

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

Disciples – Everyone here!

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

**As we prepare to worship** - God will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love. God will sing **joyfully** because of you, as on festival days. —Zephaniah 3:17-18

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

**Welcome & Prayer Cards**

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Congregational Introit for Advent Candlelighting**

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

Jim Benney and Michael Yalley



**Lighting of the Third Advent Candle of JOY**

Reading from Psalm 27:7-10 and words of Joy

**\*Call to Worship** adapted from Psalm 100, *The Message*

Abby Clark, Liturgist

Let us begin our worship of God with Psalm 100 – a Psalm of joy.

**On your feet now – applaud God!**

Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into God’s presence.

**Know this... God made us; we didn’t make God.**

We’re God’s people, God’s well-tended sheep.

**Enter God’s house with the password: “Thank you!”**

Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank God. Worship God.

**\*Hymn** “Lo, How Rose E’re Blooming” # 129

Today we light the pink candle of joy, representing the rose.

**\*Choir Anthem** “Silent Night, Holy Night”

The choir will sing stanza one. Then the congregation is invited to join in singing stanza 4 of **#122**.

## **Call to Confession** (Please be seated)

"In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part. Matthew 6:14-15 *The Message*. The Mayans use a term *in lak'ech*, which means "You are the other me." We must not restrict another person to being their former selves that we knew. **Beautiful people can emerge from broken lives.**

## **Unison Prayer of Confession**

Bill Wilson's less famous brother, known as Dr. Bob, offered his own Third-Step prayer, Lamott pointed out:

**"Dear God, I'm sorry about the mess I've made of my life. I want to turn away from all the wrong things I've ever done and all the wrong things I've ever been. Please forgive me for it all. I know you have the power to change my life and can turn me into a winner. Thank You, God, for getting my attention long enough to interest me in trying it your way. God, please take over the management of my life and everything about me. I am making this conscious decision to turn my will and my life over to your care and am asking you to please take over all parts of my life.**

...a time of silent prayer...

## **Declaration of Forgiveness**

As water is poured in the baptismal font... "At the New Jerusalem Community in Cincinnati, "70 x 7" was painted over the main doorway. See Matthew 18:21-22 about how often we are to forgive. New mail carriers thought it was the address! It was our address, in a way. It's the distinctive hallmark of a people liberated by Christ. Community is not where forgiveness is unnecessary or unneeded. It is where forgiveness is very free to happen. And if it doesn't happen on a daily basis, at least imperfectly, there will be no community. Without forgiveness the logic of victimhood and perpetrator rules instead of the illogic of love. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy —Matthew 5:7.

Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**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.



**of the moon and the stars, we celebrate this opportunity to come together, united in purpose for the betterment of your church. We acknowledge your presence with us here today and pray for your guidance and direction. We pray today for Westminster Presbyterian church, its pastor and its congregation. We pray for our brothers and sisters at home and around the world. We pray for all of those who face challenges of today's world just like we do and who search for the elusive answers, just as we do. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**Prayer Chorus** "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" # 469

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

## **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**\*Hymn** "Once in Royal David's City" # 140

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**



Westminster Presbyterian Church was founded December 4, 1955  
We are one of eighty-three member congregations  
of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley; and the  
Synod of the Covenant – 11 presbyteries and nearly 700 congregations  
mainly in Ohio and Michigan

### 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.

## **Serving Westminster Presbyterian Church**

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

Our Deacons - Jim Benney, Carol Jones, Marsha Ross & Joyce Sizemore

Church staff – Karen Flowers, Sexton      Rene Miller, Treasurer

Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle, Gap Pastor      Olivia Mitchem, Pianist

## **Announcements**

If you would like to attend a virtual “Blue Christmas Service,” Washington National Cathedral is offering a livestream service on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm, for those experiencing feelings of grief, loss and hardship during the Christmas season. Cathedral.org and search for “Blue Christmas.”

To prepare for our Fourth Sunday of Advent next week, you may read Matthew 1:18-25 for part of the story of Joseph as we light the candle of Love

