

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN



DEC 21 AT 11AM

# Love

fourth sunday of advent



# We Come Into God's Presence with Joy

Life of the Church

Prelude

*Chorale Prelude on  
"Den die Hirten  
lobten sehre"*

by Helmut Walcha

Advent Candle Lighting

Doug & Elizabeth Tidd

*Together, we affirm our love in Christ.*

**Today, we choose to live in love,  
opening our hearts to God's presence,  
trusting that love is stronger than fear,  
and welcoming Christ who comes to dwell among us.**

Song of Response

*A Candle is Burning*

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
A candle to point us to heaven above,  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our Earth.**

\* Hymn #108

*Of the Father's Love  
Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Call to Confession

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

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory. Yet, we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little, that we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope, and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*written by John Wurster, Presbyterian Outlook*

*Silent prayers of confession.*

## Assurance of Grace

### \* 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!**

# *We Hear God's Word*

First Reading of The Word

**Isaiah 7:10-16**

Carly Polikoff, liturgist

Anthem

***Come Flood  
This Heart of Mine***

by David Lantz III

**Westminster Choir; Gail Arnold, flute**

Come flood this heart of mine with Your great love divine.  
Come quickly Lord I pray, abide with us today.  
Come flood this heart of mine with Your great love divine.  
Come flood this heart of mine with Your pure joy divine.  
Give to the earth this night Your everlasting light.  
Come flood this heart of mine with Your pure joy divine.  
Prepare my heart for the One who will come to earth,  
God's Son, who will come in a humble, lowly birth.  
Prepare my heart for His presence in this place.  
May my heart overflow with this fullness of His grace.  
Come flood this heart of mine with Your true light divine.  
O come, Emmanuel, the darkness now dispel.  
Come flood this heart of mine, with Your true light divine.

A Moment to Wonder

*Children are invited to come forward for a short lesson in front of the Christmas tree.*

Second Reading of the Word **Matthew 1:18-24**

Sermon

***Love over Fear***

Nate Veldhoff

## *We Respond to God's Word*

\* Song of Response      *Emmanuel*

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

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.**

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*Ave Maria*

by Jacqueline  
Clough-Free

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† *You are welcome to sign as you are comfortable and able.  
We include this practice as a way to engage our whole selves in worship.*

\* 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 #141

*On This Day  
Earth Shall Ring*

PERSONENT HODIE

*We Go Forth to Serve*

\* Dismissal

*And let all God’s people say:  
Alleluia! Amen!*

Postlude

*Rise Up, Shepherd,  
and Follow*

by Mark Hayes

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*We celebrate the life and grieve the death of Anne Gensheimer, a devoted member of this church and the beloved wife of our former pastor, Rev. Charles Gensheimer. A service for Anne will be held on Saturday, December 27th at 10am in the sanctuary. Please hold Anne's sons, Peter and Paul, and the entire Gensheimer family, in your prayers.*

## *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 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 Eve:** Our Westminster Christmas Eve service will be Wednesday, 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!

**Choir Cantata:** Join us for our Christmas Cantata! Sunday, January 4, at 11am. This year, our Westminster Choir will present "Winter's Grace: A Cantata for Christmas" by Joseph M. Martin. This joyful morning of music will feature soloists from the choir as well as an accompanying chamber ensemble of musicians. All are welcome!

**New Year's Celebration:** Our annual New Year's Celebration will return on Saturday, January 10! Join us for a special performance of jazz, cabaret, and dance music by Club Cole! Snacks and fellowship will start at 6:30pm, with the performance beginning at 7pm. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board; attendees are encouraged to bring an appetizer or cookies to share. It's sure to be a fun evening together with a great performance by Shawn and Carla to welcome in 2026! Invite your friends, neighbors, and family.

**Please Note:** The Westminster Church office will be closed for the holidays from 12/24-1/4.

## *Grow in Faith and Friendship*

**Reading Through the Bible Group** meets Sundays at 9:30am in Room 34 and via Zoom. Contact Marcia Anderson (hilden.anderson@gmail.com; 734-757-4305) for more information.

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed** meets in the fellowship hall at 9:30am.

**Children and Youth Faith Formation** meets on the second Sunday of each month at 9:30am. Contact Cathy Daniels (catld1121@gmail.com) for more info.

**Monday Conversations** are weekly at 1pm online: an opportunity to discuss Sunday's sermon in a small group. 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. 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. Contact Linda Harnisch for more information (rlharnisch@gmail.com).

### **We pray for our Westminster family**

**Ongoing needs:** Fran Bolhouse, Cara Doane, Donna Greyerbiehl

For deacon care, contact your deacon directly or send an email to the deacon moderator, Janet Eaton (jmfeaton@umich.edu). To list prayer requests here, in the *Friday Good Things Are Happening* email, or Prayer Chain, contact Jill Fairchild (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 Janet Eaton ([jmfeaton@umich.edu](mailto:jmfeaton@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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