

The Lord's Service

The Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 13, 2020



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

How Brightly Shines Yon Morning Star JOHANN CRISTOPH BACH
Divinum Mysterium 13TH C. PLAINSONG/ ARR. RAYMOND H. HAAN

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 ISAIAH 61:1-2A
The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
To proclaim the year of the LORD's favor.

☒ PRAYER OF THE DAY
Eternal God, you set Jesus Christ to rule over all things, and made us servants in your kingdom. By your Spirit empower us to love the unloved, and to minister to all in need. Then at the last bring us to your eternal realm where we may worship and adore you and be welcomed into your everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.. **Amen.**

☒ HYMN OF PRAISE *Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor* 230 (vv. 1, 3)

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

Love Came Down at Christmas

ARR. ROGER VERDESI

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 61:1-4, 8-11

NEW TESTAMENT READING

JAMES 2:14-26



GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 25:31-46



RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord
Praise be to God.

SERMON

Advent Charity

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 *O God of Mercy, God of Might* 433 (vv. 1, 4, 5)



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE *O Come, Little Children* JOHANN SCHULZ/ARR. DALE WOOD

PREACHER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot

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

ORGANIST: Elaine H Simpson

CELLIST: Lori Steinberger

Advent Charity

MATTHEW 25:31-46

We often have an a_____ reading of this text.

1. The King (vv. 31-33)

Jesus has taken the place of Y_____ as the King and J_____.
Nations are gathered, but _____ are separated.

2. The Least of These (vv. 40, 45)

“My brothers” represents C_____ in need.
“Least of these” is a superlative of l_____ o_____.
There is a deep s_____ between Jesus and the church.

3. The Judgment (vv. 34-46)

Those blessed of the Father are the _____.
We are not saved ___ works or w_____ works.
No _____ room, no _____. _____ enables good works.
They were _____ they were serving (or not serving) Jesus.
The parable enables us to p_____ for this evaluation.
Works are r_____ at the final judgment.
Works are the e_____ of true salvation.
Salvation being all of _____ means it demands all of _____. Advent:
season of e_____ and r_____e.
The coming King has already come in_____.

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

Join us for our **Sunday evening service** weekly at 6:00PM.

We will be having our **annual Christmas Eve Service** this year— a 5PM service (masks required for singing) and a 7PM service (masks optional). The services require registration so we can assure balance and appropriate distancing. Sign up online or by calling the church office.

At the Christmas Eve service **the offering will be sent to the PCA ministerial Relief fund**. Donations can be made at that time or sent in directly.

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

Help Needed: Kids, please remember to clean up after yourselves at church. Parents, please remember to clean up after your kids, especially food, clothes and games in the youth room.

Scripture Texts

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

[...]

⁸ "For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed."

¹⁰ I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Scripture Texts, *continued*

JAMES 2:14-26

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

²⁵In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

MATTHEW 25:31-46

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor

230

Our Lord Jesus Christ ... was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Cor. 8:9

1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be -
 2. Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be -
 3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we

cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
 cam - est man; stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
 wor - ship thee. Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,

sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be -
 heav'n - ward by thine e - ter - nal plan. Thou who art God be -
 make us what thou wouldst have us be. Thou who art love be -

yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
 yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
 yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

433

O God of Mercy, God of Might

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.
Matt. 25:40

1. O God of mer - cy, God of might, in
 2. And thou who cam'st on earth to die, that
 3. Teach us the les - son thou hast taught, to
 4. For they are breth - ren, far and wide, since
 5. In sick - ness, sor - row, want, or care, what -

love and pit - y in - fi - nite, teach us, as
 fall - en man might live there - by, O hear us,
 • feel for those thy blood hath bought; that ev - ery
 thou, O Lord, for them hast died; then teach us,
 e'er it be, 'tis ours to share; may we, when

ev - er in thy sight, to live our life to thee.
 for to thee we cry in hope, O Lord, to thee.
 • word and deed and thought may work a work for thee.
 what - so - e'er be - tide, to love them all in thee.
 help is need - ed, there give help as 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