



Westminster Presbyterian Church

125 N. Wilkinson Street • Dayton, OH 45402
www.westminsterdayton.org

Service for the Lord's Day – December 29, 2024

"It is not over,
this birthing.
There are always newer skies
into which
God can throw stars."
— Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

CARILLON PEAL

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

Prelude on "Fröhliche Weihnacht"

Paul Fey

Carol Settings

Paul Manz

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (Hymn 28)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (hymn 43)

"What Is This Lovely Fragrance"

(During the Call to Worship in Music you are requested to enter into a time of silence,
actively opening your spirit to God's presence in your midst.)

INTROIT - "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

John Goss

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail that ever blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

WELCOME

The Reverend Nancy S. Hodgkins

*CALL TO WORSHIP IN WORD

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor with a verbal greeting or enthusiastic wave.)

*HYMN 22 - "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Regent Square

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)



All Sing:

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken.

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

All: **Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI

H. W. Greatorex

Glor-y be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the be-gin-nin-g, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON - Psalm 148

Pew Bible, pp. 582-283 OT

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM - "While Shepherds Watched Their Sheep"

17th cent. carol, arr. Hugo Jüngst

While Shepherds watched their sheep by night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright;
How great their joy,
Joy, joy joy,
Glory to God in heaven on high.

"Fear not at all," he said to them,
"Jesus is born in Bethlehem!"
How great their joy,
Joy, joy joy,
Glory to God in heaven on high.

"There shall ye find in stable mean,
Christ who shall save the world from sin;"
How great their joy,
Joy, joy joy,
Glory to God in heaven on high.

Jesus we hasten to adore,
Grant us thy blessing evermore;

How great their joy,
Joy, joy joy,
Glory to God in heaven on high.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON - Luke 2: 22-40

Pew Bible, p. 59 NT

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Caitlin T. Deyerle

Joy to the World

Focus: "For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." Luke 2:30-32

*HYMN 53 - "What Child Is This"

Greensleeves

*STATEMENT OF FAITH

(Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM - The Star Carol

Alfred Burt

Long years ago on a deep winter night,
High in the heav'ns a star shone bright,
While in a manger a wee baby lay,
Sweetly asleep on a bed of hay.

Jesus, the Lord, was that baby so small,
Laid down to sleep in a humble stall;
Then came the star and it stood over head,

Shedding its light 'round his little bed.

Dear baby Jesus, how tiny thou art,
I'll make a place for thee in my heart,
And when the stars in the heavens I see,
Ever and always I think of thee.

***Doxology (Hymnal No. 592)**

Old Hundredth

*Prayer of Dedication

***Response** (all sing) - "In the Bleak Midwinter" (Hymn 36, stanza 4)

Gustav Holst

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart**

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

***HYMN 40** - "Joy to the World"

Antioch

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE (All sing)** - Refrain to "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Adeste fideles

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - Toccata on "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (Hymn 31)

Paul Fey

(The Concluding Voluntary is the final Alleluia of our worship. You are invited to remain in silence.)

*Please rise in body or spirit.

MUSIC

Music Participants: Westminster Choir - Brent Manley is Organist-Director.

Today's Music: The words of "Joy to the World" are from the pen of Isaac Watts. They are a paraphrase of Psalm 98: ..."for he comes to judge the earth; with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity." The tune has been freely adapted by Lowell Mason from two portions of Handel's *Messiah*.

A **brochure listing all musical events** for the academic year can be found in the literature racks. It can also be downloaded from Westminster's website.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Infants and Toddlers, Room 108 (Infant - 3 years old), are cared for from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 108. Parents of infants will be contacted via text by the nursery staff in case immediate communication is needed while they worship in the Sanctuary. During the worship hour, children take part in an activity and enjoy a snack.

There is no Children's Programming today.

Choirs for children and youth will not rehearse today. A regular schedule of rehearsals will resume on Sunday, January 12.

The Junior High and Senior High Youth Fellowships will not meet today. We will resume Sunday, January 12.

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Welcome Visitors: We are so glad to welcome you to worship with us today! Whether you are just passing through or looking for a new church community, we hope you feel right at home. At Westminster we believe that Jesus welcomes all people, just as they are, and so do we. We understand the life of faith to be a journey that is better walked together than alone. Following worship please join us for Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall, or join one of our Sunday School classes. We hope you will explore the bulletin as well as our website www.westminsterdayton.org to learn more about us. Please leave us your name and contact information in the Friendship Pad so we can get to know you as well! Grace and peace to you. -Westminster Pastoral Staff and Congregation

There will be no Adult Education or Parent Fellowship Classes this Sunday.

Close of 2024 Books - Please be advised that per IRS regulations, all gifts must be received or post-marked by 12/31/24 to receive credit for 2024. Contact Tim Francis (tim@westminsterdayton.org, 937-223-7285) for questions and more information.

The Church Office is closed in observance of the holidays. Normal business hours next Thursday, January 2.

John Neely is on vacation. He will return to the church on Tuesday, January 7.

Richard Baker is away on vacation. He will return January 2.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The flowers in the Chancel are given by Jennifer de Vries and Steve Molton in memory of Jennifer's mother, Berendina de Vries, whose birthday was December 30.

If you are interested in donating Chancel flowers, please contact Kay Berg (bergkay07@gmail.com or 937-367-9297). Please note that there is a one month lead time for flower donation announcements.

Emergency Response Team: Becky Bower and Shelly Davies

During the service, if you notice someone who appears to require medical attention, please raise your hand or contact the head usher. Emergency Response Team members will care for the person.

If you have a security concern please notify the head usher who can connect you to our security personnel.

Each week the churches of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley keep one particular congregation or group in their prayers. This week the churches are praying for **Huntsville Presbyterian Church**.

Westminster is a praying church and we would love to pray for you. You are welcome to **add your prayer to our Prayer Wall**, located in the Sanctuary near the front on the east wall. You will find paper and pencil to write your private prayer to God and place it between the bricks of the wall.

If you have a prayer request you would like to share with our Westminster Prays weekly email, please use the Prayer Request Card in the pew rack and place it in the offering box following worship. You can sign up to receive the Westminster Prays email and share prayer requests or other pastoral needs directly with our pastoral staff by emailing caitlin@westminsterdayton.org or calling 937-907-6078.

Members currently in the hospital: Dick Koerner (Miami Valley Hospital), Larry Pugh (Kettering Hospital)



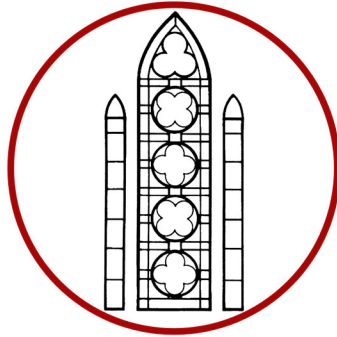
Over the course of the past four months, Gideon and those who work with him have determined that the opportunity Westminster is offering a Music Resident – the path leading to a church music vocation – is not one that Gideon sees in his future. He will explore other career possibilities. In order for Gideon to pursue further career options, it is mutually agreed that he will step down as Music Resident at the end of December. We thank Gideon for his short time here and wish him Godspeed in the journey ahead.



This holiday season, the Earth Stewardship Ministry Team shared an environmentally conscious Advent Calendar, a special series of tips and activities designed to help you celebrate more sustainably. Enjoy the Earth Stewardship Advent Calendar in it's entirety online using the QR Code or pick up a paper copy in the Church Office.



Thank you for coming to Westminster today! We hope to see you again soon. If you enjoyed the service, and want to help us continue to share the love of God with our neighbors and transform their lives, please consider donating to our ministries. Donation boxes are located in the Narthex and by the elevator. You can also donate online at www.westminsterdayton.org/give or by scanning the QR code to the left with the camera of any smart device. You can also text "give" to 937-468-4003.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

MINISTERS

All members of the Church

STAFF

Richard L. Baker, Jr. Pastor/Head of Staff
John W. Neely Assoc. Pastor for Music
Nancy S. Hodgkins Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Mission
Caitlin T. Deyerle Assoc. Pastor for Congregational Care
Jenne Gross Mission Associate
Kylie Hettinger Director of Discipleship
Brent Manley Music Associate
Gideon Brenner Music Resident

Mattie Pennington Congregational Care Coordinator
Tim Francis Business Manager
Brittany Campbell Director of Communications
Donna Schoonmaker Office Manager
Wayne King Facilities and Technology Coordinator
Keith Spencer Sexton
Marvin Fleming Sexton
George H. McConnel Pastor Emeritus

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” (22)
Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

“What Child Is This” (53)
What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,

The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Joy to the World (40)
Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.