

The Lord's Service

First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER 29, 2020



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

Bicinium on "We Gather Together"
Fantasia on Thanksgiving Themes

KREMSER/BARR

ARR. JERRY VAN DER POL

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

- ☒ CALL TO WORSHIP REVELATION 19:5-7
Praise our God, all you His servants, you who fear Him, small and great.
Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns!
Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory!
For the marriage of the lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready!

- ☒ PRAYER OF THE DAY
Eternal God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

- ☒ HYMN OF PRAISE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* 194 (vv. 1, 5)

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 expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek 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



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

Be Thou My Vision

ARR. PHILLIP KEVEREN

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

JOSHUA 24:14-25

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18



GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 25:1-13



RESPONSE

**The Word of the Lord
Praise be to God.**

SERMON

The Parable of the Ten Virgins



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

OFFERING

(not collected, brought up by deacons)



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

Rejoice, All Ye Believers

320 (vv. 1, 4)



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE

Ode to Thanksgiving

THEMES BY BEETHOVEN

PREACHER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot

WORSHIP LEADER: Steve Flewelling (9:00AM)
James Phillips (11:00AM)

ORGANIST: Elaine H Simpson

PIANISTS: Diane S. Pedrosa, Nathan Clason

The Ten Virgins

MATTHEW 25:1-13

Advent is a time of longing for the _____ coming of Christ. It is a time for
r_____ to our h_____.

1. The Wedding Preparations (vv. 1-5)

Here the kingdom is spoken of in the _____ tense.

The br_____ stands for the _____ Christ.

The wise have l_____ plus f_____ of oil.

The parable teaches some d_____ before the second coming.

All d_____ s_____ is forbidden by Jesus' teaching.

The delay is the time for _____.

All ten women stand in for the _____.

2. The Bridegroom's Appearance (vv. 6-10)

The bridegroom comes at m_____.

The parable does not cast the wise in a n_____ light.

Preparation cannot be t_____ or d_____.

3. The Aftermath (vv. 11-13)

Christ's words echo M_____ chapter ____.

This is not just a breach of w_____ e_____.

Failure to prepare is p_____ to _____.

They love the bridegroom; but are not prepared for the _____.

The moral: Therefore, k_____ w_____.

Watching is not passivity, it is d_____.

The oil is the _____ and all his _____.

The _____ is far gone, the _____ is at hand.

Missions Work Highlight

REDEEMER BROADCASTING

IN THE NEWBURG-BEACON AREA, HEARD ON 90.3FM AND 102.5FM.

Redeemer Broadcasting is an evangelically reformed radio ministry which began in the Hudson Valley in 2004 in a basement. We play calm Christian music and teaching that emphasizes the historic Christian faith. Westminster's full church service is heard each Sunday. Our board of directors and some of our advisors came from this church.

Digital listening options include computer streaming, internet radio, and smart phone apps. The Lord has blessed us with growth into a small network of stations covering the Mid-Hudson Valley, Northern New Jersey, and Southern Maryland. Listeners contact us daily with testimonials. During the pandemic, many have received encouragement and companionship during these unusual times of isolation. Dan and Deb Elmendorf would like to express their sincerest thanks for the sacrificial and generous role our Westminster church family has played in helping them carry on this kingdom work.

Announcements

On **12/27** there will be a very **brief congregational meeting** for the election of Jim Rutigliano as deacon. The meeting will be between services at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary

The Fellowship Committee is requesting donations of boxed or wrapped cookies, crackers, cheeses, biscotti, muffins, granola bars, etc. for the Fellowship Coffee Times following each service. Nothing homemade at this time. Donations can be left in the kitchen.

Scripture Texts

JOSHUA 24:14-25

- ¹⁴ “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.
- ¹⁵ But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”
- ¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods!
- ¹⁷ It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled.
- ¹⁸ And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”
- ¹⁹ Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins.
- ²⁰ If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”
- ²¹ But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the Lord.”
- ²² Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.
- ²³ “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”
- ²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.”
- ²⁵ On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.

Scripture Texts, *continued*

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

MATTHEW 25:1-13

¹ "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

² Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

⁹ "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

¹² "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

194

*"The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,"
declares the LORD. Is. 59:20*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
• tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

REFRAIN

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
• and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
and close the path to mis - er - y.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Rejoice, All Ye Believers

Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him! Matt. 25:6

1. Re - joice, all ye be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2. See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen - ish them with oil;
 3. Ye saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f' rings bore,
 4. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near:
 and wait for your sal - va - tion, the end of earth - ly toil.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er, when sor - row is no more:
 a - rise, thou sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

the Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he draw - eth nigh;
 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride - groom near,
 a - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb ye shall be - hold,
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, pray, and watch, and wres - tle: at mid - night comes the cry.
 go meet him as he com - eth, with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him your di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that brings us un - to thee.

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	9:00 AM, 11:00AM
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

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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)

Robert Van Gent (2022), Ron Bonagura (2022), Robert David (2021), Steve Flewelling (2021), James Phillips (2021), Bob Maucher (2023), Elder Emeritus: Neil Fick

Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

Tim Elmendorf (2022), John Grammer (2021), Matt Kniffin (2022), Joe Schlegel (Chair: 2022), Ed Weber (2021), Paul Mowat (2023), Eric Moller (2023)

Board of Trustees

Robert Van Gent (Chairman)
Robert David (Vice Chairman)

Staff

Administrative Secretary	Jo-Anne Weber
Christian Education	Brenda Grammer
Choir Director	Elaine H. Simpson
Evangelism	Dave Reiss
Fellowship	JoAnn Maucher
Financial Recording Secretary	Esther Riffard
Organists	Neil Fick, Elaine H. Simpson
Sexton	Rachel McDuffie
Treasurer	Kevin Quirk
Worship Committee	Lori Steinberger