

The Lord's Service

The First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER 28, 2021



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

Angel's Song
A Lute Carol

GIBBONS / WILLAN
MARY E. CALDWELL

Please use the prelude as a time of silent preparation for the worship of the Triune God.

GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

⊗ WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 12:

Q: What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created?

A: When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.

⊗ CALL TO WORSHIP

ROMANS 13:11

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed;
the night is far gone, the day is at hand.

⊗ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because of the threatening peril of our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

⊗ HYMN OF PRAISE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

194

CONFESSION OF SINS

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not sought or expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, we excuse our sins, and fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek the things that will endure, when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

THE KYRIE ELEISON

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

☒ THE PEACE

☒ GLORIA PATRI 735
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

INTERLUDE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of love and power, you are revealed to us in your Word, in accounts of prophecy and fulfillment that direct us to Jesus Christ. Illumine us now as we hear your Word proclaimed, that we may open our hearts to him, yearn for his coming in glory, and serve him with joy. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING ISAIAH 63:15-64:12 *p. 740*

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-13 *p. 1132*

☒ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 24 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!* 198

☒ GOSPEL READING

MARK 13:24-37 p. 1010

☒ RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord
Praise be to God.

SERMON

Rend the Heavens and Come Down!

☒ THE APOSTLES' CREED

845

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

W. THOMPSON

☒ DOXOLOGY

731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.



SURSUM CORDA

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING



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.



HYMN OF DEPARTURE *Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor* 230



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN / CHAPMAN, ARR.

PREACHER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot

WORSHIP LEADER: Ron Bonagura

ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson

VIOLINIST: Christiane Chang-Fong

Rend the Heavens and Come Down

ISAIAH 63:15-64:12

This is a cry of l_____ and l_____.

The immediate context is the _____ into B_____.

1. Look and See (63:15-19)

Heaven is God's c_____ t_____ room.

The Lord is e_____ but his people are _____.

Seems like a self-imposed r_____ on God's mercies.

As Father, God c_____ and f_____ Israel.

Israel is under God's j_____ w_____.

2. Rend and Come Down (64:1-7)

The opening plea for God to look is i_____ here.

Perhaps the most important word in this prayer is _____.

He asks God to t_____ the v_____ between heaven & earth.

He cries out for another _____-like deliverance.

The prayer has a d_____ i_____.

Paul cites this text in _____ chapter _____.

Salvation is not a f_____ conclusion.

Israel is a rotting spiritual _____.

3. Please Look (64:8-12)

The Fatherhood of God makes hope p_____.

Isaiah's request is in accord with what Psalm? _____.

There is a contrast between heaven & the _____ house.

The prophet years for the un_____ God.

Advent is about _____ l_____.

This cry has been heard in the _____ of the Son.

Restoring us takes _____ into the t_____ this text.

Immanuel _____ and s_____ come to thee, O Israel.

Missions Work Highlight

STEPHEN AND LAURA SPANJER
With Won By One International, Fall 2021

We praise the Lord that we were able to have an outdoor service at the Neuenburg International Church recently in spite of forecasted rain. God blessed the 60 plus souls in attendance with sunshine and a beautiful breeze! We are also very excited about two men that have been preparing for baptism. Merlin and Gabriel represent the first adult baptisms in the Neuenburg International Church.

Would you pray with us asking God to:

- 1) Secure a larger building due to numerical growth
- 2) Bless the families of our Special Needs baseball outreach program
- 3) Bring unity and fruitfulness among the staff as we add new leadership

We stand on the shoulders of those who have supported us in the work at Neuenburg. We, and those whose lives have been changed by God will be forever grateful! Thank you.

Announcements

There will be no evening service today.

On Sunday 12/12, the Fellowship Committee is hosting a pot-luck Christmas Luncheon. The congregation is asked to bring some of your Holiday Favorites: main dishes, side dishes, casseroles, salads and/or desserts.

The kids/teen room will be closed for filming Christmas Program on 11/28, 12/5, and 12/12. It will be open after the luncheon on 12/12.

On Sunday 12/12, the second service will be at 2:00 PM.

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

Westminster Church is both a place and a people. We gather in this sacred space to worship, to learn, and to serve God as he meets us in Christ. To this end we dedicate our time, our talent, and our resources. Here the Gospel of Christ is freely proclaimed: *We are weaker and more sinful than we ever dared admit, but through Christ we are more loved and accepted than we ever dared hope.* As a community of Christians, we are building a bridge to the future through faith and friendship. To this end, we pray God will give us strength, vision, and wisdom. We are thankful that you could join with us today. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Welcome to Westminster!

Westminster Stated Services

Worship	10:00AM
Sunday School (<i>Sept–June</i>)	11:45 AM
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 PM

Westminster Kingston

Sunday School	10:00 AM
Worship	11:00 AM

Church & Office Location

614 Station Road
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Cover

The Celtic cross reminds us, as Presbyterians, of our historical roots in the British Isles dating back at least to the fifth century. *Post Tenebras Lux* is a Latin slogan from the 16th-century Protestant Reformation meaning *After Darkness, Light*. The cross and the slogan combine to express our desire to be rooted in the ancient faith and to embrace the attainments of the Protestant Reformation.

Westminster was organized in 1854 and is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Senior Minister

The Reverend Kevin Chiarot, Ph.D.

Assistant Minister

The Reverend Mark D. Diedrich

Session (Ruling Elders, with Class Year)

Ron Bonagura (2022), Steve Flewelling (2022),
Bob Maucher (2023), Johnson Chang-Fong (2024),
Adam Kuliszewski (2024)
Elder Emeritus: Neil Fick

Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

Joe Schlegel (2022), Tim Elmendorf (2022),
Paul Mowat (Chair: 2023),
Jim Rutigliano (2023), Joe Hall (2024)

Board of Trustees

Steve Flewelling (Chairman)
Bob Maucher (Vice-Chairman)

Staff

Administrative Secretary	Jo-Anne Weber
Christian Education	Brenda Grammer
Choir Director	Elaine H. Simpson
Evangelism	Johnson Chang-Fong
Fellowship	JoAnn Maucher
Financial Recording Secretary	Esther Riffard
Organist	Elaine H. Simpson
Property Manager	Joe Schlegel
Sexton	Rachel McDuffie
Treasurer	Kevin Quirk
Worship Committee	Lori Steinberger