

The Lord's Service

The Epiphany of the Lord

DECEMBER 31, 2023



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

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

ISAIAH 60:1, 3

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your rising!

⊗ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendor. The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the night that covers the earth and signals the dawn of justice and peace. May his brightness illumine our lives and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever. **Amen.**

⊗ HYMN OF PRAISE

Arise, O God

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CONFESSION OF SINS

Almighty God, rich in mercy to all who call upon you: Hear us as we come to you humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, and imploring your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken your holy laws by our deeds and words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before you our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness, and all our failures and shortcomings toward you and our neighbors. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, and of your great goodness grant that we may serve you in newness of life; through the mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. 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.

⌘ THE PEACE

⌘ GLORIA PATRI

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INTERLUDE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Send out your light and your truth, O Lord, that your Word would lead us to your holy hill, and into communion with Christ our King. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ISAAH 60:1-6 *p. 736*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON EPHESIANS 3:1-12 *p. 1160*

⊗ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 96 *Sing Unto the Lord, Sing His Praise* 62

⊗ GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 2:1-12 *p. 960*

⊗ RESPONSE
The Word of the Lord.
Praise be to God.

SERMON *Light for the World*

⊗ 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

OFFERTORY

⊗ DOXOLOGY 731

⊗ 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

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless* 424

*Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless
your chosen pilgrim flock
with manna in the wilderness,
with water from the rock.*

*Hungry and thirsty, faint and weak,
as you when here below,
our souls the joys celestial seek
which from thy sorrows flow.*

*We would not live by bread alone,
but by your word of grace,*

*in strength of which we travel on
to our abiding place.*

*Be known to us in breaking bread,
but do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us, and spread
your table in our heart.*

*There sup with us in love divine;
your body and your blood,
that living bread, that heav'nly wine,
be our immortal food.*

⊗ HYMN OF DEPARTURE *As with Gladness Men of Old* 226

⊗ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

⊗ POSTLUDE

MINISTER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot
WORSHIP LEADER: Adam Kuliszewski
ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson, D.M.A.

Light for the World

MATTHEW 2:1-12

1. The Magi and the Star

The Magi are probably pr_____t-ast_____s.

In _____ and Jesus we have a clash of k_____s.

God used the _____ to lead these men to J_____.

Because Israel was in B_____, the magi may have known about the coming M_____.

2. Herod's Response

Herod knew that a Davidic K_____ would be a th_____t.

The chief priests and scribes direct Herod to the prophecy in M_____h chapter f_____.

Herod says he wants to w_____p, but he really wants to k_____ Jesus.

3. The Worship

The text is an in_____ of Israel's l_____p.

This is where light first breaks out to the n_____s.

The costly gifts mean the recipient is r_____y.

We must give _____, body and soul, to Jesus, king of the J_____, light to the G_____s.

Missions Work Highlight

LYDIA – A BEATING HEART

Lydia – A Beating Heart is the first and only pro-life pregnancy resource center in Macedonia. The goal of Lydia is to change the cultural concepts surrounding abortion and adoption. The Lydia Center is dedicated to counseling and helping women while promoting the value of life and the rights of the pre-born baby. The Center's goal is to love, support, and assist women facing unplanned pregnancies, post-abortion trauma, and other family-related crises. Please keep Lydia Center in your basket of interest for support and intercessory prayer before the Lord.

Learn more about Lydia – A Beating Heart at lydiamk.com.

Announcements

Sunday School classes will resume on 1/7/24

There will be a Fellowship Luncheon on 1/14/24 following Sunday School. The congregation is asked to bring main dishes, side dishes, salads, casseroles and/or desserts.

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	10:00AM
Sunday School (<i>Sept–June</i>)	11:45 AM
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 PM

Christ's Church of the Hudson Valley

Worship	11:00 AM
Sunday School	12:30 PM

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 Pastor

Rev. Kevin Chiarot, Ph.D.

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Justin Chiarot

Session (Ruling Elders, with Class Year)

Johnson Chang-Fong (2024), Adam Kuliszewski (2024), Robert David (2025), Mike Bonagura (2026), James Phillips (2026)

Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

Joe Hall (Chair: 2024), Bill Cooke (2025), Ed Timberger (2025), David Babick (2026), Noah Watson (2026)

Board of Trustees

Robert David (Chairman)
Adam Kuliszewski (Vice-Chairman)

Staff

Administrative Secretary	Jo-Anne Weber
Christian Education	Brenda Grammer
Evangelism	Johnson Chang-Fong
Fellowship	JoAnn Maucher
Music Committee	Lori Steinberger
Organist	Elaine H. Simpson
Property Manager	Joe Schlegel
Sexton	Rachel McDuffie
Treasurer	Kevin Quirk

