

The Lord's Service

The Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 17, 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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

⊗ CALL TO WORSHIP

ISAIAH 35:1-2

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

**like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.**

⊗ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you, now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your redeemed children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

⊗ HYMN OF PRAISE

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

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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, 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

INTERLUDE

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.

☒ 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

Be Still, My Soul

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☒ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

☒ POSTLUDE

MINISTER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot
WORSHIP LEADER: Robert David
ORGANIST: Wilma de Jager

Advent Patience

JAMES 5:7-11

1. Patience (vv. 7-8)

Be patient until the Lord's c_____.

Patience makes space for the sovereign S_____t.

We are saved into a perpetual state of w_____g.

The Lord's coming is mentioned _____ times in the NT.

Impatience is a failure to b_____ in the Lord's coming

Patience respects the rhythms and order of l_____.

The Lord's coming is n_____.

2. Speech (v. 9)

Impatience is manifest most openly in our s_____h.

Grumblers take to themselves the role of j_____e.

3. The Example (vv. 10-11)

Patience is a kind of s_____g.

The patient person recognizes that they are a p_____t.

Patience is the key to h_____s.

Job reminds us of God's c_____n and m_____.

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

The offering taken on Christmas Eve will be sent to the PCA Relief Fund which assists widows, retired pastors, and other PCA ministry staff in need. You may give directly by using the insert in the bulletin.

Everyone is invited to join us for today's Sunday School Christmas Program immediately following the worship service.

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

