

The Lord's Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 21, 2025



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

I Wonder as I Wander
Wexford Carol
Coventry Carol

J.A.C. REDFORD / BASED ON A TRADITIONAL APPALACHIAN TUNE

J.A.C. REDFORD / BASED ON A TRADITIONAL IRISH CAROL

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH / ARR. DON GILLIS

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

ROMANS 13:11

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed
the night is far gone, the day is near.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. **Amen.**



HYMN OF PRAISE

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

200

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

O, Little Town of Bethlehem

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

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 57:15-21

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

⌘ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 24 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!* 198

⌘ GOSPEL LESSON LUKE 2:8-20

⌘ RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord.
Praise be to God.

SERMON

The Shepherds – Peace on Earth

⌘ 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

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Quelle est cette odeur agreable?

FRENCH CAROL / ARR. PAUL S. JONES

⌘ 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

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

421

*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.*

*Hasten as a bride to meet him,
eagerly and gladly greet him.
There he stands already knocking;
quickly, now, your gate unlocking,*

*open wide the fast-closed portal,
saying to the Lord immortal:
"Come, and leave your loved one never;
dwell within my heart forever."*

*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.*

⌘ HYMN OF DEPARTURE

While by My Sheep

215

⌘ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

⌘ POSTLUDE

Fugue in G Minor

J.S. BACH / TRANS. RONALD

PREACHER: Rev. Steve Froehlich

WORSHIP LEADER: Robert David

ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson, D.M.A.

BRASS QUINTET: Zach Hommel, *trumpet*; Steve Austin, *trumpet*; Megan Decker, *horn*;
Sam Shackleton, *trombone*; Adam Kuliszewski, *tuba*

Missions Work Highlight

MIDDLE EAST REFORMED FELLOWSHIP – WORLDWIDE

Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) is an evangelical Christian missionary organization which serves in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia on behalf of Reformed and Presbyterian Family of Churches and believers worldwide. Their work is bearing fruit for the Kingdom of Christ among the twenty-two nations of the Arab League and other Muslim areas in Africa and Asia. MERF strengthens national churches with ministries of evangelism, church extension, biblical training, and diaconal aid.

Website: <https://www.merf.org/>

Prayer Requests

Saints/Families of the Month: Steinberger family, Linda Lou Sully, Timberger family, Dick Wallace, Chaz Watson family,

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), Janis Berg's aunt Marilynn, Liz Berg (with child; Bergs' daughter-in-law), Jeff Cooke (Bill's brother)

Announcements

We are blessed to welcome back our interim pastor, the Rev. Steve Froehlich, retired from New Life PCA in Ithaca, NY, to minister Word and Sacrament to us this morning.

Evening service at 6pm today.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be 12/24/25 at 7pm.

The offering taken during 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.

Please send any necessary bulletin announcements to the church office to be reviewed and processed. Email: office@westminsterchurch-ny.org

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

560 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 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

