



Westminster Presbyterian Church

Order of Worship for December 13, 2020

The Third Sunday of Advent

In-Person and Online at 11:00 a.m.
Facebook Live | YouTube | www.westminstercharleston.org

WELCOME

PRELUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

PAUL MANZ

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

The Smith Family

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall never be cut off." Isaiah 55

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

◆CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We wait for the coming of the Lord with Hope, Peace, and Joy.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

One: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: **We wait for you with expectation. Come, Lord Jesus!**

ADVENT HYMN

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess we are not ready to celebrate your coming. We easily forget what you came to do. We get caught up in celebrating the season and forget the One whose season we are celebrating. Forgive us when we forget the message of the prophets who prepared the way for his coming. Forgive us for selfishly claiming Jesus for ourselves and forgetting that he came as the Savior of the world. Renew our faith in Jesus our Lord, and change our lives by the power of your Spirit, so we can celebrate your coming with joy. Amen

(Silent Confession)

◆RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

◆SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Administered to Ellison, Addison, and Piper Stoney, children of Carlton and Selena Stoney.
Carol Patrick, Assisting Elder.

◆AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

ANTHEM

Angels We Have Heard on High
Handbell Choir

BILL INGRAM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 5:1-5

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Drop the Mic(ah): Hear Peace!

HYMN OF RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

◆BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

◆POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

GORDON YOUNG

◆*Please stand, if able*

Leading the service today: Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Lissa Long, Pastor; Janie Bruce, Youth and Children; Robin Zemp, Music; Meg Dorsel, Livestream.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI License #2778901

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

FROM THE WESTMINSTER PULPIT

The Prophet Micah called people to hear the Word of the Lord. Memorably, he prophesied about the coming of one who would rule over God's people. *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."* (5:2) The prophecy is fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. During this festive season, we'll listen for God's Word to us through Micah, asking God to get our hearts ready for the coming of the King!

November 29	Micah 1:1-7	Drop the Mic(ah): Hear Advent!
December 6	Micah 4:1-5	Drop the Mic(ah): Hear Renewal!
Today	Micah 5:1-5	Drop the Mic(ah): Hear Peace!
December 20	Micah 6:1-8	Drop the Mic(ah): Hear Justice!
December 27	Micah 7:18-20	Drop the Mic(ah): Hear Forgiveness!

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

We are delighted that you have joined us for in-person or online worship, and we hope you are encouraged and strengthened in the faith. If you have a prayer request or questions about faith, life, or being part of the Westminster family, we invite you to reach out by call or text to one of our pastors.

Pastor Daniel Smoak: 843-872-1001

Pastor Lissa Long: 843-810-2232

For more information about Westminster or to subscribe to our weekly ENews and email updates visit our website at www.westminstercharleston.org

2020 YEAR END GIVING

As we approach the end of the church's fiscal year, please be aware that the church books will close December 31, 2020. In order to be recorded for 2020, all contributions will need to be received by December 31. If you are attending in-person service, you can give your offering at that time. You can also mail your check, bring to the church office, or take advantage of the safe and convenient online giving. Thank you for your faithful and generous support of the missions and ministry of Westminster. Together we have been able to navigate these uncertain times and are looking forward to continued blessings and service in 2021. If you have any questions or need any information, please don't hesitate to call Tommye Owen at 843-766-8311, ext 105 or finance@westminstercharleston.org.

BACKPACK BUDDIES

Wednesday, December 16, at 6:30 pm. We pack weekend food kits for students at Goodwin Elementary School. We will pack outside in the breezeway wearing masks and social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be provided. All ages are welcome and masks are required! Please call Dee Bee Wright at 843.729.7005 with any questions! Thank you!

CHRISTMAS GRIEF GROUP

Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Holidays can be tough when we are grieving the loss of a loved one. Whether you said goodbye this year or years ago, you are invited to join us to pray and to offer support. We will talk through ways to help be present and also acknowledge our grief during the holiday season. Friends and family welcome.

The Season of Advent

ADVENT is the Latin word for “coming.” For Christians it refers to the church season that prepares for the coming of Jesus Christ as God in human flesh – the incarnation. We celebrate his humble birth, his coming to us now, and his coming again in glory at the end of time.

The round shape of the Advent Wreath is a symbol of God's never-ending love for us. The evergreens represent everlasting life, and the purple candles are for him who comes royally as King of kings and Lord of lords. The pink candle is for the joy of the season, and in the center of the wreath is the white Christ candle lit on Christmas Eve. The candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

The Christmas tree is adorned with lights and Chrismons. Lights remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Chrismons are symbols that illustrate aspects of the Christian faith.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER

December 13: The Third Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 A special “Blue Christmas” service designed for those who aren’t feeling so joyful during the holidays. We meet in the Prayer Garden.
- 11:00 Morning Worship; In-person and livestreamed

December 20: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 11:00 Morning Worship; In-person and livestreamed
- 6:00-7:30 A drive-thru nativity. Scenes from the Christmas story recreated in the parking lot. Drive through with friends and family.

December 24: Christmas Eve

- 5:00 & 7:00 A 45 minute service for all ages. We’ll conclude with candlelight singing in the parking lot. Reservations are required and can be made at the church website.

December 27: The First Sunday of Christmas

- 11:00 Morning Worship; In-person and livestreamed

January 3: Epiphany

- 11:00 Morning Worship; We gather to worship the one who is a light to the nations. The Lord’s Supper; In-person and livestreamed

CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER

Two services are offered on Christmas Eve: 5:00 and 7:00 pm. While we won’t be able to have the costumed Christmas Pageant this year, both will be family-friendly, last about 45 minutes, and conclude with candlelight and carols in the parking lot. COVID protocols observed and both services will be livestreamed. Reservations are required for attendance and can be made at www.westminstercharleston.org or by calling the church office.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?

One that comforts you? One that brings joy to you? At this time when we cannot sing together, we want to bring you opportunities to sing at home. Send us a request for a hymn you would like to hear, and we will create a video with someone from the Music Ministry playing the hymn along with some background information about it. The videos will be posted online for you to use and enjoy. To view the videos or make a request, check out westminstercharleston.org/hymns/

ANGEL TREE

Donations and gifts needed by December 13. We are providing gifts for students at Mary Ford Early Learning Center. All of the children are ages 3 - 6. Our procedures will be different this year because of COVID. There won't be any angels on the tree in the narthex. You can sign up by filling out a digital form included in the weekly enews or you can reach out to the church office. You choose a boy or girl and the age you want to shop for. Put your unwrapped gifts in a gift bag and bring them to the church by December 13. Label the bag boy or girl and the age. There are angels at the church that can be used as a gift label and attached to the bag. If you prefer you can make a donation and the youth will shop for you on December 13. Mark the donation Angel Tree.

COLLECTING WINTER COATS AND JACKETS FOR MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN IN NEED

Westminster's Mission Committee is collecting winter coats and jackets in all sizes for men, women and children. The smaller sizes for children ages 2 through 5 will be donated to Mary Ford Early Childhood Development and Family Center, while the adult and larger children sizes will be donated to Tricounty Ministries. If your children have outgrown their winter coats or you have extra adult coats hanging in a closet, please donate them by December 15 to this worthy cause. We would appreciate that you either wash them or dry clean them before donating (although this is not required). A box will be located near the church office. For additional information contact either Brenda Gibson at 843-478-0026, or Jim Frye 843-729-2183.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TRICOUNTY FAMILY MINISTRIES

Tricounty Family Ministries assists those in our local community with food, clothing, medical needs, and so much more. To assist families during the holiday season, Tricounty is hosting The Four Days of Christmas event on December 14, 16, 18, and 19 from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to place holiday food, clothing, coats, and gift cards into the car trunks of families in need. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Brenda Gibson at 843-478-0026 or you may view all Tricounty volunteer opportunities and sign up directly at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084AAAAC2BAAFE3-Wednesday>.

ANXIOUS TO TALK ABOUT IT

Small groups are being formed for a 12 week study on Racial Justice. Those interested will be gathered into groups of up to 8 people to be facilitated by members of the Racial Justice Listening Group. Beginning in January, Zoom and in-person options available on Mondays 7:30 - 8:30 pm and Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:30 am. For more information, view the RJLG report (with study description), view the Pause and Refresh presentation, and sign-up online at www.westminstercharleston.org.

"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE." JEREMIAH 29:11

THANK YOU to those who have already made your financial commitments for 2021! Our goal is 100% participation, so if you have not yet turned in your commitment card (they are available in the narthex), you may do so by placing it in the offering plate or making your pledge at www.westminstercharleston.org (select the 2021 Pledge button). Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness!!

JOIN US FOR DISCIPLESHIP!

CHILDREN - Join us in Sunday School Zoom at 9:00 am.

- Meeting ID: 867 718 0847
- Passcode: 1776

YOUTH - Check your emails! Mrs. Janie has a great schedule planned for Middle School and High Schoolers. If you haven't received an email, please let the Church Office know.

ADULTS - We meet each Sunday morning from 9:00 - 9:45am via Zoom to study the scriptures together. Come join us! NEW Meeting ID: 856 1961 4490 Passcode: 12345

COVID PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

When You Arrive

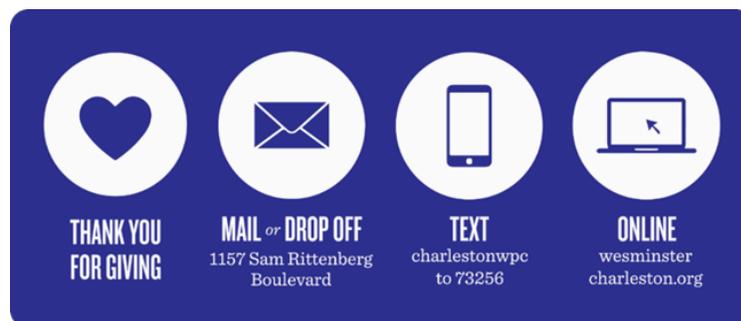
1. Everyone is required to wear a mask upon entering the church. If you don't have a mask, the ushers will have plenty available for you and your children (older than 2). Wearing a mask, along with social distancing, is the best way for us to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among our church family, especially given the fact that up to half of all people who have the virus don't feel or display any symptoms.
2. Hand sanitizer will be available and should be used upon entering.
3. In the sanctuary, every other pew will be roped off and closed to provide as much social distancing as possible. Hymnbooks, Bibles, and other materials normally found in the pews have been removed. You may bring your own Bible to use during the service; the hymns are printed in the bulletin. In order to minimize touch contamination, please pick up your own bulletin from the narthex table.
4. Ushers will guide you and your family to a properly distanced seat, starting with the front of the sanctuary. Please graciously allow them to do so in order to maintain social distancing while safely maximizing occupancy.
5. All restrooms will be open for use, one at a time please.

During the Service

1. We will not be singing, as singing has been found to increase significantly the risk of spreading the virus.
2. During time for children, the children will remain with their family and not gather on the chancel steps.
3. Offering plates will be at the entrances/exits to receive your offering.
4. Please keep your mask on through the entire worship service.
5. If you have young children, this may be their first time back in the sanctuary in a long time. You may be worried about how they will behave, if they will make too much noise, or if they will be too wiggly. Please don't worry at all! We welcome the signs of life- especially after going so long without it! Please note: we won't have the worship bags (with crayons and coloring pages) available for children, but you are welcome to bring things from home.

After the Service Ends

1. The ushers will dismiss the congregation by row from the side aisles, beginning at the rear of the sanctuary, in order to keep us distanced as we exit.
2. Please place your used bulletins in the recycling baskets at each exit or take them home with you. Please do not leave them on the pews.



Westminster Prays

Joe Smith	Meg Powell	Summer Garris	Andria Sanchez Freeman
Carol Cummings	Keith Gordon	Mary Ashley Barbot	Chrissie Bosworth
Bruce Yarnall	Shirley Seay	Doris Fox	Ginger Sieftring
Bill Myers	Larry Salley	Joyce Aydlett	Martin Davis
Anna Lee Myers	John Ligon	Daryn Baker	Kevin Ritzel
Dart Willer	Dot Dangerfield	Curtis Sponseller	Gloria Underhill
Bill Pennekamp	Lydia Crosby	Sean Fitzgibbon	Jeff Bryant
Kate Pennekamp	David Morris IV	Thom Penney	Rosalind Howell
Sara McCoy	Brian Carlow	Nikolai Fruth	Barbara Johnston
Love Moody	Frances McLean	Allan Scott	Michael Morgan
Molly Griggs	David Kerr	Riley Nunes	Lydia Howell
Karen Dangerfield	Chris Thrasher	Mary Martschink	Ken Pugh
Lisa Wilcox	Sharon Hutchinson	Sally Rogers	Lee Zack
Harold Fountain	Harper Croft	Marilyn Camburn	Joye and Kurt Teachman
Holli Hughes	Deb Sloan	David Wiggins	Nita Rodemann
Francis Williams	Gary Brooks	Jamie Brooks	Ann Froneberger

Friend of the Week

Lynn Koger
129 Chadwick Drive
Charleston, SC 29407

Mission of the Week

Scout Troop 79
1157 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.
Charleston, SC 29407

College Student

Abby Grace McLaughlin
42 Norview Drive
Charleston, SC 29407

Church Family

Jamie and Heather Hulon
Jay
Jean Isbell

WESTMINSTER SESSION

Class of 2021

Allyn Bruce
John Dounian
Norman Hook
Dale Norman
Michael Patrick
Paul Patrick

Class of 2022

Nancy Dixon
Sandra Pell
Kendall Ramsay
Carole Russell
Nathan Snider
Graham Wade

Class of 2023

Matthew Akery
David Boyd
Earl Frasier
Brenda Gibson
Tim Platts
Nathan Ward

Clerk - Priscilla Holtzclaw

Treasurer - Doug Earnst

Assistant Clerk - Carole Russell

Assistant Treasurer - Patty Stokes

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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www.westminstercharleston.org (843) 766-8311

Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Smoak, Pastor, dsmoak@wpccharleston.org

Rev. Lissa Long, Associate Pastor, mlong@wpccharleston.org

Mr. Robin Zemp, Director of Music, rzemp@wpccharleston.org

Mrs. Janie Bruce, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, jbruce@wpccharleston.org

Mrs. Nita Rushton, Office Administrator, office@wpccharleston.org

Mrs. Tommye Owen, Bookkeeper, finance@wpccharleston.org

Mrs. Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, preschool@wpccharleston.org

Mrs. Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, mdorsel@wpccharleston.org