

The Lord's Service

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 20, 2020



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

Larghetto

F. WALCZYNSKI

A Wondrous Child is Born Today

B. BURROUGHS

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 9:6

A child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulder, and he is named:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

208 (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.



STANDING IF COMFORTABLE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: spoken, sung

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

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 7:10-16

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ROMANS 1:1-7



GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 1:18-25



RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord

Praise be to God.

SERMON

The Origin of Jesus Christ

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 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* 203 (vv. 1, 2)



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE

PREACHER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot

WORSHIP LEADER: Robert David (9:00AM)
Ron Bonagura (11:00AM)

ORGANIST: Neil Fick

The Origin of Jesus Christ

MATTHEW 1:18-25

1. The Divine Father

The genealogy and our text are about the _____ of Jesus.

Joseph is not Jesus' _____ father.

Jesus' origin has a v_____ dimension.

It recedes up into the b_____ of God.

Jesus is born in the midst of _____ and born from _____.

The virginal c_____ is a sign of the d_____ of Christ.

Jesus is not God ___ a man, but God ___ a man.

Packer: Nothing in fiction is so f_____ as the incarnation.

2. The Human Father

Betrothal was l_____ binding.

Jewish law required d_____ for infidelity.

The angel calls Joseph the ____ of D_____.

Joseph's ad_____ Jesus makes him a l_____ Son of David.

The one Christ is fully _____ and fully _____.

3. The Mission.

The name Jesus means "the _____ s_____."

He comes to save his _____ from their _____.

There is an echo here from Psalm _____.

Christmas is a _____ because it confronts us with God himself. Christmas means things are de_____.

A t_____ conception of God will not grasp the _____.

God, in his majesty, s_____.

He manifests his f_____ glory in his h_____y.

Now we can answer the question: Is _____ really like _____?

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

We will be having our **annual Christmas Eve Service** this Thursday— 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

Scripture Texts

ISAIAH 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz,

¹¹ “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?”

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right,

¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

ROMANS 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—

² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures

³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David,

⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake.

⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture Texts, *continued*

MATTHEW 1:18-25

- ¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.
- ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.
- ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
- ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
- ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:
- ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").
- ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.
- ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. Luke 2:15

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
 lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be -
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

REFRAIN

born the King of an - gels;
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
 in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

A great company of the heavenly host [was] praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13, 14

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el,
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

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

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Robert David (Vice Chairman)

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