** "Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen; Christ Will Come Again"

## The Words of Institution and Celebration of the Feast

Please hold on to the bread until all have been served. Hold onto the juice until all have been served. We will eat the bread together and drink the juice together as the Body of Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Response "Blest Be the Tie That Binds Our Hearts" **# 306**

**(stanza one only)**

## **Prayer for the New Year** - from *Common Prayer – A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*

**Lord, help me now to unclutter my life, to organize myself in the direction of simplicity. Lord, teach me to listen to my heart; teach me to welcome change, instead of fearing it. Lord. I give you these stirrings inside me. I give you my discontent. I give you my restlessness. I give you my doubt. I give you my despair. I give you all the longing I hold inside. Help me to listen to these signs of change, of growth; help me to listen seriously and follow where they lead through the breathtaking empty space of an open door. Amen.**

## **\*Benediction**

## **\*Postlude**



Westminster Presbyterian Church was founded December 4, 1955

### Our Mission - our purpose

To bring God's word to everyone, that God loves **everyone**, including you. The Gospel calls us not to just preach, but also to practice Christ's compassion for all by serving others and leaving no one out.

### Vision – our roadmap

The vision of Westminster Presbyterian Church is to build our community of Christ with love and care. We are committed to reaching across the street, and around the world to proclaim the Gospel.

## **Announcements**

### **Next Sunday – Worship at Galloway Presbyterian Church – 10:45.**

Pastor Jon will be preaching. Renewal of Baptism Vows – a time for us to answer our Baptism questions again and to renew our faith and our confidence in God's plan for our lives. Dessert and beverage provided after worship for our fellowship time together.

A prayer you may use this evening at bedtime. "Praised are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings sleep to my eyes, slumber to my eyelids. May it be Your will, Lord my God and God of my ancestors, that I lie down in peace and that I arise in peace. Let my sleep be undisturbed by troubling thoughts, bad dreams, and wicked schemes. May I have a night of tranquil slumber. May I awaken to the light of a new day, that my eyes may behold the splendor of Your light. Praised are You, Lord whose glory gives light to the entire world." — Bedtime Shema, an essential and daily prayer of Judaism, proclaiming the Oneness of God.

In case we had to call your family member for some reason, would you like an **emergency number** listed in the Directory? Please give Melinda a note or drop it in the offering plate.

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held after worship on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. The budget and Annual Reports and the 2025 Contact List will be available. A Question & Answer time will be provided with our Elders. A luncheon will follow with a PowerPoint of 200 photos of our 2024 activities.

**Coming to a church near you soon!** (actually, it's us)... WPC has been blessed with volunteers who have made sure we always have ushers, liturgists, communion servers, etc., and we are so very grateful to all of them for their tireless work. During this time, we've had some new folks join us who have indicated an interest in helping in these areas and we want to be sure we aren't leaving anyone out. In the new year, the Worship Committee will take a look at a way to include all who are anxious to serve our church, so we will look toward a new sign-up sheet or form of rotation. In this manner, whether you have been a long-time member or are a new kid on the block, all will join together to serve. Thank you to all those who have been on duty for so long and we look forward to your continued participation. So, watch your bulletins in the days ahead as we work to bring WPC folks together in these endeavors. Thanks so much for your interest and your help. God bless you all.

Linda Crumley,

Worship Committee Chair

