



# Arise

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 15, 2024 AT 11AM | 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# We Come Into God's Presence with Joy

Life of the Church

Prelude

*He Shall Feed His Flock  
from "Messiah"*

by G. F. Handel

\* Call to Worship

Margaret Klammer, liturgist

(congregation please read bold type)

*God is on the move to bring everlasting peace.*

**Arise! The Lord is near!**

*God is on the move to establish justice for the downtrodden.*

**Arise! The Lord is near!**

*God is on the move to uphold righteousness and flourishing.*

**Arise! The Lord is near!**

*God With Us has been given to us.*

**Arise! The Lord is near!**

\* Hymn #105

*People, Look East*

BESANÇON

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\* *You are invited to stand as you are able.*

\* Song of Response *Emmanuel*

† **Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us,  
His name is called Emmanuel.**

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Steadfast and merciful Lord, we confess that we have grown impatient. We have not waited well for your coming. We have found it hard to hope. We have not remembered your promises or kept watch for your presence. Holy Spirit, we need you to fill us anew. Remind us of your nearness, Immanuel. Lift us up and raise our attentions, so that our hearts may be moved by that which moves your heart, O God.**

*Silent prayers of confession.*

Assurance of Grace

*...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free.*

**Thanks be to God for this good and gracious news.**

\* Passing the Peace

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

\* Song of Response

*Gloria Patri*

GLORIA

**Praise to God the Father be; praise eternal Son to Thee.  
With the Spirit we adore, always and forevermore.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

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† *You are welcome to sign as you are comfortable and able.*

*We continue this practice as a way to engage our whole selves in worship.*

# *We Hear God's Word*

First Reading of The Word **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Anthem

*Come and Praise  
the Lord with Joy*

by Dolores Hruby

**Westminster Choir; Gail Arnold & Eric Klooster, percussion**

Ye heavens, drop down dew from above,

Ye heavens, pour down rain from above.

The dew we long for, Him the Just, the rain we long for, Jesus, our Lord.

Come and praise the Lord with joy; Joyfully sing to God our Savior;

Come and praise the Lord with joy, The Rock of our salvation praise!

O let the sleeping earth awake, O let the earth bud forth a Savior.

O let the sleeping earth awake; And with our Savior justice come.

Come and praise the Lord with joy; Joyfully sing to God, our Savior;

Come and praise the Lord with joy; The Rock of our salvation praise.

O Lord, my whole soul longs for Thee as deer do long for running streams.

O Lord, my whole soul thirsts for Thee, For Thee, the strong and living God.

Come and praise the Lord with joy; Joyfully sing to God, our Savior;

Come and praise the Lord with joy; The Rock of our salvation praise.

The heavens show the glory of God;

The heavens show the work of His hands;

The sun comes forth from the end of heaven;

With joy the giant runs His course.

Come and praise the Lord with joy; Joyfully sing to God, our Savior;

Come and praise the Lord with joy; The Rock of our salvation praise.

Second Reading of the Word *Isaiah 9:6-7*

Sermon

*Arise in Wonder*

Nate Veldhoff

*We Respond to God's Word*

\* Hymn #129

*Lo, How a Rose  
E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN ROS

Prayers of the People & 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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

\* Song of Response

*Doxology*

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
With all the angels let us sing "Glory" to the coming king.  
The word made flesh shall soon appear;  
Prepare your hearts, the time is near.  
Come Emmanuel, O Come Emmanuel!**

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Hymn #93

*Lift Up Your Heads,  
Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

*We Go Forth to Serve*

\* Benediction and Dismissal

*And let all God's people say:*

**Alleluia! Amen!**

Postlude

*Die Hirten an der Krippe*

by Franz Liszt

## *This Week's News*

**Shopping bags of nonperishable food** and personal and household items dedicated with our offering today will be given to Hope Clinic's food pantry.

**Christmas Eve:** Our Westminster Christmas Eve service will be Tuesday, 12/24 at 7pm. All friends, family, and neighbors are welcome to join us for this special service. Let us gather together and welcome the Advent of Christ!

**Christmas Joy Offering:** This yearly special offering is a cherished PC(USA) tradition. Gifts are distributed to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Visit Westminster's online giving page or give by check to Westminster with "Christmas Joy" in the memo line.

**Christmas Choir Cantata:** On Epiphany Sunday, January 5 at 11am, the Westminster Choir will present *Magnify: A Soulful Christmas Celebration* by J. Daniel Smith and Mark Condon. This gospel-style, musical journey to Bethlehem will be a joyful and celebratory occasion for all!

All are welcome and encouraged to invite your friends, family, and neighbors!

**Hurricane Relief Special Offering:** The Mission Ministry Team has designated the special offering collected on Christmas Eve to go to hurricane and flood relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You may give at our Christmas Eve service, or through our online giving page using the designated Presbyterian Disaster Assistance option.

**Welcome our newest member!** Today we joyfully welcome Walt Lunsford into membership, who is joining by reaffirmation of faith after many years of being connected to Westminster through his wife, Nancy Lunsford. Please offer Walt your welcome when you see him after worship! If you are interested in becoming a member, speak with Pastor Hannah for more information.

## Grow in Faith and Friendship

**Reading Through the Bible Group** meets Sundays at 9:30am. Please contact Marcia Anderson (hilden.anderson@gmail.com; 734-757-4305) for more info.

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed** meets in the fellowship hall at 9:30am. Our current study is based on Brian McLaren's book, *We Make the Road by Walking*.

**Monday Conversations** are weekly at 1pm online. The Zoom invitation is in the Friday *Good Things* and Sunday podcast emails.

**Mary Martha Group** meets the first and third Mondays at 7pm via Zoom. Please contact Margaret Klammer (mklammer@comcast.net) for more information.

**Matthew 25 Study Group** meets at 7pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. For meeting information please contact Elizabeth Tidd (lizbeth0405@yahoo.com) or Carol Hufnagel (carol.hufnagel@tetrattech.com).

**Thursday Book Club** meets weekly at 1pm at Westminster and over Zoom. Please contact Linda Harnisch for more information. (rlharnisch@gmail.com).

### We pray for our Westminster family

**Current needs:** Dave Gross

**Ongoing needs:** Elke Kramer, Betty Reed, Fran Bolhouse

Please email prayer requests to Gail Arnold (garnold@umich.edu) for listing here and in the *Friday Good Things Are Happening* email; or contact Jill Fairchild, prayer chain coordinator (jill@thefairchilds.net or 734-417-0816). You can join our email prayer chain by contacting Jill. To keep us current, please share updates on those for whom we are praying.

## *Welcome to Westminster*

**Our Values:** Love, Compassion, Connection, Inclusion, Earth-Care, Service

**Our Mission:** Show the love of Jesus Christ by welcoming everyone, without exception, into the full life of the church; participating in the joyful worship of God; engaging in regular study, reflection, prayer and sharing of our faith; committing ourselves and our resources to the spiritual and physical needs of our church family and neighbors near and far; seeking to be a good neighbor in our neighborhood.

**Sunday worship podcasts** are at [bit.ly/westpres\\_online](http://bit.ly/westpres_online).

**For deacon care,** please contact Gail Arnold ([garnold@umich.edu](mailto:garnold@umich.edu)).

**Thank you for continuing to fulfill your pledges** and financial commitments in support of the mission and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**Westminster Staff** may be reached by phone at 734-761-9320

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