

The Lord's Service

The First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER 27, 2022



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Advent Processional*

ELIZABETH A. KROUSE

ANNA LAURA PAGE

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

⌘ WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 62:

Q. What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?

A. **The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment are, God’s allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, His challenging a special propriety in the seventh, His own example, and His blessing the Sabbath day.**

⌘ CALL TO WORSHIP

ISAIAH 2:4

They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
**nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.**

⌘ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

⌘ HYMN OF PRAISE

The Sands of Time Are Sinking

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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, fail to love our neighbors, and refuse the way of righteousness 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.



STANDING IF COMFORTABLE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: spoken, sung

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠ OUR LIFE OF GRATEFUL OBEDIENCE

FROM MATTHEW 5:1-12

Jesus opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,

For they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,

For they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

For they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,

For they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,

For they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,

For they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you

And utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven,

For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

✠ THE PEACE

✠ 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

From Heaven on High I Come to You

MARTIN LUTHER

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 GENESIS 3:14-24 p. 3

NEW TESTAMENT READING REVELATION 22:1-5; 14 p. 1234

⊗ PSALM OF RESPONSE: BASED ON PSALM 98 *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come* 195

⊗ GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 24:36-44 p. 986

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

SERMON *The Tree of Life*

⊗ WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM QUESTION 90:

Q. What shall be done to the righteous at the day of judgment?

A. At the day of judgment, the righteous, being caught up to Christ in the clouds, shall be set on His right hand, and there openly acknowledged and acquitted, shall join with Him in the judging of reprobate angels and men, and shall be received into heaven, where they shall be fully and forever freed from all sin and misery; filled with inconceivable joys, made perfectly holy and happy both in body and soul, in the company of innumerable saints and holy angels, but especially in the immediate vision and fruition of God the Father, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, to all eternity. And this is the perfect and full communion, which the members of the invisible church shall enjoy with Christ in glory, at the resurrection and day of judgment.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Stefan Angelo D'Amico

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY *Andante* WELY

⊗ 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

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



COMMUNION HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

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*At the lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.*

*Praise we Christ, whose blood was
shed; paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.*

*Where the paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.*

*Mighty victim from the sky,
powers of hell beneath thee lie;
death is conquered in the fight,
thou hast bought us life and light:
hymns of glory and of praise,
risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father praise to thee,
with the Spirit, ever be.*



HYMN OF DEPARTURE

Praise the Savior Now and Ever

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Processional March

R. KEURTZLIN

MINISTER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot
WORSHIP LEADER: Adam Kuliszewski
ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson

The Tree of Life

GEN. 3; REV. 2; REV. 22

During Advent we look _____ and we look f_____.
 The first coming IS the i_____ of the age to come.

1. The Garden

Eden was a s_____ -t_____.

The tabernacle was patterned on the _____ tabernacle.

The covenant with Adam is called the covenant of w_____.

Through obedience, Adam would gain _____ life.

_____ Creation was always the goal of the _____ Creation.

The tree of life is a s_____ of eternal life.

A f_____ s_____ guards the way to the tree of life.

2. The Tree

The cross of Christ is sometimes called a _____ in Scripture.

The apostles speak of h_____ him on a tree.

1 Peter: He himself bore our _____ in his _____ on the tree.

The idea comes from _____ chapter 21.

To be hung on a tree was to be ac_____.

Christ _____ us from the curse by becoming a curse.

He turns the cursed _____ into the tree of life.

Justin Martyr said: The Lord hath _____ from the tree.

3. The City

Revelation e_____ back to Genesis.

Overcomers eat of the tree of life in the _____ of God.

The saints obtain an es_____ Eden.

Christians are to be l_____ trees of life.

The table c_____ to us the tree of life even now.

Missions Work Highlight

REDEEMER BROADCASTING

In the Newburgh-Beacon Area, Heard on 102.5FM and 90.3FM

Redeemer Broadcasting is an evangelically reformed radio ministry which began in the Hudson Valley in 2004. We play calm Christian music and teaching that emphasizes the historic Christian faith. Westminster's full church service is heard each Sunday. Our board of directors and some of our advisors came from this church.

Digital listening options include computer streaming, internet radio, and the "Redeemer Broadcasting" smart phone app. The Lord has blessed us with growth into a small network of stations covering the Mid-Hudson Valley, Northern New Jersey, and Southern Maryland. Listeners contact us daily with testimonials. During the pandemic, many received encouragement and companionship during the unusual times of isolation. Dan and Deb Elmendorf would like to express their sincerest thanks for the sacrificial and generous role our Westminster church family has played in helping them carry on this kingdom work.

Announcements

It is our joy to baptize Stefan D'Amico, grandson of Bill and Beth Cooke.

Youth Group will meet in the teen room from 7-9 on Friday, December 2 to practice Christmas carols and write cards for the Country Inn residents. We will also have snacks, drinks, and games. Please see Madeline Gill or Janis Berg for details.

-The Youth Group will be Christmas caroling on Saturday 12/17. Bring the Family! Meeting at church at 1:30PM, then carpooling to Country Inn for 2:00PM. Then back to WPC for hot chocolate and sweets. RSVP Dec. 10th to madelinejgill@gmail.com

We are in need of Nursery volunteers. Please sign up in the nursery if you can help.

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

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.

Session (Ruling Elders, with Class Year)

Bob Maucher (2023), Johnson Chang-Fong (2024),
Adam Kuliszewski (2024), Robert David (2025)

Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

Paul Mowat (Chair: 2023), Jim Rutigliano (2023),
Joe Hall (2024), Bill Cooke (2025),
Ed Timberger (2025)

Board of Trustees

Bob Maucher (Chairman)
Adam Kuliszewski (Vice-Chairman)

Staff

Administrative Secretary	Jo-Anne Weber
Christian Education	Brenda Grammer
Choir Director	Elaine H. Simpson
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