



Westminster Presbyterian Church

Order of Worship for December 19, 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

In-Person at 9:00 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

The Wimberly Family

◆ We sing together:

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

◆ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: During Advent, we wait for the one who gives us love.
All: He came down that we may have love.
One: We love because God first loved us.
All: As God has loved us, let us love one another.

◆ HYMN NO. 134

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we would like to be guided by grace, strengthened in faith, and encouraged by Christ. Instead, we too easily get lost in the craziness of the season. With the many distractions surrounding us, help keep our eyes focused on your glory, our ears attentive to your word, and our hearts filled with joy. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Personal Confession

◆ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

◆PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Administered to Anderson Scruggs, son of Michael and Annelise Scruggs.
Brenda Gibson, 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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Silent Night
Nancy Parrish and Ava Whitener

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 57

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Singing with Mary

◆SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 146

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

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.

◆SENDING SONG NO. 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

CELEBRATING MISS JANIE

◆BLESSING

◆*Please stand, if able*

Leading the service today: Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Lissa Long, Pastor; Janie Bruce, Children and Youth; Nancy Parrish, Music.

Ushers are George McAbee, Mary McAbee and Graham Wade.

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. In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. To us, these 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 in Holy Spirit 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.



ReShape

“Like the clay in the potter's
hand, so are you in my hand...”
Jeremiah 18:6

Thank you to those who have made financial commitments for 2022! We're off to a good start receiving 125 pledges totaling \$564,378.00. Our goal is 100% participation, so if you have not yet turned in your Commitment Card or made an easy online pledge at wpccharleston.org, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in 2021- even as we look forward to fruitful ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church in the next year!

2021 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, 2021. In order to be recorded for 2021, all contributions will need to be received by December 31. You can 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. 2021 Giving Statements are in your online Realm account. If you need to have it printed for pick up or mailed, please contact the church office. If you have any questions or need any information, please don't hesitate to call Tommie Owen at 843-766-8311, ext 105 or finance@wpccharleston.org.

A CELEBRATION FOR JANIE BRUCE

Today we will give thanks to God for Janie Bruce and her ministry at Westminster; wishing her well as she becomes the new Director of Charleston Youth Mission. We will share a moment in the Worship services and all are welcome to a cookie reception in the courtyard following the 11:00am worship service. Come share warm hugs and wishes with Janie!

SERMON BY PHONE 843-252-0146

Many of us have friends, family, and neighbors who are still removed from worshiping at church due to technical difficulties. Please feel free to share with them the WPC Sermon By Phone number so they may call in and hear God's Word read and proclaimed. Simply dial 843-252-0146 to listen to the latest sermon by phone. There is no charge to the caller for the call.

YOUTH GROUP

Today Youth Christmas Party

LOOKING FORWARD:

December 26	Christmas Holiday	No Youth Group
January 2	New Year Holiday	No Youth Group

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

December 24: Christmas Eve

3:00 & 5:00*	Two options to attend a Service for Families with Young Children. We recreate the nativity with help from the congregation and all the children who wish to participate. Costumes provided or bring them from home; it's wiggly and wonderful.
7:00*	Carols and Candlelight. A more reverent service with traditional carols, a sermon, and candle lighting.

December 26: The First Sunday of Christmas

11:00*	Morning Worship; one service only. No Nursery. No Sunday School
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January 2: Epiphany

9:00 & 11:00*	Morning Worship We gather to worship the one who is the light to the nations. The Lord's Supper
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*Livestream available

All events follow Covid protocols.

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

- We are delighted you have joined us for in-person or online worship, and we hope you are encouraged and strengthened in the faith.
- The nursery is available for children 2 and under in the Preschool Building. We'll gather pertinent information upon check-in and be able to contact you during the service should a need arise.
- Parents who need to step out of the sanctuary for a while to tend to the needs of infants or small children can find privacy down the hall in the church parlor, family restroom, or in the church nursery.
- Worship bags and worship worksheets are available in the narthex for preschool and elementary age children.
- Following Time for Children (11:00 only) children ages 3-5k will gather in the narthex with adult leaders and then be led to the Children's building room 16 for Children's Church. Parents may pick them up following the service.
- Hearing devices, magnifying sheets, and large print hymnals are available in the narthex.
- If you have a prayer request or questions about faith, life, or being part of the Westminster family, we invite you to reach out 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 www.wpccharleston.org

VIRTUAL FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

Please let us know you're here by completing the Virtual Friendship Register. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to open or find on our website under the Quick Links, Virtual Friendship Register.



COVID PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP UPDATED POLICY (9/1/2021)

Thank you for following these protocols which enable weekly in-person worship without interruption.

1. Hand sanitizer is available and should be used upon entering.
2. Following the guidance of the CDC and our concern for the most vulnerable, masks are required for all three years old and older, vaccinated and unvaccinated, as they enter all buildings for church activities.
3. Offering plates are at the entrances/exits to receive your offering.
4. While the ropes have been removed from most of the sanctuary and seating is open, there are some reserved sections:
 - Socially-distanced seating is available. Please indicate your preference to an usher.
 - A few other pews are reserved for ushers, latecomers, acolytes, and staff.



THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 19

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:00 pm	Cookie Reception, Courtyard
5:00 pm	Youth Group Christmas Party
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, December 20

12:00 pm	Church Office Closes
12:30 pm	Staff Christmas Luncheon
7:00 pm	Scout Pack 79

Tuesday, December 21

6:30 am	Toast Master, Covenant Hall
10:00 am	Staff Meeting, Parlor

Wednesday, December 22

7:00 pm	Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Friday, December 24

3:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service for Families with Young Children
5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service for Families with Young Children
7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Carols and Candlelight

Sunday, December 26

11:00 am	Morning Worship; One service only No Sunday School Today
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN THE WESTMINSTER FAMILY?

Here's how you can do it.

1. You may fill out an online New Member form under the visitor tab at wpccharleston.org or using the QR code.
2. One of our Pastors or someone from the Membership Committee will quickly be in touch, providing an opportunity individually or with a group to learn more about the church.
3. On a Sunday morning, you'll attend a meeting with the Session for reception into membership. We'll handle paperwork if you're transferring from another church or arrange baptism if you've never been baptized.
4. That same Sunday morning, you'll be introduced to the congregation during worship.

Questions? Speak with an usher or one of our pastors following the service.



Westminster Prays

Carol Cummings	Meg Powell	Summer Garris	Andria Sanchez Freeman
Dart Willer	Keith Gordon	Mary Ashley Barbot	Chrissie Bosworth
Bill Pennekamp	Shirley Seay	Joyce Aydlett	Ginger Siefing
Kate Pennekamp	Larry Salley	Daryn Baker	Martin Davis
Sara McCoy	Dot Dangerfield	Curtis Sponseller	Kevin Ritzel
Love Moody	Lydia Crosby	Sean Fitzgibbon	Gloria Underhill
Karen Dangerfield	David Morris IV	Thom Penney	Jeff Bryant
Lisa Wilcox	Brian Carlow	Nikolai Fruth	Barbara Johnston
Harold Fountain	Frances McLean	Allan Scott	Michael Morgan
Nancy Plowden	David Kerr	Mary Martschink	Nita Rodemann
Gary Brooks	Sharon Hutchinson	David Wiggins	Jean Isbell
Steve Buddin	Harper Croft	Allene Buddin	Will Kuenzel
Rosa Oswald	Deb Sloan	Jerry Smoak	Janie Hammersmith
Dick Unger	Leigh Throckmorton	Brenda DeSmet	Jim Hammersmith
Anderson Scruggs	Jean Lewandowski	Maryalice Vann	Frank Painter
Pam Smith	Branden Preus	Karen McInnes	Jackie Epstein
Davina Hartigan	Anne Willis	Dan Butts	Libba Johnson
David Grove	Julie Pell	Jerry Hallman	Stephen Moody
Chad Waldrop	Brooks Oswald	Christina Miller	Liz Shelor
Jerry Waldrop	Towne Family	Meghan Hatfield	Trisha Stennett

Friend of the Week

Keith Gordon
1759 River Front Dr.
Charleston, SC 29407

Mission of the Week

Back Pack Buddies
1157 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.
Charleston, SC 29407

Student of the Week

Rachel Mallard
1442 Salisbury St.
Charleston, SC 29407

Church Family

Ben and Myra Whitener
Noelle, Ava
John and Dee Bee Wright

Westminster Session

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, George McAbee, Nathan Ward

Class of 2024: Norman Hook, Abbie Mobley, Karen Norman, Laura Patrick, Chuck Towne, Dee Bee Wright

Clerk - Carole Russell, **Treasurer** - Doug Earnst, **Assistant Treasurer** - Patty Stokes

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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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, Financial Administrator, finance@wpccharleston.org

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

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