

# *Westminster Presbyterian Church*

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

Disciples – Everyone here!

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

**As we prepare to worship** – Have you considered yourself as a prophet, a priest and a king, following the ways Jesus lived out his life? In Colossians, Paul called us to finish what Jesus started, empowered with the Holy Spirit to finish his work as prophets, priests and yes, even as kings!

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**Ringing 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)



**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle of PEACE**

Julia Hamilton & Blaine Sickles

Reading from Psalm 27:4-6 and words of Peace

**\*Call to Worship**

Carol Jones, Liturgist

All light comes from Jesus, the “Light of the world.”

**Alpha Centauri is the closest star – 4.2 million light years away – 25 trillion miles!**

The orbiting James Webb Space Telescope sees objects 150 million light-years in the past.

**Space telescopes see into the past. We wait for the coming again of Jesus in the future.**

Jesus is coming again. Let us worship God who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

**\*Hymn** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

# 88

**Singing stanzas 4-6** (we sang stanzas 1-3 last Sunday)

“Root of Jesse” is from Isaiah 11:1; “Key of David” is from Isaiah 22:2; and “Dayspring” is from Luke 1:78.

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

Will you let God make you an instrument of peace? Don't let peace be just a candle on an Advent wreath. Expect God to show you how to pardon those who have injured you. Expect God to give you faith today in those events where you doubt God's power. Expect God to wake you up tomorrow morning with hope instead of despair. Expect God to send you a person to light up a dark corner of your week. Yes. Let God make you an instrument of his peace *today*, during this time of worship!

## **Unison Prayer of Confession**

**We confess together, Lord. We are in trouble and often don't see it or we ignore the warning signs. We wake up feeling anxious and dwell on our worries the rest of the day. We resent others with whom we fundamentally disagree. "Other people" just don't understand how wrong they are! Show us, Lord, that our lives are not about our points of view or others' points of view. Our lives are about receiving your love for all people and passing it on. Our lives are about not obstructing your love for all people, even those I consider my enemies, even those I consider your enemies.**

...a time of silent prayer...

## **Declaration of Forgiveness**

As water is poured in the baptismal font, hear the words of Paul "Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; the old has passed away and the new has already begun." Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**We are all forgiven by the grace of God. 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**

Today may we hear the words of peace from John the Baptist.

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

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Scripture is one of the ways God speaks to us. Will we listen for the voice of God as God's Scriptures are read today?

Let us pray. Lord, open our ears to hear your voice this morning. Open our minds to understand what you are saying. Open our hearts to be convinced again of your love. Open our hands to be ready to give to others what you command us to do today. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Old Testament Lesson** Zephaniah 3:14-20

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

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 3:7-18 (*The Message*)

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

**Sermon** "Time to Clean House"

"He's going to clean house – make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned." (Luke 3:17)

Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle, Gap Pastor

**A Time of Silence – *The Daily Encouraging Word***

Throughout the Psalms, this little word *Selah* occurs seventy-one different times. It means to pause and think. There is no specific length of time attached to the pause. Instead, it seems left up to the individual. *Selah*. It's a call to rest and reflect, to be still and breathe deeply, to settle into the moment and remain for a while. The *Selah* thought appears to be at the center of quiet time with the Lord. When the Lord says, *Selah*, God is saying, "Stop doing, and sit at My feet. Just belong to Me." What an invitation!

**\*Hymn** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" # 82

"While I have breath I will praise the Lord: I will make melody to my God while I have my being." (Psalm 146:2)

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

One pastor used to see the church as a kind of water bucket from which we handed cups of cool water ministry to others. And since there was only so much water in the bucket, we had to be careful how we gave it out. After all, there was a limit to what we could do! But no more, she decided. "I'm coming to affirm the church as more of a pipe connected to God, the possessor of indepletable resources on the one end and pouring out to a needy world on the other. And since God's supply is inexhaustible, there is no end to the blessings that can flow through us to others just as long as we've a good connection to God and allow no blockage in us." (from Stephen M. Crotts)

**Offertory**

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

# 606

## \*Prayer of Dedication

**Thank you for showing us how to share. You have given us two coats so we can give one away. You have given us food for our tables, so we can give away food. You have shown us justice so we can be fair to others. You have given us life and safety so we can give others the same. Thank you for sending us John the Baptist. Tell us when to listen to the John the Baptists this week in our lives. 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** "In the Bleak Midwinter" # 144

\***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**

**Singers are needed.** “Make a joyful noise to the Lord,” (Psalm 100). Olivia has agreed to play for an impromptu choir. Christmastime is a season of music. Anyone who would like to sing is invited to remain after worship **today**, as we choose a hymn to sing on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We’ll gather before worship on the 15<sup>th</sup> for another practice. If enough volunteer, we’ll try singing in parts, or we can sing in unison.

Tuesday, Dec 10th – **Abby Batchelor Harp Concert 7pm** – light refreshments served afterwards.

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.”

Through the **Christmas Joy Offering**, we reflect God’s perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much. Jesus’ example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God’s perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.

**Advent** will have the themes of Hope-Peace-Joy-Love as church members light the four candles on the Advent wreath. Next week will be the pink candle of Joy and Mary’s story. The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent will be Love and the story of Joseph. To prepare for next Sunday, please read Luke 1:46-55.