

The Lord's Service

The First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 03, 2023



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

Adestes Fideles
Variations on Adestes Fideles

EUGENE GIGOUT
WADE / DUPRE

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

PSALM 8

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

You have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

**When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him?**

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Amen.

⊗ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being: You have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

⊗ HYMN OF PRAISE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196

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, 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 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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

⌘ RESPONSIVE READING OF THE LAW

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

⌘ THE PEACE

⌘ GLORIA PATRI

COLOSSIANS 3

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

INTERLUDE

Love Came Down at Christmas

ARR. ROGER VERDESI

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 LESSON

ISAIAH 40:1-8

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-24

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

⌘ GOSPEL READING MARK 1:1-8

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

SERMON

Mark's Intro

⌘ WESTMINSTER CONFESSION CHAPTER 33: OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT. PARAGRAPH 3

As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity: so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Praise Ye the Lor (SAINT-SAENS)

*Praise ye the Lord Of host,
Come and adore Him.
Bless his name and worship Him in his holy shrine.*

*Sing O ye heavens. On earth be ye joyful.
Sing ye in Praise of the Lord, for He cometh. Alleluia!*

WESTMINSTER CHOIR
DIRECTOR: ROBERT SOKOLOSKI
ORGANIST: WILMA DE JAGER

⊗	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	<i>Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless</i>	424
	<i>Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless your chosen pilgrim flock with manna in the wilderness, with water from the rock.</i>	<i>in strength of which we travel on to our abiding place.</i>	
	<i>Hungry and thirsty, faint and weak, as you when here below, our souls the joys celestial seek which from thy sorrows flow.</i>	<i>Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart; Savior, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart.</i>	
	<i>We would not live by bread alone, but by your word of grace,</i>	<i>There sup with us in love divine; your body and your blood, that living bread, that heav'nly wine, be our immortal food.</i>	
⊗	HYMN OF DEPARTURE	<i>Holy Ghost, Dispel our Sadness</i>	330
⊗	CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		
⊗	POSTLUDE	<i>The King Shall Come</i>	JOHN WYETH / SETTING BY MICHAEL BURKHARDT

MINISTER: Rev. Justin Chiarot
 WORSHIP LEADER: Johnson Chang-Fong
 ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson, D.M.A.
 CHOIR DIRECTOR: Robert Sokoloski

Missions Work Highlight

LYDIA – A BEATING HEART

Lydia – A Beating Heart is the first and only pro-life pregnancy resource center in Macedonia. Abortion is used without a second thought as the primary form of birth control in Macedonia and throughout the Balkans. Often, when a woman is asked why she wants an abortion, she simply shrugs her shoulders and says she doesn't really have a reason other than she wasn't planning on getting pregnant at this particular time. 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

The congregation families are invited to sing Christmas Carols on Saturday, December 16th at the New Windsor Country Inn at 2 pm. All ages welcome! If you wish to carpool from church please arrive 1:30- or meet at the Inn- 450 Temple Hill Rd New Windsor NY. We will return to the church after for cookies and hot chocolate. Any questions please contact Janis Berg at jtberg123@gmail.com.

We need a few more volunteers willing to prepare an occasional Sunday meal for Donna Conklin's family. You can provide a meal on any Sunday convenient to your schedule. Visit the Mealtrain website for a full explanation and to see the calendar of meal bookings: www.mealtrain.com/3659y8. For questions, contact Carl Wolfe, coordinator.

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

614 Station Road
Rock Tavern, NY 12575

T 845.496.7971 | F 845.496.7916
www.westminsterchurch-ny.org
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 Minister

The Reverend Kevin Chiarot, Ph.D.

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
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

