

The Lord's Service

Epiphany of the Lord

JANUARY 05, 2025



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

*Das Alte Jahr
The Shepherds' Farewell*

J.S. BACH
HECTOR BERLIOZ / ARR. PAUL HAMILL

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

God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



HYMN OF PRAISE

All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord

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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

✠ 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

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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

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

TRADITIONAL POLISH MELODY

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, the light of the world. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

PSALM 72: 1-7, 10-14

NEW TESTAMENT READING

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

⌘ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 46 *God Is Our Strength and Refuge* 89

⌘ GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 2:1-18

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

SERMON *“Responding to the King”*

⌘ 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

Andante

ADOLPH HESSE

⌘ 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, 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.

⌘ THE COMMUNION

(Outer ring alone is grape juice)

*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.*

*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.*

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

*Mighty victim from the sky,
pow'rs 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

Angels We Have Heard on High

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⌘ CHARGE AND BLESSING

⌘ POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

G. F. HANDEL / ARR. FRED BOCK

MINISTER: Rev. John Hanna

WORSHIP LEADER: Bob Maucher

ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson, D.M.A.

Missions Work Highlight

TONI & DUBRAVKA UROMOV

Toni and his wife Dubravka live in Strumica, Macedonia with their three boys. He serves as an elder at the Baptist Church Strumica. He also serves in the church, through preaching and teaching regularly. Our church is also planting a new church in another place called Josifovo. They recently opened a Bible School in Strumica which is called the “Macedonian Bible Institute”, it is in cooperation with “Grace To You” and “The Masters Academy International”. Toni and his wife are also translating Christian literature into Macedonian language.

Prayer Requests

Families of the Month: Cooke Family, Linda Croce, Robert David Family, Sabi David Family, Angela Davis DeMatteo family

Weekly Prayer Focus: Pulpit Search Committee, Eton Gayle (Cancer), Mary McCorvey (cancer), Susan Roosje (hospice), Megan Brossman (mental health), Jeanne Phillips (James’s mother, limited responsiveness)

Announcements

It is our joy to welcome back Rev. John Hanna to minister the Word and Sacrament to us this morning; Rev. Hanna is a PCA minister from New Jersey involved in “Ministry to State” to NJ State government officials.

All Sunday School classes (children and adults) resume today.

There will be a Fellowship Luncheon next Sunday, 1/12/25 following Sunday School. The congregation is asked to bring main dishes, casseroles, salads, side dishes and desserts. Beverages will be provided.

Weekly tithing envelopes for 2025 are now available. Please reach out to the church office if you would like a pack.

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	10:30 AM
Sunday School	12:00 PM

Church & Office Location

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office@westminsterchurch-ny.org

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

Vacant

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Justin Chiarot

Session (Ruling Elders, with Class Year)

Robert David (2025), Gary Berg (2025),
Mike Bonagura (2026), James Phillips (2026),
Ron Bonagura (2027), Bob Maucher (2027)

Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

Joe Hall (Chair: 2025), Bill Cooke (2025),
Ed Timberger (2025), David Babick (2026),
Noah Watson (2026), John Grammer (2027),
Ethan Westlund (2027)

Board of Trustees

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

Staff

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

