



Westminster Presbyterian Church

December 22, 2024

The Prelude

Welcome & Announcements (10:25)

*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 Angels' Candle (Please see insert)

The Ling Family: Joshua, Kay Cee, Hazel & Peter

Call to Worship: from Revelation 4:8, 5:13 (Christ-Centered Worship) (Responsively)

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!

**To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and
glory and might forever and ever!**

Invocation Prayer from the German Reformed Church

Almighty and everlasting God, who by the mouths of Your prophets and holy men of old, proclaimed the Advent of Your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Desire of all nations, the Hope of Israel, the Redeemer of the world; help us, we ask to repent truly of all our sins, and so to humble ourselves that we may be prepared to receive Him with gladness and join in the cry: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord! Arise, O Sun of Righteousness, with healing in Your wings, that the nations which sit in darkness and in the shadow of death may behold Your light, that all flesh may see the salvation of our God. You are the true Light, which enlightens every man that comes into the world; shine into our hearts and give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, that beholding Your glory, we may be changed into the same image from glory to glory as by the Spirit of the Lord. Hear us, eternal Son of the Father. To You be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

***Hymn of Worship # 207: Good Christian Men, Rejoice**

Confession of Faith: from Rev. Keith Lohman (Responsively)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, our Lord.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption.

Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell, the third day He rose again from the dead.

The Lord has risen indeed!

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said: You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses.

I believe a holy catholic church.

And we are His witnesses.

The forgiveness of sins.

And we are His witnesses.

The resurrection of the body.

And we are His witnesses.

And a life with God which lasts forever.

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

Lord God, We praise You for sending Your light and love, Jesus the Messiah, into this world. We confess that we often live like the light did not defeat the darkness. We confess that we often live as though Jesus is not returning in glorious light. We sometimes confine Christ to parts of our lives and our faith becomes small. We do not joyfully serve and expectantly worship. Forgive us for ignoring Jesus' light. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light, so Your grace illumines the dark places of our hearts, our city and our world. **Amen.**

The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us, has come to us in Jesus Christ, the light of the world. He binds up the broken-hearted, heals all our infirmities, and relieves

our burden of sin. While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that, in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven. God has shown His love for us in that while we were sinners, Christ died and rose for us. Arise, shine; for His light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. **Thanks be to God!**

***Hymn # 210:** *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

Offering Prayer from Luke 1:26-38

God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to Your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further Your kingdom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

Offertory: *O Holy Night* *Dan Dunham, violin*

***Gloria Patri:** **Hymn # 735** *Psalm 29:2*

**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.**

Choir Anthem: *Gloria (Our Savior Found Us)* *Solo – Kris Finlay*

For all of the seeking, through valleys and hills, of shepherds and Wise Men for glory revealed; seems like the greatest journey of all was Heaven now searching for the hearts of the lost.

Gloria! Our Savior found us. Gloria! O night divine! Through the darkness He won't relent. Mercy so great will find a way. Gloria!

For all of the riches laid at His feet, the best we could offer to honor a King; seems like the greatest Treasure of all was found in a manger; God come to us!

Gloria! Our Savior found us. Gloria! O night divine! Through the darkness He won't relent. Mercy so great will find a way. Gloria!

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!

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

Prayer for Congregation

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 3:14-16 (pg. 933)

Sermon: Christmas Songs: The Mystery of Godliness by Pastor Mark Scholten

***Hymn of Response # 229:** *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

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

***Closing Hymn # 224:** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

***Benediction: John 15:9; 2 Corinthians 13:14**

As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love.

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.

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

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.



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