



Westminster Presbyterian Church
December 8, 2024

The Prelude

Welcome & Announcements (10:25)

(Elder Gary Mullen assisting the worship service.)

A warm welcome to those new to Westminster!

Please fill out the Welcome Card in the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate so we can get to know you. Thank you!

Advent Readings: Lighting the Bethlehem Candle *(Please see insert)*

The Ronan Family

Call to Worship: Various Passages *(Responsively)*

He is the Prince of Peace, the Prince of Life, the Holy and Righteous One,

The Word of God, Who was in the beginning with God, Who was God,

Through Whom all things came into being and Who became flesh and dwelt among us,

The Son of God, our Lord and God, Who is over all, God blessed forever.

He is the Bread of Life, the Light of the world, the Resurrection and the Life,

The Good Shepherd, the Vine, the Way, the Truth and the Life,

The Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

He is the Savior of the World; the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world;

Immanuel, God with us, Who saves His people from their sins; He gave His Life as a ransom for many;

He bore our sins in His body on the cross;

Though He knew no sin He became sin that we might become the righteousness of God in Him;

He is the only mediator between God and man;

Our Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

Who always lives to make intercession for us; the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.

O come let us worship.
AMEN

Invocation Prayer

***Hymn of Worship # 208:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Confession of Faith: Belgic Confession, Article 18 *(Responsively)*

We confess, therefore, that God has fulfilled the promise He made to the fathers by the mouth of His holy prophets when, at the time appointed by Him,

He sent into the world His own only-begotten and eternal Son, Who took the form of a servant and was born in the likeness of men.

He truly assumed a real human nature with all its infirmities, without sin, for He was conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit and not by the act of a man.

He not only assumed human nature as to the body, but also a true human soul, in order that He might be a real man.

For since the soul was lost as well as the body, it was necessary that He should assume both to save both...

We ...confess that Christ partook of the flesh and blood of the children.

He is a fruit of the loins of David; born of the seed of David according to the flesh;

A fruit of the womb of the virgin Mary; born of woman; a branch of David;

A shoot from the stump of Jesse; sprung from the tribe of Judah;

Descended from the Jews according to the flesh; of the seed of Abraham, since the Son was concerned with the descendants of Abraham.

Therefore He had to be made like His brethren in every respect, yet without sin.

In this way He is in truth our *Immanuel*, that is, "God with us".

Confession of Sin

Lord Jesus, we have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek You in our daily lives. Our sins and shortcomings present us with a list of accusations, but we thank You that they will not stand against us, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver us from every evil habit, every interest of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of Your grace in us, everything that prevents us taking delight in You. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 44:22

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you.

***Hymn # 201:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Offering Prayer: Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

***Doxology: Hymn # 731**

Choir Anthem: *Let Earth Receive Her King*

Never has a Gift been given of such wonder and such worth. Here tonight, our long-expected God reveals Himself to earth. Let the weary and the waiting see the Love that has come down. Let the long anticipating turn their eyes above and shout with joy, with joy, with joy, with joy, with joy!

Let the nations all sing with joy! Let all Heaven now ring with joy! For the Gift that He brings, what joy! Let earth receive her King.

Hear the news of our deliverance told by angels from on high, words of life and celebration ringing through the midnight sky. Earth and Heaven come together. Oh, the glory and the grace! For the first time in forever we can look upon His face with joy, with joy, with joy, with joy, with joy!

Let the nations all sing with joy! Let all Heaven now ring with joy! For the Gift that He brings, what joy! Let earth receive her King.

See the darkness bow and tremble at the triumph of the Light! God's Son lies in a stable on a glorious silent night. Let the weary and the waiting see the Love that has come down. Let the long anticipating turn their eyes above and shout. Earth and Heaven come together. Oh, the glory and the grace! For the first time in forever we can look upon His face with joy, with joy, with joy, with joy, with joy!

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Children ages 4-2nd grade may go to Children's Church at this time.

Prayer for Congregation

Scripture Reading: John 3:17-21 (pg. 835)

Sermon: *The Purpose and Fallout of God Sending His Son* by Pastor Mark Scholten

***Hymn of Response #261:** *What Wondrous Love Is This (Stanzas 1, 2)*

Communion – *Please retain the elements and we will partake together.*

***Closing Hymn:** *Grace, Love and Fellowship*

May the grace of Christ, our Savior, and the love of God, our Father, and the fellowship of the Spirit be with us.

May the grace of Christ, our Savior, and the love of God, our Father, and the fellowship of the Spirit be with us. Forever, and ever, forevermore, Amen.

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***Benediction: Psalm 73:25-26; 2 Corinthians 13:14**

Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*Indicates standing, if you are able.

Celebrating Communion Together

All professing believers may partake of the Lord's Supper with us. After an explanation and invitation, the ushers direct us to approach the table to receive the elements. All then return to their seats. There may be an elder available near the Lord's Table to pray for families with children. If you cannot come forward, an elder will bring the elements to you. We partake together at the direction of the pastor. Elders are also available for prayer near the pulpit after the service.

Please join us tonight at 6:00 pm for the church-wide **Prayer Meeting & Fellowship** led by Pastor Mark Scholten in the fellowship hall.

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