

# The Lord's Service

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*The First Sunday after Christmas*

DECEMBER 27, 2020



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

*He Shall Feed His Flock*  
*Nativity Song*

R. WILSON

JOHANN KUHNNAU (1677-1722)

*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

☒ CALL TO WORSHIP JOHN 1:14  
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.  
**We have beheld his glory! Alleluia!**

☒ PRAYER OF THE DAY  
Almighty God, you wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

☒ HYMN OF PRAISE *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come* 195 (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 sought or expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, we excuse our sins, and fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek the 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

*A Tender Rose Has Blossomed*

16TH CENTURY MELODY

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 63:7-9

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-6



GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:1-14



RESPONSE

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

SERMON

*Christmas in the Old Testament*

**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 Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord* 6 (vv. 1, 5)

☒ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

☒ POSTLUDE

PREACHER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot

WORSHIP LEADER: Robert David (9:00AM)  
Robert Van Gent (11:00AM)

ORGANIST: Neil Fick

## Christmas in the Old Testament

ISAIAH 63:7-9

We are situated between C\_\_\_\_\_ and c\_\_\_\_\_.

The only season in which the church can ever exist: \_\_\_\_\_.

### 1. The Source (v.7)

Kindness is from the word h\_\_\_\_\_.

This type of speech is an act of r\_\_\_\_\_.

The great \_\_\_\_\_ of the OT is the E\_\_\_\_\_.

We must learn to pray like h\_\_\_\_\_ of r\_\_\_\_\_.

The richest description of God in OT is in Exodus \_\_\_\_\_.

The source of all these deeds: the b\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

### 2. The Savior (vv. 8-9)

At the Exodus, God becomes Israel's S\_\_\_\_\_.

This is a f\_\_\_\_\_ of Christmas.

God, even in the OT, p\_\_\_\_\_ into Israel's s\_\_\_\_\_.

The Angel is \_\_\_\_\_, yet distinct from \_\_\_\_\_.

The Angel is the pre-incarnate \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Angel reflects the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father.

We have a picture of the m\_\_\_\_\_ tenderness of God.

\_\_\_\_\_ him and \_\_\_\_\_ him and \_\_\_\_\_ him are \_\_\_\_\_ things.

Exodus 34 points forward to John's pr\_\_\_\_\_.

Christ saves us from w\_\_\_\_\_ and un\_\_\_\_\_ our distress.

"Angel of God's face" points to 2 C\_\_\_\_\_ chapter \_\_\_\_\_.

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## 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!

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## Announcements

Today 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

There is **no Evening Service** tonight.

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## Scripture Texts

### ISAIAH 63:7-9

- <sup>7</sup> I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us— yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses.
- <sup>8</sup> He said, “Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me”; and so he became their Savior.
- <sup>9</sup> In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-6

- <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.
- <sup>2</sup> Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.
- <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.
- <sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- <sup>5</sup> For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.
- <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.



## Scripture Texts, *continued*

JOHN 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

<sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

<sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

<sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

<sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

<sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 98:4*

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system includes four numbered verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system repeats the phrase 'and heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture re-peat the sound-ing joy, far as the curse is found, and won-ders of his love, and heav'n and na-ture sing,'. The fourth system repeats the phrase 'sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing. joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy. found, far as, far as the curse is found. love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.' The score includes various chords such as D, A7, G, and A, and rests for the bass line.

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing.

## O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord

*Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Ps. 103:1*

1. O come, my soul, bless thou the Lord thy Mak - er, and all with -  
 2. Good is the Lord and full of kind com - pas - sion, most slow to  
 3. His love is like a fa - ther's to his chil - dren, ten - der and  
 4. We fade and die like flow'rs that grow in beau - ty, like ten - der  
 5. High in the heav'ns his throne is fixed for - ev - er, his king - dom

in me bless his ho - ly name; bless thou the Lord, for -  
 an - ger, plen - te - ous in love; rich is his grace to  
 • kind to all who fear his name; for well he knows our  
 grass that soon will dis - ap - pear; but ev - er - more the  
 rules o'er all from pole to pole; bless ye the Lord through

get not all his mer - cies, his par - d'ning grace and  
 all that hum - bly seek him, bound - less and end - less  
 • weak - ness and our frail - ty, he knows that we are  
 love of God is change - less, still shown to those who  
 all his wide do - min - ion, bless his most ho - ly

REFRAIN  
 sav - ing love pro - claim.  
 as the heav'ns a - bove.  
 • dust, he knows our frame. Bless him for - ev - er, won - drous in  
 look to him in fear.  
 name, O thou my soul.

might, bless him, his ser - vants that in his will de - light.

## 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!

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### 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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[wpca@libertybiz.rr.com](mailto: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