



*Westminster Presbyterian Church*  
*December 15, 2024*

**The Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements (10:25)**

*Elder Eric Eagle assisting worship.*

*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 Shepherd's Candle** *(Please see insert)*

*Larry & Carla Wooten*

**Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-3, 7-8, 45** *(Responsively)*

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name;  
**make known His deeds among the peoples!**

Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;  
**tell of all His wondrous works!**

Glory in His holy name;  
**let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!**

He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth.  
**He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded,  
for thousand generations.**

**ALL: Praise the Lord!**

**Invocation Prayer**

**\*Hymn of Worship # 195:** *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*      *Paul Smith, trombone*

**Confession and Assurance**

We confess, our Father, that we do not live up to the family name. We are more ready to resent than to forgive, more ready to manipulate than to serve, more ready to fear than to love, more ready to keep our distance than to welcome, more ready to compete than to help. At the root of this behavior is mistrust. We do not love one another as we should, because we do not believe that You love us as You do. Forgive us our cold unbelief. And

make more vivid to us the meaning and depth of Your love at the cross. Show us what it cost You to give up Your Son that we might become Your sons and daughters. We ask this in the name of Jesus our righteousness. Amen.

**New Testament Readings: Acts 8:26-40** (pg. 862); **1 Peter 2:22-25** (pg. 954);  
**Philippians 2:6-11** (pg. 921)

\***Hymn # 214:** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Offering Prayer** from *David Bell*

God of our future, whose compassion is unlimited, all that we have is Yours and to You we shall render account for all You have given us. As we offer You these gifts we enjoy from Your bounty, grant that we may live well, love generously, and seek first Your Kingdom, on earth as in heaven, through Jesus Christ our most kind Judge and Savior. Amen.

**Offertory:** *Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella with Away in a Manger* Dan Dunham, violin

\***Doxology: Hymn # 731** *Psalm 150:6*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Choir Anthem:** *Long Was It Spoken*

*(Narration: This miraculous one night in forever did not happen without our God first setting the stage. Precious bits of His promise had been given through the centuries to His select servants...men who were faithful to record His words, so that the hearts of those who were truly seeking Him might anticipate His advent.)*

Long was it spoken from ancient age, long was it written on sacred page; trusted to prophets, God's chosen ones in time our King would come.

*(Solo: Karen Lester The Lord Himself will give You a sign. Behold, a virgin will be with Child. She will deliver the Promised One and she will call Him Emmanuel, Emmanuel.)*

Long was it spoken from ancient age, long was it written on sacred page; trusted to prophets, God's chosen ones in time our King would come.

*(Solo: Pat Hanley As for You, O Bethlehem, lowest in the clans of Judah, from you one day soon will come the Ruler of all Israel, Israel.)*

Long was it spoken from ancient age, long was it written on sacred page; trusted to prophets, God's chosen ones in time our King would come.

*(Solo: Victor Tobin This Child, born unto us, this Son given now; governments shall rest on His shoulders. And He shall be called, shall be called--)*

*(Solo: Mike Brown Wonderful! Counselor! Mighty God! Everlasting Father. Wonderful! Counselor! Prince of Peace!)*

Long was it spoken from ancient age, long was it written on sacred page; trusted to prophets, God's chosen ones in time our King would come. In time our King would come. In time our King would come.

*Children ages 4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade may go to Children's Church at this time.*

## **Prayer for Congregation**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12** (pg. 574)

**Sermon: Christmas Songs: The Suffering Servant** by Pastor Mark Scholten

**\*Hymn of Response #213: What Child Is This**

**\*Benediction: Isaiah 12:2; 2 Timothy 4:22**

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

\*Indicates standing, if you are able.

Please join us tonight for **WPC Choir's presentation of *What Kind of Throne – A Christmas Musical of Worship and Wonder* at 6:00 pm** and for the fellowship in the gym afterward.

## **Children's Workers**

December 15: Nursery – *Karrie Harmer* Toddlers – *Kathy Scholten*

December 22: Nursery – *Abby Hartman* Toddlers – *Tara Finlay*

## **Children's Church Leaders**

December 15: *Jessica Karius*

December 22: *Karrie Harmer*

**Diaconate House Duty for December: *Randy Moore***

**Ushers for December: *Randy Waters, Matt Scholten, Allen Miller, & Dan Dunham***



## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER:

Today, December 15:	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages
	9:55 am	Fellowship Time
	10:30 am	Morning Worship
	4:30 pm	Choir Practice
	6:00 pm	Christmas Cantata Performance
	7:00 pm	Fellowship & Refreshments in gym
Monday, December 16:	9:30 am	Jeanne's Sewing Group
Tuesday, December 17:	10:00 am	Women's Prayer Group
Wednesday, December 18:	12:00 pm	Men's Bible Study Luncheon

### Announcements

Please pray for these Westminster Families this week: **Allen, Wanda & Jim Miller, Audrey Meyer & Dave Waggoner, Randy & Millie Moore** and pray for **the Moua family** doing International Church Planting in Udon Thani, Thailand.

Please join us tonight for an evening of worship and wonder as the **WPC Adult Choir performs their Christmas Cantata, *What Kind of Throne*** in the sanctuary **at 6:00 pm**. Please invite your family and friends to enjoy this free show with you, and then remain afterward for a time of fellowship and snacks in the gym. **\*\*\*Members, please bring a sweet or salty finger food to share at the reception.\*\*\***

**The Westminster Christmas Post Office is now open!** Save on postage by sending your Christmas cards to the church family through the Westminster Christmas Post Office! There is a large red and green bin in the fellowship hall where you “mail” your Christmas cards. On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, the cards will be sorted and placed on tables in the narthex for you to pick up. (New lists of addresses of members and regular attenders are available in the narthex on the welcome counter. **The deadline to “mail” your cards is by 9:00 am on December 22.**

The **Budget Status Report through November 30, 2024** is now available in the narthex.

The **Christmas Eve service** will be on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. We hope you and your family will join us!

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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