

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

Disciples – Everyone here!

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

As we prepare to worship - “but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.” (Luke 24:21, after Jesus was killed)

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Ringing the church bell calls us to worship

Welcome & Prayer Cards

Prayer requests – joys and concerns

Announcements

Today we add a congregational introit and a new “Joyful response.”

Prelude

Congregational Introit for Advent Candlelighting

“Wait for the Lord” (Psalm 27) # 90 (refrain only)

Our Advent candlelighting Scripture readings will be from Psalm 27.



Lighting of the First Advent Candle of HOPE

Reading from Psalm 27:1-3 and words of Hope

***Call to Worship** (from “Waiting” by Kathy Clark-Dickens)

Pam Johnston, Liturgist

All of our lives we have waited for the project to be completed, waited for supper to be ready, waited for the doctor to see us, waited at the traffic light, waited for the right relationship, waited to grow up.

We have waited alone or waited with friends; we have waited anxiously or expectantly.

Some waits have brought joy and other waits have brought bad news. Some waits have been “worth waiting for.”

Now it is Advent, and we are waiting again, waiting in the darkness of our souls – ravaged by sorrow, anger and fear.

But we do not despair in the waiting ... the memories of silent nights with starlit skies are with us...

And so we hope for the Messiah to come again into our lives.

Make room for the Prince of Peace. Let us worship Emmanuel, "God with us."

***Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" # 88

Singing stanzas 1-3

"Emmanuel" from Matthew 1:23; "Wisdom" from Psalm 111:10; and "Lord of might" from Isaiah 30:29

Call to Confession (Please be seated)

We know that nothing can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ. Trusting in God's love, may we confess the wrong which we have done.

Unison Prayer of Confession Unison Prayer of Confession Merciful God, we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of Your Kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we might journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask You to make us ready for His coming.

...a time of silent prayer...

Declaration of Forgiveness

Because of Jesus Christ, and by his grace, we are all forgiven.

Thank you, God!

***Joyful Response** from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" # 88

Singing the **refrain:**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***Pass the Peace of Christ**

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

Prayer for Illumination

Emmanuel, as we wait for your return, help us to see your glory and love through the reading and the preaching of your Word. We pray in your name. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7: 10-14

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

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1: 18-25

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

Sermon "Will Joseph Please Come to the Front of the Stable"

~ Rev. Jennifer Turick, Guest Preacher

Invitation to Our Joyful and Generous Stewardship Together –

Offertory

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

O Mighty One, You have done and are doing great things for us and Holy is your name. Bless all we offer to You—ourselves, our time, and our possessions that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Invitation to the Lord's Supper

The 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

***Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

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***Benediction**

***Postlude**



Serving Westminster Presbyterian Church

Our Session - Elders – Linda Crumley, Trent Rowe, Karen Flowers, Lynne Kelly (Clerk)

Our Deacons - Jim Benney, Pam Johnston, Carol Jones & Joyce Sizemore

Church Staff – Karen Flowers, Sexton

Rene Miller, Treasurer

Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle, Gap Pastor

Olivia Mitchem, Pianist

Announcements

Advent is the beginning of the church that carries us through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary time. These four Sundays will have the themes of Hope-Peace-Joy-Love as church members light the four candles on the Advent wreath. The center white Christ candle will be lit on Christmas Eve. We open worship singing and rejoicing because "Emmanuel," meaning "God with us," is both with us now and yet to come again, a mystery of our faith. Next week's candle will be Peace and the story of John the Baptist. On December 15th will be the pink candle of Joy and Mary's story. The 4th Sunday of Advent will be Love and the story of Joseph.

Singers are needed. "Make a joyful noise to the Lord," (Psalm 100). Olivia has agreed to play for a choir anthem. Christmas time is a season of music. Anyone who would like to sing is invited to remain after worship next Sunday, December 8th, as we choose a hymn to sing on the 15th. Then we'll gather before worship on the 15th for another practice. If enough volunteer, we'll try singing in parts, or we can sing in unison. Praise the Lord!

Friday, December 6th – Live Nativity – 2pm to approximately 4pm. A light dinner will be served afterwards in the fellowship hall. We still can use some volunteers to participate. Please sign up in the narthex!

Tuesday, Dec 10th – Harp Concert 7pm – light refreshments served after.