

# The Lord's Service

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*First Sunday of Advent*

NOVEMBER 30, 2025



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

*God of All Grace  
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

ARR. RICHARD WARNER  
RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

*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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

⊗ CALL TO WORSHIP

ISAIAH 64:1-2

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

**that the mountains might quake at your presence**

as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil

**to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!**

⊗ 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

*Praise Ye, Praise Ye the Lord*

112

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 FROM COLOSSIANS 3

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.**

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.**



## 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

*Come, Dearest Lord, Descend and Dwell*

HENRY K. OLIVER

## 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

MICAH 5:1-6

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

ROMANS 13:11-14

⌘ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 106      *O Praise the Lord, O Thank the Lord*      52

⌘ GOSPEL LESSON      MATTHEW 24:36-44

⌘ RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord.  
**Praise be to God.**

SERMON

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

⌘ WESTMINSTER CONFESSIOIN CH. 33: OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT, PAR. 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**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elizabeth Faith Elmendorf

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

*Prayer of the Sicilian Mariners*

ARR. RICHARD WARNER

⌘ 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 WITH 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)*

COMMUNION HYMN      *'Twas on That Night When Doomed to Know*      422

*'Twas on that night when doomed to know  
the eager rage of every foe,  
that night in which he was betrayed,  
the Savior of the world took bread;*

*"My broken body thus I give for you,  
for all. Take, eat, and live.*

*And oft the sacred rite renew  
that brings my saving love to view"*

*My blood I thus pour forth, he cries, to  
cleanse the soul in sin that lies; in this the  
covenant is sealed, and heav'n's eternal  
grace revealed.*

⌘ HYMN OF DEPARTURE      *The Church's One Foundation*      347

⌘ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

⌘ POSTLUDE      *Praeambulum festivum*      SIGFRID KARG-ELERT

PREACHER: Rev. John Hanna  
WORSHIP LEADER: Adam Kuliszewski  
ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson, D.M.A.



# Missions Work Highlight

REFORMED FORUM – WORLDWIDE

Reformed Forum is an organization committed to providing Reformed Christian theological resources to pastors, scholars, and anyone who desires to grow in their understanding of Scripture and the theology that faithfully summarizes its teachings. It is committed to the principles of the Protestant Reformation and the truths of its historic creeds and confessions and it develops resources that are intended for people who desire to grow in their Christian faith throughout an entire lifetime.

Website: [reformedforum.org/](http://reformedforum.org/)

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## Prayer Requests

**Saints/Families of the Month:** Joe Schlegel family, Elaine Simpson, Bob and Arlene Sokoloski, Lois Spagnola

**Weekly Prayer & Praise Focus:** Rich Family, Pulpit Search Committee, Micheal Park's 4-yr nephew Jeremy, Esther Riffard, Kameron Riffard (Esther's grandson), Mary McCorvey, Jeanne Phillips (James' mother), Megan Brossman, Alice Watson (Chaz Watson's mother), Barbara Booth (John Grammer's mother)

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## Announcements

It is our joy to welcome back Rev. John Hanna to minister 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.

The New Members class concludes today during Sunday school in the sanctuary. All are invited.

No evening service today.

Please verify your Picture Directory information in the draft copy located in the Narthex by today. We expect to print the updated directory by mid-December.

Handel's Messiah will be performed on Sunday, 12/07/2025 at 5:00pm in West Point Cadet Chapel. This performance with orchestra and a choir of over 100 singers and cadet choir members is free to the public. All are welcome to this annual Christmas tradition.

## 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!

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### 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

560 Station Road  
Rock Tavern, NY 12575

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[www.westminsterchurch-ny.org](http://www.westminsterchurch-ny.org)  
[office@westminsterchurch-ny.org](mailto: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)

Mike Bonagura (2026), Robert David (2026), James Phillips (2026), Gary Berg (2027), Ron Bonagura (2027), Bob Maucher (2027), Adam Kuliszewski (2028)

### Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

David Babick (2026), Noah Watson (2026), John Grammer (2027, Chair), Ethan Westlund (2027), Joe Hall (2028), Ed Timberger (2028)

### 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

