

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 14, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Ding Dong! Merrily On High

ARR. LUTHER HENDERSON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ SONG OF PREPARATION NO. 137

He Came Down  
*Congregation*

HE CAME DOWN

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

◆ LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

The Cowart Family (9:00)

The Cook Family (11:00)

One: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

All: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards.  
We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents.  
We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

One: Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

All: Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news.  
May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world,  
joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

*The Candle of Joy is lighted.*

One: Let us pray.

All: Dear Lord, the story of this season is not a new one. We've heard this news before. We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, and witnessed the children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is. So, spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient news with brand new ears. With hope and joy we pray, amen.

CAROL NO. 140

Once in Royal David's City  
*Sanctuary Choir and Congregation*  
*Everett Daniels, Soloist*

IRBY

Solo: Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

Choir: He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

All: Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

All: And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

## THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 11:1-9

CAROL

Dream On, Dream On  
Sanctuary Choir

MICHAEL BURKHARDT

*Dream on, dream on, children of peace, till on earth God's kingdom come. Wolf and lamb will feed together, lions like oxen will eat straw. Dust shall be the serpents' food; no one shall destroy or hurt. Children of earth, in all colors, live in peace and harmony. Hope on, hope on, Easter people, beyond the cross a dawning sun. Christ, our peace, broke down all barriers; nation, culture, tribe, and clan. Reconciling us to God, Christ made us one human race, joined in peace and liberation, led by justice, hope and love. Mount up, mount up, like an eagle, to the heights beyond the clouds. Strife and sorrow shall not stop you; pain and tears shall lose their pow'r. Even though the young may stumble, God the Lord renews their strength. They shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and shall not faint.*

## THE SECOND LESSON

ISAIAH 7:14

CAROL NO. 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
Sanctuary Choir and Congregation

VENI EMMANUEL

Choir: 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.

All: O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

All: 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.

All: O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

Claire Winkles

9:00 Children may return to their seats.

11:00 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.

## THE THIRD LESSON

MATTHEW 1:18-23

CAROL

Joseph's Lullaby  
Nancy Parrish & Mark Burckhalter

MILLARD/BANNISTER

## THE FOURTH LESSON

LUKE 1:26-38

MEDITATION

## What Do You Fear? The Angel Visits Mary

*The Angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!*

*'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold; most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, 'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name': most highly favoured lady. Gloria!*

## THE FIFTH LESSON

LUKE 2:1-7

◆ CAROL NO. 115

Away in a Manger  
Congregation

MUELLER

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

## THE SIXTH LESSON

LUKE 2:8-20

CAROL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus/And the Glory of the Lord  
Sanctuary Choir

ARR. DAVID G. SHREINER

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free. From our fears and sins release us; let us find our  
rest in Thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art, dear desire of every nation, joy of  
every longing heart. Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now  
Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone. By Thine all-sufficient  
merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And all flesh shall see it  
together. For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.*

## THE SEVENTH LESSON

MATTHEW 2:1-2, 7-11

◆ CAROL NO. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful  
Congregation

ADESTE FIDELES

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**True God of true God, Light from light eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord**

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

THE EIGHTH LESSON

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

◆ CAROL NO. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

*Congregation*

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!"

◆ BENEDICTION

◆ POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

TRADITIONAL

◆ *Please stand, if able*

**LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY:**

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate;  
Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries;  
Sarah Shayban, Director of Music

Acolytes: Jane Akery, Riley Gentry (9:00); Hadley and Piper Boyd (11:00)

Children's Church: Baillie and Andy Anderson

Wee Church: Liliya and Jeff Davis

Ushers: Joe Jeter, Laura Nunn, Sherry Niblock (9:00)

Henry Shepard, Dana Tumbleston, Ben Whitener, Greg Ramsay (11:00)

11:00 Livestream at [www.wpccharleston.org](http://www.wpccharleston.org), YouTube (Westminster Presbyterian Charleston)

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

Readers: Jodie Almeida, Spencer Bruce, Tim Fox, Priscilla Holtzclaw, Lindy Coleman (9:00);  
Joshua Robinson, Michael Souter, Kevin Mikles, Daniel Smoak (11:00)

Musicians: Ed Kuhn and Susan Messersmith, trumpet; Vincent Lindgren, French Horn;  
Chris Lindgren, Trombone; Chris Bluemel, tuba

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP! ALL ARE WELCOME**

We are called to be and to make disciples who love God and who love our neighbors. We are all neighbors no matter our age, race, language, culture, gifts and challenges, gender identity, or sexual orientation. We strive to be a safe and supportive community where all people are included, celebrated, and loved as we grow as disciples together.

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP! LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE**

Please take a moment to sign and pass the Friendship Register in the pews. If you are visiting and wish to learn more about Westminster, leave your contact information. If you are interested in becoming a member, check 'wish to join' and a pastor will be in touch with you.

**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.

## **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.

## **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](http://wpccharleston.org). Text: "charlestonwpc" to 73256. Thank you for giving.

## **IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN THE WESTMINSTER FAMILY?**

Here's how you can do it. 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](http://wpccharleston.org) or using the QR code. 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.



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. 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.

## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER**

### **What Do You Fear? An Advent and Christmas Sermon Series**

#### **December 14: The Third Sunday of Advent : Lessons and Carols**

*Luke 1:26-39 The Angel Visits Mary: Even in Our Fear, We Are Called Forward*

#### **December 21: The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Matthew 1:18-25 The Angel Visits Joseph: When You're Afraid, Give Me Your Hand*

#### **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. *Luke 2:1- The Angels Declare a Good News that Is Louder Than Fear.*

#### **December 28: One worship service at 10:00. No Sunday School.**

*Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 Fleeing to Egypt: Let Fear Fuel a Fire for Justice*

#### **January 4: One worship service at 10:00. No Sunday School.**

*Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18 The Magi: Fear Doesn't Stop Us*

## **COMBINED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING ADVENT: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!**

We'll view and discuss portions of the classic movie *It's a Wonderful Life*.

*It's a Wonderful Life* is one of the most popular and heartwarming films ever made. Its near universal appeal and association with Christmas has provided a rich story of redemption that has inspired generations for decades. Set on Christmas Eve in a post-World War II small town, it tells a story of the likable and selfless George Bailey, a small-town banker who suffers scandal and ruin not of his own making only to be saved in the final act through intervention by God, family, and friends. There's no better time than Christmas to be reminded that every human life has value, and that true wealth - spiritual wealth - comes from a right relationship with God and selfless love toward others.

Everyone is invited. December 14 and 21 in Covenant Hall at 10:00.

## **SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH TODAY!**

All are welcome to a fried chicken luncheon in Covenant Hall following 11:00 a.m. worship the 2nd Sunday of each month. Cash donations for fried chicken welcome, bring a pot luck side or dessert to the kitchen during the Sunday School hour to share. Be filled with fellowship!

## **JOIN US FOR WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY!**

Gather with friends and family of all ages for food and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. This week is pork loin with mashed potatoes and gravy! Adults \$8, children \$4 and a family cap of \$25 via cash, card or check.

## **READ GOOD BOOKS IN 2025!**

On December 21, we'll discuss **Fleming Rutledge's *Advent***. In her collection of writings and sermons, Rutledge will help us get ready. As the midnight of the Christian year, the season of Advent is rife with dark, gritty realities. In this book, with her trademark wit and wisdom, Rutledge explores Advent as a time of rich paradoxes, a season celebrating at once Christ's incarnation and his second coming, and she masterfully unfolds the ethical and future-oriented significance of Advent for the church. We'll read prescribed portions of the book in preparation for discussion on Sunday December 21 at 4:00. Books are \$25 and available in the narthex.

## **COLD WEATHER CLOTHING & RAIN GEAR DRIVE FOR MARY FORD STUDENTS**

Westminster is collecting cold-weather and rainy-weather clothing for the students and families of Mary Ford Early Childhood Education Center. Most families at Mary Ford live at or below the poverty level, making it difficult to purchase warm or protective clothing. Students range in age from 2 to 6 years old and typically wear sizes XS-M.

A collection box will be placed in the Narthex through **May 1**. Each time the box is filled, items will be delivered to the school and distributed by the Parent Advocate.

### **Requested items include:**

- *Cold weather:* long pants, sweaters, long-sleeve shirts, coats, jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, long socks
- *Rain gear:* raincoats, rain hats, rain boots

While new clothing is preferred, gently used items (clean, with no holes or stains) are welcome.

Mary Ford also maintains a clothing closet for siblings and parents. Donations of clean adult clothing—as well as shoes and belts—are also appreciated.

Help support these families during difficult times by donating new or gently used items. Thank you for your generosity!

## **PRESCHOOL NEWS**

January 5, 2026, Preschool Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will begin. Registration will open to our current families and members of the Church. Then on February 2, 2026, registration will open to the Public. Interested families can contact the Preschool Office for more information and to take a tour of the school.

## **2025 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, 2025. In order to be recorded for 2025, 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. 2025 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](mailto:finance@wpccharleston.org). For online givers, please make sure to update your "giving fund" to 2026 pledge starting in January. That drop down will be available by 12/15/2025.

## WESTMINSTER PRAYS

Cary Alexandre (WPC)  
Daryn Baker (Jane Acker)  
Mary Ashley Barbot (Lisa Couch)  
Ron Booth (WPC)  
Sissie Brigman (WPC)  
Allyn Bruce (WPC)  
Diane Byers (Deb Frasier)  
Susie Cashion (WPC)  
Lauren Choate (Sara Dwyer)  
Pat Coggins (WPC)  
Cherie Couche (Dana Tumbleston)  
Lydia Crosby (WPC)  
Martin Davis (Kevin Mikles)  
Rose Derrick (Brenda Clarey)  
Hosanna Eadie (Katie Baturin)  
Roxanne Eadie (Katie Baturin)  
Ann Farrar (Beth Georgen)  
Ellen Farrar (Beth Georgen)  
Edward Fitzgibbon (Joan Frye)  
Randleson Floyd/Daniels (Gloria Purcell)  
Harold Fountain (Henry Shepard)  
Joan Frye (WPC)  
Keith Gordon (WPC)

Margaret Ellen Hamman (Suzanne Fox)  
Janie Hammersmith (WPC)  
Megan Hatfield (Debbie McQueeney)  
Betsy Henson (Ashley Snider)  
Anna Hewitt (Dee Bee Wright)  
Charlie Howell (Debbie Baskin)  
Chris Huff (Gloria Purcell)  
Janssen Family (WPC)  
Emerson Jones (Molly Griggs)  
Lynn Koger (WPC)  
Mary Laird (Ashley Snider)  
Fran Ligon (WPC)  
Jane Livingston (Tom Livingston)  
Ray Long (Ellen Bollinger)  
John Martschink (WPC)  
Mary Martschink (WPC)  
Jay Massalon (Dana Tumbleston)  
David McEachern (Debra Luhn)  
Gavin McLeod (Dana Tumbleston)  
Marley Miller (Dee Bee Wright)  
Abbie Mobley (WPC)  
Moody Family (WPC)  
Jennifer Morgan (Susie Cashion)  
Joe Nuchols (Debbie McQueeney)

Julie Pell (Sandy & Debbie Pell)  
Crystal Pluck (Jennifer Binnicker)  
Pratt Family (WPC Preschool)  
Donna Purcell (WPC)  
Stan Rich (Suzanne & Tim Fox)  
Nita Rodemann (WPC)  
Cliff & Liz Shelor (WPC)  
Tradd Shepard (WPC)  
Rachel Singletary (Sara Bobo)  
The Jerry Smoak Family (WPC)  
Ray Thomas (Sara Dwyer)  
Towne Family (WPC)  
Gloria Underhill (Laura Nunn)  
Kathy Unger (Keith Gordon)  
Jacqueline Vance (Sara Dwyer)  
Mark Warner (Kendall Ramsay)  
Tom Whetstone (WPC)  
Aileen Wiese (WPC)  
Janet Wilson (Gloria Purcell)  
Betty Winter (Dee Bee Wright)  
Robbie Yarnall (WPC)

## PRAYER LIST UPDATED NOVEMBER 2025

If you need to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please email [office@wpccharleston.org](mailto:office@wpccharleston.org)

## ELDERS AND SESSION COMMITTEES

**Administration:** Michael Patrick and Paul Patrick; **Buildings and Grounds:** Randy Davis and Tim Fox; **Christian Education:** Cathy Grills and Kevin Mikles; **Fellowship:** Jon Bazzle, Janie Bruce and Michael Scruggs; **Finance:** Sarah Schumann and Joshua Robinson; **Membership:** John Dounian and Cameron Baker; **Missions:** Mary McAbee and Natasha Akery; **Preschool:** Ashley Snider; **Worship:** Allyn Bruce and Deborah-Anne Ferguson; **Clerk:** Carole Russell; **Assistant Clerk:** Cathy Grills **Treasurer:** Tim Fox

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1157 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard  
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