

# The Lord's Service

---

*The Second Sunday of Advent*

DECEMBER 06, 2020



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus  
There's A Song in the Air*

ARR. CLAY CHRISTIANSEN

ARR. JAMES LASTER

*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 ROMANS 13:11  
Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed;  
**the night is far gone, the day is near.**

⊗ PRAYER OF THE DAY  
God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Keep our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near; your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

⊗ HYMN OF PRAISE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 196 (vv. 1, 4)

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

⊗ RESPONSIVE READING OF THE LAW

You shall have no other gods before me.  
**It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.**

You shall not make for yourself a graven image.  
**God is a spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.**

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.  
**Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool... Let what you say be simply Yes or No; anything more than this comes from evil.**

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.  
**The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath; so the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath.**

Honor your father and your mother.  
**For God commanded, he who speaks evil of father or mother, let him surely die.**

You shall not kill.  
**Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.**

You shall not commit adultery.  
**Everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

You shall not steal.  
**For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery...theft...These are what defile a man.**

You shall not bear false witness.  
**For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.**

You shall not covet.  
**Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**

⊗ 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

*Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountains*

MENDELSSOHN/JOYCE EILERS 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

ISAIAH 40:1-11

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ROMANS 12:9-21



GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 25:14-30



RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord  
Praise be to God.

SERMON

*Advent Investing*



THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds: God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made: Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.**

**And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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.**

THE COMMUNION

⌘ HYMN OF DEPARTURE *Go, Labor On* 584 (vv. 1, 5, 6)

⌘ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

⌘ POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Almighty King* ARR. CLAY CHRISTIANSEN

PREACHER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot

WORSHIP LEADER: Steve Flewelling *(9:00AM)*  
Robert David *(11:00AM)*

ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson

FLUTIST: Diane S. Pedrosa

VIOLINIST: Christiane Chang-Fong

VOCAL TRIO: Elaine H. Simpson, Lori Steinberger, Linda Lou Sully

## Advent Investing

MATTHEW 25:14-30

### 1. The Investments (vv. 14-18)

These are e\_\_\_\_\_ sums of money.

The talents stand for more than just e\_\_\_\_\_ assets.

They refer to the gift of the \_\_\_\_\_.

The issue: not how \_\_\_\_\_ you have, but how \_\_\_\_\_ you are.

The fundamental gift we have is \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. The Reckoning (vv. 19-27)

The time of the church is the time of k\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_.

The m\_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ as the judge of all.

No other com\_\_\_\_\_ or con\_\_\_\_\_ will matter.

Advent si\_\_\_\_\_ and f\_\_\_\_\_ the mind.

Compared to the glory to come, we have reviled but \_\_\_\_\_.

Advent should create y\_\_\_\_\_.

There is no r\_\_\_\_\_ from a life of d\_\_\_\_\_.

The master invites us into the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's own life.

Faithfulness is re\_\_\_\_\_, but the reward is still g\_\_\_\_\_.

The third servant s\_\_\_\_\_ God. He likens God to P\_\_\_\_\_.

A distorted view of God leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. The Application (vv. 28-30)

There is a judgment according to \_\_\_\_\_.

We should ask: what does our k\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_ look like?

Do b\_\_\_\_\_. Start padding your o\_\_\_\_\_.

We labor for the day when Advent \_\_\_\_\_ turns to s\_\_\_\_\_.

---

## Missions Work Highlight

STEPHEN SPANJER

WITH WON BY ONE IN GERMANY

The Neuenburg International Church is discussing joining the ERKWB (Evangelical Reformed Church Westminster Confession). They hope to complete the joining and receiving process in the next Synod in May. More info can be found in your church email. The ERKWB is similar to the PCA, sharing the same confession. It is primarily a German speaking Swiss and Austrian denomination. Gospel Church Munchen from the previous denominational project is also seriously considering joining. Then the goal would be to gather in other independent Reformed and Presbyterian churches scattered around Germany.

Even in the pandemic the church is continuing to grow. Another family has joined and recently Steve and Laura were able to baptize their son. Unfortunately none of the family could be there but the Widmann's were able to stand in as substitute parents.

Thank you all for your prayers. We feel upheld by your support and prayers!

---

## 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

---

## Scripture Texts

### ISAIAH 40:1-11

- <sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
- <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
- <sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
- <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
- <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
- <sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass.
- <sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."
- <sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"
- <sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.
- <sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

### ROMANS 12:9-21

- <sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
- <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.
- <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
- <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
- <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
- <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
- <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
- <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.
- <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
- <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
- <sup>20</sup> On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
- <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



## Scripture Texts, *continued*

MATTHEW 25:14-30

- <sup>14</sup> “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.
- <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.
- <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.
- <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more.
- <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.
- <sup>19</sup> “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.
- <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’
- <sup>21</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’
- <sup>22</sup> “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’
- <sup>23</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’
- <sup>24</sup> “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.
- <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’
- <sup>26</sup> “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?
- <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.
- <sup>28</sup> “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.
- <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.
- <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196

*Waiting for the consolation of Israel. Luke 2:25*

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;  
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;  
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!  
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:  
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."  
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## Go, Labor On

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Gal. 6:9*

1. Go, la - bor on: spend and be spent, your joy to  
 2. Go, la - bor on: 'tis not for naught; your earth - ly  
 3. Go, la - bor on: e - nough while here if he should  
 4. Go, la - bor on while it is day: the world's dark

do the Fa - ther's will; it is the way the  
 loss is heav'n - ly gain; men heed you, love you,  
 praise you, if he deign your will - ing heart to  
 night is has - t'ning on. Speed, speed your work, cast

Mas - ter went; should not the ser - vant tread it still?  
 praise you not; the Mas - ter prais - es— what are men?  
 mark and cheer; no toil for him shall be in vain.  
 sloth a - way; it is not thus that souls are won.

5. Toil on, faint not, keep watch and pray;  
 be wise the erring soul to win;  
 go forth into the world's highway,  
 compel the wand'rer to come in.

6. Toil on, and in your toil rejoice;  
 for toil comes rest, for exile home;  
 soon shall you hear the Bridegroom's voice,  
 the midnight peal, "Behold, I come."

## 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

614 Station Road  
Rock Tavern, NY 12575

T 845.496.7971 | F 845.496.7916  
www.westminsterchurch-ny.org  
wpca@libertybiz.rr.com

### 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