



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

Service for the Lord's Day – December 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Without the angels, God would not be revealed and perceptible. In the beauty, work, and witness of angels there lies the basis of the fact that the mystery of God can have a place in the earthly realm. To deny the angels is to deny God. – Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*

The mind needs to be enlightened by light from outside itself, so that it can participate in truth, because it is not itself the nature of truth. You will light my lamp, Lord. – St. Augustine, *Confessions*

CARILLON PEAL

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

Noel, Grand jeu et Duo (variations)

Louis-Claude Daquin

Two Carol Settings

Patricia Sanders Cota

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (Hymn 27)

“He Is Born”

(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 - A Seasonal Antiphonal

Hal H. Hopson

Who will come to save us? Tell us, O tell us!

It is Mary's Son, the Holy Child. Alleluia.

Come to Bethlehem with me, Jesus there we'll see,

And will adore on bended knee. Alleluia.

***WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE** Tom and Frances Bankston

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

***HYMN 31** - “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Mendelssohn

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

The Reverend Nancy S. Hodgkins

Eternal God, the angels of heaven proclaim your glory without ceasing.

But we do not listen for your word of grace, we do not live in your truth.

Have mercy on us, O God. Fill us with a desire to be your faithful people, so that we too may live in your light, and rejoice in your presence through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

(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: Friends, believe this Good News: God is with us.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***RESPONSE** (All sing - standing) - "Glory to God" (Taizé liturgy)

Jacques Berthier



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est!



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON - Matthew 1:18-22

Pew Bible, p. 1 NT

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Children in Pre-K–Grade 2 will leave the service at this time.
An adult leader will be in the Narthex to escort them to their classrooms.)

ANTHEM - "Sing We Noel"

Noël Goemanne

Sing we noel! Christ was born for us today:
Love and peace be here to stay.
Now we raise to heaven our voice,
Sing we now rejoice.

Mary now filled with heavenly joy:
"Emmanuel" she named the boy.
Heaven is near, "O do not fear,"
The angel said, "The Christ is near."
Heaven came to earth,
He saved us by his birth.
O mighty Child, O King of kings,
The universe in praise now sings.

Sing we noel!

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON - Luke 2:8-15

Pew Bible, p. 58 NT

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Richard L. Baker

The Whole World Gives Back the Angels' Song

Focus: "Are not all angels spirits in the divine service? . . .

for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" – Hebrews 1, 13.

***HYMN 38 - "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

Carol

(Children in Grade 3-8 will leave the service at this time.
An adult leader will be in the Narthex to escort them to their classroom.)

***STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed (traditional version)

The Reverend Dr. Caitlin T. Deyerle

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the
Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he
descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and
sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the
quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM - "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As those of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore for us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

***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 23 - “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

Gloria

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE (All sing) - Refrain to “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - “Angels We Have Heard on High”

French carol, arr. Dale Wood

(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: Carillon Bells (Gideon Brenner, Director) - Westminster Choir - Todd Berry, Tenor
The Reverend John Neely is Organist-Director.

Today's Music: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (Hymn 31) owes much of its popularity to the tune by Mendelssohn, a tune which he took from his cantata for male voices and brass choir celebrating the invention of printing press by Gutenberg. Mendelssohn wrote, "I am sure that piece will be liked very much by the singers and the hearers, but it will never do to sacred words." How wrong he was!

The minister who wrote "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," Edmund H. Sears, was deeply involved in the "social gospel," and his carol is the first to include the social dimensions of what it means to work for "peace on earth and good will towards all."

The French carol "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Hymn 23) is thought by some to have originated during the eighteenth century, but its earliest appearance is in 1855. As with all carols, the popular folk melody carries equal weight and importance with the words for the success of the work.

"Glory to God," music by Jacques Berthier, © 1979, 1981, Les Presses de Taizé (admin, GIA Publications, Inc.) is reprinted under CCLI License #2287801.

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.

Choirs for children and youth today.

Children's Choirs and Youth Handbells (Sundays)

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Genesis Singers (4 and 5 year olds, Pre-Kindergarten) - Rm. 104 - Hilary Toerner, Director

Cherub Choir (grades K-2) - Theater - Rachael Boezi, Director

Calvin Choir (grades 3-6) - Rm. 100 (Choir Room) - John Neely, Director

Knox Ringers (grades 7-12) - Rm. 203 - Brent Manley, Director

Youth Choir

Knox Choir (grades 7-12) - This choir will resume a regular schedule of rehearsals on Sunday, January 12, 5:00-6:00 p.m., with youth fellowship groups and dinner to follow.

The Junior High and Senior High Youth Fellowships will not meet this Sunday. We resume 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

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.

WPW Pecan Sale - The pecans have arrived and will be available before and after worship. Please come to Fellowship Hall to pick up your order. We ordered extra pecans in case you want to order more.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The Church Office will be closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 1 in observance of the holidays. Normal hours resume Jan. 2.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The red poinsettias in the Chancel vases are given in loving memory of Merritt and Dottie Culp by their family.

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: Sean Harrell and Paul Agiro

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 **The Presbyterian Church, Hamilton.**

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)



Artwork courtesy of Deb Slack
debslackfineart.com



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.



Poinsettia Donations

Thank you to the following donors for their monetary gifts, which were used to purchase poinsettias for members who needed extra uplifting.

Celebrating

Birth of Granddaughter Josephine Mae DeLuca
Lincoln Andrew Weaver
My Father, Francis D. Therkelson,
 Otterbein resident, 99 years young
Our 50th wedding anniversary
Our Upcoming Granddaughter's Birth
The life of Jane Collins
The lives of our twelve grandchildren

In Honor Of

All Westminster Employees and Volunteers
Hattie Carraway

Joanne Blewett
Our Family
Our Grandchildren: Patrick, Tennyson,
 Delaney, Millie, Noah, and Jeremiah
The Dedicated and Gifted staff at Westminster

In Memory Of

Albert and Florence Cooke
Bertha Kohl, Milton and Harriet Kohl,
 and Shuey Family
Dale W. Blewett, Joe Paquette,
 and Frieda Paquette
Dan Arnold
Don Recob, Jim and Marylee Dungan,
 The Reverend G. Keith Nash
Dorothy Ann Kohl
Elizabeth and John Coleman
Elizabeth Louise Gray
Eugene and Lois Betz
Fred and Bess Wright, and Jerry Shell
Frederick Schindler, Sr.
Grandma Frances Conrad
Hester, Robert, Kenneth, and Roger Barr
Holly Martin
Jane Collins
Jane Collins

Given By

Pam and Carlo McGinnis
Paul and Susanne Weaver

The Dave and Chris Therkelson Family
Jim and Pam Helsinger
Chuck and Jennifer Isham
The Church Chicks (Small Group Sessions)
Kay Davis-Dudding and Fred Dudding

Given By

Jane Dunwoodie
Steve and Sandra Swanson, John Burnette
 and Joyce Carraway
Erin, Anne, and Sean Paquette
Bill and Dee Berry

Craig Zimmerman and Nancy Ross-Zimmerman
Ray and Sue Merz

Given By

Cynthia Schindler

Randy Helt and Linda Kohl Family

Cheryl and Greg Paquette
Julie Arnold

Marcia and Mike Dungan
Bob Kohl
Constance Amos
Virginia and Edman Gray
Catherine Betz
Donna Shell
Cynthia Schindler
Mary Frances, Michael and Maxwell Conrad
Julianne H. Barr
Richard Baker, Jr.
Ann and Stan Herr
Julianne H. Barr

Jane Collins
Jane Collins
Jane Collins
Jane Collins and Holly Martin
Jean Sessions and Kyle Sessions
Jeanette Crawford Adams and George Shaw,
and Virginia L. Morgan
Jeff Butterworth
Jerry Taylor
Jim and Donna Frith
John and Sue Blackwood
John Carraway, Virginia and Richard Swanson

Joyce Raisch, Juliet and William Raisch
Karl Bird
Ken and Doris Garrison, Alice Sample,
and Faye Traxler
Loved Ones
Merry V. Huguley
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Isham, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Kasch,
and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kern
My Aunt Kaye
My Mother, Willene Ford Therkelson, 1925-2024
My Parents
Norman Pfeifer
Our Daughter, Annie
Our Parents
Our Parents
Our Parents, Friends, and Family
Parents, Grandma Feather, and Cousin Bess
Reynold Boezi, Grandpa
Rick Mallonee
Robert Shawhan
Robert Stofer, Robert Stofer, Jr., and Larry Stofer
Shirley and Robert Chenoweth
Son, Craig McGinnis
Taylor Allen Davis
The Loyer Family and the Walker Family
The Reverend Richard and Rachel Bower
Tom Rambo, Walter and Edna Carman
Virginia and Richard Baker, Sr.

Given By

Bill and Sue Cline
The Ford Family

Marshall and Karen Wareham
Becky Bower and Jon Manuel
Susan Allen
Walt and Marcia Wood
Sarah Sessions and Steve Chenoweth

Carol M. Shaw
Dan and Kathy (Butterworth) Raisch
Marshall and Karen Wareham
The Bodey Family
The Bodey Family
Steve and Sandra Swanson, John Burnette,
and Joyce Carraway
Chad and Kristen Raisch
Kimberly Bird

Don and Jackie Nowak
Kay Davis-Dudding and Fred Dudding
Tom Huguley
Chuck and Jennifer Isham

Sonnie and Bill Kasch
Susan Allen
The Dave and Chris Therkelson Family
Susan Allen
The Pfeifer Family
Paul and Laura Bascom
Paul and Susanne Weaver
Kevin and Sandra Muskopf-Hyde
Wayne and Marilyn Spalding
Robin Feather
The Boezi Family
Deb Mallonee
The Shawhan Family
Wanda Stofer
Steve Chenoweth and Sarah Sessions
Pam and Carlo McGinnis
Barbara Davis
Denis and Berta Loyer
Becky Bower
Karen Rambo
Richard Baker, Jr.



Christmas Eve

TUESDAY, DECEMBER

24

CHRISTMAS IN THE STABLE

4:00 p.m.

Family Oriented Service Genesis Singers,
Cherub, and Calvin Choirs

CHRISTMAS IN THE CATHEDRAL

9:20 p.m. - Prelude

10:00 p.m. - Service

Traditional Candlelight Service

Westminster Choir, Knox Ringers, and
Harp





CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Today, December 22



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

Donate online at westminsterdayton.org/give or by scanning the QR code with the camera of any smart device.

What is Advent? The season of Advent begins the Christian Year. The four Sundays preceding Christmas mark a time of preparation. Advent comes from a Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival.” The color is blue. The main preparation Christians make to welcome Christ anew into their lives is through self-examination and repentance. Advent is a season of penitence. It is similar in purpose to Lent and was modeled after it. Christians remember their own need for God to come again in their lives, confessing their sin and separation from God, and expressing deep longing for what God alone can give, the gift of new life and salvation. Advent is a time to remember that we also wait for Christ to come again. We are still sinners in need of redemption. The whole world longs for peace and justice. We continue to look for Jesus Christ to come to save us.

"The Anxious Generation"

Parent Fellowship Class

Concludes Today, Room 102

The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness is a 2024 book by Jonathan Haidt which argues that the spread of smartphones, social media and overprotective parenting have led to a "rewiring" of childhood and a rise in mental illness.

This class is intended as a fellowship opportunity for parents currently raising their children. Join us in room 102 for an opportunity to talk, listen, support, and learn together!

Peace on Earth

Adult Education Series

Concludes Today, West Parlor

Montgomery County Assistant Prosecutor, Lynda Dodd, will discuss how victims encounter the legal system. This will include the roles of prosecutors and law enforcement at different stages of investigations and prosecutions, and how they work to support victims through the court process. She will also describe the victims of homicide memorial service, which has been held at Westminster during the Advent season.



Earth Stewardship

**ADVENT CALENDAR
WRAP UP!**

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 its entirety online using the QR Code or pick up a paper copy in the Church Office.

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (31)
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (38)
It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all-gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,

And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.
"Angels We Have Heard on High" (23)
Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.