



Westminster Presbyterian Church

*We are called to be and to make disciples who love
God and who love our neighbors.*

December 24, 2023

10:00 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
Sarah Shayban & Nancy Parrish

CARL BUTTSCHARDT

◆ LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Michael, Sherry, & Olivia Niblock
John & Carolyn Niblock, Kay Hudson

One: Love is more than a flicker within the human heart.

All: Lord, reveal your love, and make us new.

One: In a hurried world with little time for others,
Advent calls us to remember that...

All: Love is patient.

One: In a world where often we become consumed by our own interest,
Advent calls us to remember that...

All: Love is kind.

One: In a world where often we are quick to anger and slow to forgive,
Advent calls us to remember that...

**All: Love is not easily angered,
and through love we come to forgive.**

One: This Advent let us behold the love of God embodied in our Savior's birth.

All: God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in them.

◆ INVOCATION (UNISON)

Gracious Lord, as we continue our Advent journey, we pray that being rooted and established in love we may have the power to grasp how wide, how long, how high, and how deep is the love of Christ. True love was not only born at Christmas, but revealed for all to see. May we come to know this love in our lives and share it with those around us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

◆ ADVENT HYMN NO. 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

◆ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

FROM PSALM 51

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

◆ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE

GLORIA PATRI

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.

◆ SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

Claire Winkles

Following Children's Time, children ages 2-3K (Wee Church) and 4-5 K (Children's Church) will gather in the narthex with adult leaders and then be led to the Children's Building. Parents may pick them up following the service.

ANTHEM

A Simple Christmas
Sing We Now of Christmas - Adeste Fideles
Handbell Choir

JASON W. KRUG

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Samuel 11:1- 12:25

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 285

SERMON

Gospel in the Family Tree: Bathsheba

◆ HYMN OF RESPONSE

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

GOD REST YOU MERRY

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessèd angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,
And with true love and charity each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

TAKEN FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (1983)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

◆ HYMN NO. 146

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

◆ BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

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.

◆ POSTLUDE

◆ *Please stand, if able*

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Lissa Long, Pastor; Sarah Shayban, Music.

Acolyte: Eddie Klingshirn, Emma Klingshirn

Ushers: Nancy Dixon, Jim Drennan, Debby Ferguson, Jim Frye

11:00 am Livestream at www.wpccharleston.org, YouTube (Westminster Presbyterian Charleston)

You may also listen to the weekly sermon by utilizing *Sermon By Phone* and calling 843-252-0146.

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

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the Friendship Register in the pews. There is a virtual option for those who are worshipping online. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to open or find on our website under the Quick Links, Virtual Friendship Register. Want to get involved? Fill out and return a "Using Your Gifts" form in the Friendship Register.



LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

Name tags are available on the name tag cart in the Narthex. Please find yours and wear it on Sunday mornings, returning it before you leave. If yours is missing, please use a sticky badge and put your name on the 'I need a name tag' form.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN THE WESTMINSTER FAMILY?

Here's how you can do it.

1. Fill out a New Member Form and put it in the offering plate in the narthex. Forms are available at the Hospitality Table in the narthex, or you may fill one out online 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.



WAYS TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Church Pew Envelope: Place cash or check in the Pew Envelope and drop it in the Offering Plate in the narthex.

Online: Click the "Give Now" button in the top right of our homepage wpccharleston.org.

Text: "charlestonwpc" to 73256. Thank you for giving.

PRAYER REQUEST?

Leave your written requests in the basket next to the main sanctuary doors. WPC staff will pray for your request at our weekly meeting and throughout the week.

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL! 10:00 - 10:45 ALL OVER CAMPUS

- Children 0-2 Nursery.
- Children 3K-K, 1-2nd, and 3rd-5th classes meet in the Christian Education Building.
- Youth 6th-8th and 9th-12th grades meet in Covenant Hall.
Adult Class Offerings
- Anchor Class (Christian Education Building)-Bible Study through 6-8 week studies. Currently the group is using the book called Following Jesus.
- Cary Grayson Class (Covenant Hall-Room 4)-This class works through the scriptures by chapter and verse!
- Jesus in the Gospel (Parlor/Admin. building) Book study utilizing the book Having Nothing, Possessing Everything by Michael Mather.

2023 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, 2023. In order to be recorded for 2023 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. 2023 Giving Statements can be accessed through 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 Tommye Owen at 843-766-8311, ext 105 or finance@wpccharleston.org.

For online givers, please make sure to update your "giving fund" to 2024 pledge starting in January. That drop down will be available by 1/1/2024. This is particularly important if you have set up for automatic weekly or monthly giving.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR NEXT SUNDAY

Join us between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services on December 31 in Covenant Hall for coffee, juice, donuts and an end of the year slideshow celebrating the many ways we have walked in discipleship together this year.

GIFT OF WARMTH

Our mission partner, Mary Ford Early Childhood Center, is looking to help students keep warm on the playground. Needs include new or VERY gently used outer clothing (coats, sweaters, gloves, caps, and socks) sizes 2T-Children 8. Clothing can be dropped off in baskets located in the narthex. Thank you!

NEIGHBORS TOGETHER

Volunteer to help serve one of the hot meals during the week! We have a team who serves on the third Wednesday of the month, or you can register at www.neighborstogether.org. Email Jim Frye at fecr1@yahoo.com to receive emails about our regular Wednesday group.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Soap bars, small toothpaste tubes, individually packaged toothbrushes, and deodorant

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Westminster Presbyterian Church sponsors an AA group Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in Covenant Hall room 3. If you or someone you know is seeking support, please feel free to share this information.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NUMBERS

Mental Health Crisis Hotline 988

Community Resource and Support Hotline 211

My Sister's House (domestic abuse) (843) 744-3242

Al-Anon (843) 762-6999

Narcotics Anonymous (843) 852-3001

Wake-Up Carolina (support for families and individuals battling substance abuse) (843) 972-8154

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

December 24: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 Note the special time for morning worship! We'll gather together in the morning for the final service of Advent worship. One service only, no Sunday School.

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; it's wiggly and wonderful.

7:00 Carols and Candlelight. A more reverent service with traditional carols, a sermon, and candle lighting.

December 31: The First Sunday of Christmas

9:00 & 11:00 Morning worship as we rejoice in the Savior's birth and look forward to the New Year. 10:00 Fellowship time in lieu of Sunday school.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING

When we think about what we are giving for Christmas, often we want to give something that is needed and celebrated. What if you could give gifts to your friends and family that you knew would do both? The WPC Alternative Gifts Catalogue will help you give gifts to WPC Mission Partners who have an established avenue for God's missional work in our community and in the world. Catalogues and cards to 'wrap' are available in the Narthex.

Make checks out to Westminster Presbyterian Church with "Alternative Gifts Fair" in the memo line and fill out the (enclosed) Order Form to make sure your monies get sent to the correct mission partner. You can mail or drop off checks and forms to the Church Office OR you can gift online! Visit wpccharleston.org and click "Give Now" in the top right. Simply choose "Alternative Gift Fair" under the FUND tab. Please identify Mission Support in the memo section. When you make your donation, gift note cards and envelopes will be made available to you to wrap and give to friends, family, co-workers and neighbors. Your gift will make a difference in someone's life.

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.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 24

10:00 am	Worship Service
3:00 pm	Worship Service for Families with Young Children
5:00 pm	Worship Service for Families with Young Children
7:00 pm	Worship Service Carols and Candlelight

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall
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Thursday, December 28

Friday, December 29

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 30

Sunday, December 31

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Fellowship Time
11:00 am	Worship Service
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

Cary Alexandre	Nikolai Fruth	Christina Miller	Rachel Singletary
Joyce Aydlette	Harold Fountain	Love Moody	Judy Tag
Daryn Barker	Bruce Hamilton	Roy Nickles	Bryan Thomas
Mary Ashley Barbot	Judy Hatch	Joe Nuchols	Towne Family
Gary Brooks	Megan Hatfield	Gary Payne	Gloria Underhill
Maryann Brown	Jennifer Holladay	Nancy Plowden	Dick Unger
Brian Carolow	Rev. Chris Huff	Suzy Pitsey	Maryalice Vann
Susie Cashion	Maurice Jackman	Brayden Preus	Nancy Waller
Lydia Crosby	Brenda Jonsson	Monnie Privette	Lisa Wilcox
Harper Croft	Mildred Kennerly	Reed Family	Laura Wilson
Sandi Daniels	David Kerr	Charles Reeves	Robbie Yarnall
Martin Davis	Adam Kozel	Nita Rodemann	Robin Zemp
Rose Derrick	Fran Ligon	Gloria Ricoma	
Cynthia Ebigwei	Jane Livingston	Kevin Ritzel	
Will Edwards	Evan McMillian	Jim Seay	
Bob Ferguson	Frances McLean	Dave Stanton	
Pat Finn	John Martschink	Mark Stender	
Edward Fitzgibbon	Mary Martschink	Ginger Stoke	

PRAYER LIST UPDATED DECEMBER 2023

If you need to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please email Suzann at office@wpccharleston.org

College Student of the Week Ashleigh Smith 2275 University Station 4577 Lightsey Clemson, SC 29632	Friend of the Week Rachel Crews 1445 Bluewater Way Benton House Charleston, SC 29414	Mission of the Week Back Pack Buddies	Church Family Debora Redmon Jeff & Jessica Riley - Skyler and Brayden
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WESTMINSTER SESSION MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES

Administration: Tom Whetstone and Matthew Patrick; **Buildings and Grounds:** Matt Teitsort and Randy Davis; **Christian Education:** Lindy Coleman and Laura Patrick; **Fellowship:** Jonathan Bazzle, Betsy McLaughlin, and Mike Niblock; **Finance:** Norman Hook and Chuck Towne; **Membership:** Beth Georgen and John Dounian; **Missions:** Dee Bee Wright and Mary McAbee; **Preschool:** Abbie Mobley; **Worship:** Allyn Bruce and Ashley Snider; **Clerk:** Carole Russell; **Assistant Clerk:** Lindy Coleman; **Treasurer:** Nancy Dixon; **Assistant Treasurer:** Patty Stokes

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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