

The Lord's Service

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 18, 2022



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

*Savior of the Heathen, Come
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

SETTING BY E. T. CHILDS

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 65:

Q. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment forbids the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongs to everyone in their several places and relations.

⌘ CALL TO WORSHIP

AMOS 5:4; HEBREWS 13:14

Thus says the Lord: Seek me and live!

For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

⌘ PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have promised for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you in and above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

⌘ HYMN OF PRAISE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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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

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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

O Jesus Sweet

HALLE / JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

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 61:10-11 p. 738

NEW TESTAMENT READING REVELATION 19:6-9; 21:1-4 pp. 1232, 1233

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

⊗ GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 25:1-13 p. 987

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

SERMON *The Marriage Supper of the Lamb*

⊗ 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.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY *The Journey to Bethlehem* CESAR FRANCK

⊗ 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

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Day is Surely Drawing Near

MICHAEL PRAETORIUS

MINISTER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot
WORSHIP LEADER: Johnson Chang-Fong
ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson
EUPHONIUM MUSICIAN: Adam Kuliszewski

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

REV. 19:6-9; 21:1-4.

Eucharist o_____ us to the c_____ feast.
 The _____ of Israel is the r_____ of the dead.
 Back to the _____ of life, _____ to the marriage supper.

1. The Coming

The Lord our God the Almighty has _____ to reign.
 With the k_____, comes the w_____.
 With the wedding, comes the _____.
 The Supper _____ our appetite for this S_____.

2. The Clothing

The linen was gr_____ to her to wear.
 Justification gives you t_____ to h_____.
 Deeds are the f_____ and e_____ of saving faith.
 Because all is granted, the Bride a_____ herself.
 We should ask: Am I clothed in l_____, bright and pure?

3. The Consummation

There is no o_____ between the old & new creation.
 We seek the _____ which is to _____.
 The bride comes _____ out of _____ from God.
 The church _____ in h_____.
 Consummation is described as c_____ c_____.

Missions Work Highlight

LYDIA CENTER IN MACEDONIA

In October we celebrated our 10th year of “Lydia”. Over 1000 women have come through our doors; many babies have been saved from abortion; thousands of clothing articles and diapers have been distributed; many tears have been shed. At our conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia we were strengthened by each other and ended our time praying that Pro Life Ministries increase in the Balkans. We are grateful for your prayers and support that help make this ministry go. May God bless all of our friends.

Announcements

Westminster will hold a Christmas Eve candlelight service 12/24 at 7:00PM. Offerings collected will be sent to the PCA Relief Fund.

There will be no coffee time, Sunday School, or evening service on 12/25 and 1/1.

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

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 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