



Westminster Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2024

9:00 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

*Please greet each other warmly as the congregation gathers for worship.
Take a moment and sign the virtual friendship register.*

PRELUDE

I Wonder as I Wander

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

The Daniels Family

We sing: *O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

One: Emmanuel came to a sad and lowly place to bring joy and gladness to the earth.

All: **We welcome him into our lives with praise and thanksgiving.**

One: Emmanuel has come so we are never alone in the darkness.

All: **In Christ, there is comfort in knowing his presence no matter the depth of our suffering.**

We sing: *O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

One: Emmanuel is not only present with us in our suffering; he has overcome it.

All: **The victory we have in him restores our joy.**

One: We long for the day when he returns and our joy is made complete.

All: **On that day and until that day, the joy of the Lord will be our strength.**

◆ ADVENT SONG NO. 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

CONFESSION

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

Jesus came to bring light and hope, but our hearts are often shrouded by darkness and despair.
Jesus came to bring joy and peace, but our hearts are often encased by sorrow and turmoil.
Jesus came to bring life and love, but our hearts are often hardened by resistance and apathy.
As Jesus entered the world to conquer sin and death, we open our hearts in confession to be
cleansed from our sinfulness and to be restored to the image of Jesus. In the name of Jesus, we
pray, Amen.

◆ SILENT PRAYERS

◆ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 447 We Are Forgiven

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

◆ 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 WORD

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

Claire Winkles

SPECIAL MUSIC

Boy, Was I Ever Surprised!
Bobbie Jean Whittington

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 30:1-5

PEW BIBLE O.T. PAGE 505

SERMON

Joy!

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE No. 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

◆ DECLARATION OF FAITH

FROM PCUSA'S 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

◆ SONG NO. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

◆ BLESSING AND RESPONSE

*We sing together: Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed to us; His name is called Em-man-u-el!*

◆ Please stand, if able

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY:

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate;
Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries; Nancy Parrish, Music;
Acolytes: Eleanor Akery, Jane Akery
Ushers: George McAbee, Mary McAbee, Taffy Tamblyn, Robert Tamblyn, Matt Akery

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.

GET READY DURING ADVENT!

You are invited to pick up your Advent devotionals in the narthex. There is one for adults and an Advent wreath/calendar for families with children. Make a commitment to prepare your heart for Christmas! (One of each per family, please)

READ GOOD BOOKS IN 2024!

Join Pastor Daniel in reading the last book of 2024. This year, we've covered a variety of topics, authors, and genres, the choices designed to stimulate the heart and mind and be a catalyst for growth in discipleship. **On December 22nd at 5:00 we'll discuss Keith and Kristyn Getty's *Sing!*** A great book about worship and singing, we'll cover five key areas: to discover why we sing and the overwhelming joy and holy privilege that comes with singing; to consider how singing impacts our hearts and minds and all of our lives; to cultivate a culture of family singing in our daily home life; to equip our churches for wholeheartedly singing to the Lord and one another as an expression of unity; to inspire us to see congregational singing as a radical witness to the world. *Sing!* may be purchased online or at church (\$5)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY: GOD BLESS US, EVERY ONE!

The classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge is a cherished symbol of Christmas and a wonderful story of redemption and hope. We'll use Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* as our guide for a combined adult Sunday school class during Advent. Everyone is invited. December 1, 8, 15, 22 in Covenant Hall at 10:00. Books will be available.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: NEIGHBORS TOGETHER - CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

Spread joy this season by helping our mission partner, Neighbors Together, with their Christmas celebration. There are several days and times to volunteer for Neighbors Together special holiday event. The date of the actual event is Saturday, December 21 from 11am - 3pm. Find a time/date that works best for you and sign up using the QR Code provided.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

December 15: The Third Sunday of Advent

Psalm 30:1-5 Joy! Joy, not grief, is the dominant note of the Christian life.

December 22: The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Lessons and Carols

Sing! We gather for Lessons and Carols to hear the advent promises and respond in song.

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 29 and January 5

One worship service at 10:00. No Sunday School.

WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR DRIVE

Presbyterian Women are continuing with our women's underwear ministry for the Leeds Avenue Detention center. Circles are asked to participate by donating a packet of white, regular, cotton briefs, in their own size, so we get a variety of sizes for the Christmas collection. Donations are needed no later than December 15 and may be dropped off at the church office and will be collected December 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Lundy at 843-607-2102.

GLOBAL MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES IN 2025!

We are so glad for growing Global Partnerships at Westminster.

- In **Mexico**, we're returning to share in the Cistern Ministry of Todd Luke in the Yucatan. Todd works with local families in building rainwater cisterns so families can have a year-round supply of safe water. The church identifies the needs and works alongside families and mission teams to construct needed cisterns. There are two opportunities in 2025: a team of adults March 24-29 and a team of High School Juniors and Seniors July 7-12.
- In **Brazil**, we partner with Felipe and Laura Mathias in their ministry to the children in the slums of Sao Paulo. Life in the slums is hard, but the Lighthouse is a beacon of hope where children can learn about Jesus and experience the love God has for them. We are returning with a team of adults and youth/children (with a parent) July 16-23.

An informational meeting is set for January 12 at 4:00 pm. To indicate your interest in being a team member, speak with Pastor Daniel or Pastor Priscilla. The total cost of each trip is about \$2000, and the cost will be divided in thirds between participant contribution, the church's Global Mission Fund, and group fundraising.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please contact the church office or access the flower calendar on the church website. The cost is \$60. A member of the Flower Committee will contact you regarding your flower preference. You may take the arrangement home after worship or share it for pastoral care visits made by our pastors and deacons. The flower committee will create and place the arrangement for the sanctuary on Sunday with a take-home liner or break down flowers into vases to share with our members.

GIFT OF WARMTH

Our mission partner, Mary Ford Early Childhood Center, is looking to help students keep warm on the playground. Needs include 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!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Toothpaste, deodorant and soap bars

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NUMBERS

Al-Anon (843) 762-6999

Community Resource and Support Hotline 211

Neighbors Together (843) 747-1788

Narcotics Anonymous (843) 852-3001

Mental Health Crisis Hotline 988

PostPartumsupportchas.org

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 15

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
2:00 pm	Piano Recital, Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Diaconate Cookie Exchange Party, Covenant Hall
5:00 pm	Youth Angel Tree Shopping
6:00 pm	Session Meeting
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, December 16

1:00 pm	Office closed for Staff Christmas Gathering
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Tuesday, December 17

6:30 am	Toastmasters, Covenant Hall
10:00 am	Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 18

6:30 pm	Hand Bell Rehearsal
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall
7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19

5:00 pm	Piano Recital, Sanctuary
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Friday, December 20

4:00 pm	Piano Recital, Sanctuary
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Saturday, December 21

8:00 am	Neighbors Together Christmas Festival
10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 22

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
	No Youth Group due to Winter Break
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

Cary Alexandre (WPC)	Eleanor Grayson (WPC)	Donna Purcell (WPC)
Joyce Aydlette (Becky Grafton)	Janie Hammersmith (WPC)	Reed Family (Dee Bee Wright)
Daryn Baker (Jane Acker)	Bruce Hamilton (Theodosia Wade)	Charles Reeves (Carol Patrick)
Mary Ashley Barbot (Lisa Couch)	Megan Hatfield (Debbie McQueeney)	Nita Rodemann (WPC)
Sissie Brigman (WPC)	Betsy Henson (Ashley Snider)	Gloria Ricoma (Karen McInnes)
Susie Cashion (WPC)	Tom Higgins (Lynda Higgins)	Kevin Ritzel (Neil Ritzel)
Lauren Choate (Sara Dwyer)	Chris Huff (Gloria Purcell)	Rushton Family (WPC)
Cherie Couche (Dana Tumbleston)	Debbie Kieffer (Daniel Smoak)	Jim Seay (WPC)
Lydia Crosby (WPC)	Mary Laird (Ashley Snider)	Tradd Shepard (WPC)
Martin Davis (Kevin Mikles)	Fran Ligon (WPC)	Rachel Singletary (Sara Bobo)
Rose Derrick (Brenda Clarey)	Jane Livingston (Tom Livingston)	Jerry Smoak (WPC)
Andrea Dunn (Karen McInnes)	John Martschink (WPC)	Rab Snider (Ashley Snider)
Hosanna Eadie (Katie Baturin)	Mary Martschink (WPC)	Dave Stanton (WPC)
Roxanne Eadie (Katie Baturin)	Love Moody (WPC)	Towne Family (WPC)
Debbie Eastwood (Jill Lundgrin)	Jennifer Morgan (Susie Cashion)	Gloria Underhill (Laura Nunn)
Julia Fletcher (Niblock Family)	Roy Nickles (WPC)	Jacqueline Vance (Sara Dwyer)
Pat Finn (Dee Bee Wright)	Joe Nuchols (Debbie McQueeney)	Aileen Wiese (WPC)
Edward Fitzgibbon (Joan Frye)	Nancy Plowden (WPC)	Janet Wilson (Gloria Purcell)
Harold Fountain (Henry Shepard)	Pratt Family (WPC Preschool)	Donnie Woods (Presbytery)
Joan Frye (WPC)	Monnie Privette (Robert/Sylvia Coker)	Robbie Yarnall (WPC)
		Zemp Family (WPC)

PRAYER LIST UPDATED DECEMBER 2024

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

Friend of the Week

Lynn Koger
129 Chadwick Drive
Charleston, SC 29407

College Student

Sadie Wood
1300 Wheat Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Mission of the Week

Hooks & Needles

Church Family

Nathan & Sara O'Brien
-Ameila

ELDERS AND SESSION COMMITTEES

Administration: Tom Whetstone and Michael Patrick; **Buildings and Grounds:** Matt Teitsort and Randy Davis; **Christian Education:** Lindy Coleman and Cathy Grills; **Fellowship:** Mike Niblock, Betsy McLaughlin and Jon Bazzle; **Finance:** Sarah Schumann and Joshua Robinson; **Membership:** John Dounian and Cameron Baker; **Missions:** Mary McAbee and Matthew Patrick; **Preschool:** Ashley Snider; **Worship:** Allyn Bruce and Deborah-Anne Ferguson; **Clerk:** Carole Russell; **Assistant Clerk:** Lindy Coleman; **Treasurer:** Nancy Dixon; **Assistant Treasurer:** Patty Stokes

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1157 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29407
www.wpccharleston.org (843) 766-8311

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

Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate, pwholtz@gmail.com

Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, cwinkles@wpccharleston.org

Sarah Shayban, Director of Music, sshayban@wpccharleston.org

Suzann Lilienthal, Office Administrator, office@wpccharleston.org

Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator finance@wpccharleston.org

Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, preschool@wpccharleston.org

Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, mdorsel@wpccharleston.org

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.