

The Lord's Service

The First Sunday after Christmas

DECEMBER 29, 2024



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

Noel
In Dulci Jubilo
In the Bleak Mid-Winter

CLAUDE LOUIS DAQUIN
FRANZ LISZT
GUSTAV HOLTZ

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 JOHN 1:14; HEBREWS 5:7

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

We have beheld his glory! Alleluia!

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,

with loud cries and tears,

to him who was able to save him from death,

and he was heard because of his reverence.

☒ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God of power of might, our refuge, deliver us from evil and confirm our trust in you. In a threatening world we look to you as our rock of hope. Hear us as we pour out our hearts to you, and give us your grace and protection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

☒ HYMN OF PRAISE *The God of Abraham Praise* 34

CONFESSION OF SINS

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 FROM THE PSALMS

God spoke all these words, saying; I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before me.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight.

You shall not make for yourself graven images...you shall not bow down to them or serve them.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. **How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

Honor your father and your mother. **Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions; according to thy steadfast love remember me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord!**

You shall not kill.

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me.

You shall not commit adultery. **Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.**

You shall not steal. **Have mercy on me, O God, and blot out my transgressions.**

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. **Put false ways far from me; and graciously teach me thy law!**

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's. **Incline my heart to thy testimonies, and not to gain! Deliver me from all my transgressions.**

The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth. He fulfills the desire of all who fear him, he also hears their cry, and saves them. **My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.**



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

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ARR. CATHY MOKLEBUST

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

PSALM 61:1-4 *p. 566*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

HEBREWS 5:7-10 *p. 1190*

⌘ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 90

O God, Our Help in Ages Past 30

⌘ GOSPEL READING

LUKE 22:39-46 *p. 1048*

⌘ RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord.
Praise be to God.

SERMON

Higher than I

⌘ 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

As with Gladness Men of Old

ARR. HENRY J. MARKWORTH

⌘ DOXOLOGY

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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)

*Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
he, though heavenly, high and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.*

*Now in faith I humbly ponder
over this surpassing wonder
that the bread of life is boundless,
though the souls it feeds are countless;*

*with the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
pledge and seal of my salvation.*

*Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you,
and, so favored, never leave you.*

☒ HYMN OF DEPARTURE

Be Thou My Vision

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☒ CHARGE AND BLESSING

☒ POSTLUDE

O Come, Little Children

JOHANN SCULZ / ARR. DALE WOOD

MINISTER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot

WORSHIP LEADER: Robert David

ORGANIST / HAND BELL DIRECTOR: Elaine H. Simpson, D.M.A.

VOCAL QUARTET: Sarah David, Lori Steinberger, Bob Sokoloski, Thomas Pedrosa

Missions Work Highlight

THE BALKAN CENTER FOR LIFE

Formerly known as the Lydia Center, The Balkan Center for Life is located in Macedonia. The goal of the ministry is to change the cultural concepts surrounding abortion and adoption in the Balkans. It is dedicated to counseling and helping women while promoting the value of life and the rights of the unborn baby. Svetlana Jovanova is the Founder and CEO of The Balkan Center for Life and is now the Director. She is LAS certified by Heartbeat International and is certified as a reproductive loss trainer for the Institute of Reproductive Grief Care.

Prayer Requests

Families of the Month: Claire Clason, Clement family, Coleman family, Conklin family

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

Announcements

There will be a Fellowship Luncheon on 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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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)

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

