



Westminster Presbyterian Church

125 N. Wilkinson Street • Dayton, OH 45402

www.westminsterdayton.org

Service for the Lord's Day — December 28, 2025

First Sunday of Christmas

"Remember the story of Jesus — not for the sake of comforting nostalgia only, but for the sake of a world still searching for home, wholeness, and holiness." - Casey Thornburgh Sigmon

CARILLON PEAL

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

"Praise Ye The Lord of Hosts" (from *Christmas Oratorio*)

Camille Saint-Saëns

"He is Born, The Holy Child"

French Carol, arr. David Paxton

"What Child Is This"

Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. Stanley Roper

(During the Call to Worship in Music you are requested to enter into a time of silence,
actively opening your spirit to God's presence in your midst.)

INTROIT - "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

John Goss

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail that ever blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP IN WORD

The Reverend Dr. Curtis T. Baxter

Leader: Christ is born!

People: **Alleluia!**

Leader: Jesus is among us!

People: **Shout with joy, give thanks, and sing!**

Leader: We recount the gracious deeds of God,

People: **All the praise worthy acts the Lord has done for us.**

Leader: Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.

People: **Glory to God in the highest.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor with a verbal greeting or enthusiastic wave.)

*HYMN 22 - "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Regent Square

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our siblings as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity. Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect those so vulnerable and precious

in your sight. Forgive our misuse of power against people, and against your creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Strengthen us in our time of testing. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, God with us. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Hear this good news of great joy: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

H. W. Greatorex

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (Children are welcome to come forward)

Elder Gene Saunders

Leader: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

WELCOME

Leader: Arthur Stanley Knorr has been
received into the one holy catholic and
apostolic church through baptism.
God has made him a member of the household of God,
to share with us in the priesthood of Christ.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.
People: **With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you
into Christ's family, where we love God and neighbor,
grow in faith, share in ministry, and abound in steadfast love.**

HYMN (all sing) - "Baptized in Water"
**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,
Faithfully now God's praises we sing.**

Bunessan

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON - Psalm 148

Pew Bible, pp. 582-583 OT

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.
People: **Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**
Leader: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.
People: **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**
Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,
People: **who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law which shall not pass away.**
Leader: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
People: **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
Leader: mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
People: **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**
Leader: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
People: **young men and maidens, old and young together.**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
People: **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

Leader: God Most High, by your Word you created a wondrous universe, and through your Spirit you breathed into it the breath of life. Accept creation's hymn of praise from our lips, and let the praise that is sung in heaven resound in the heart of every creature on earth, to the glory of the Creator, and the Redeemer, and the Sustainer, now and forever.

ANTHEM - "Sing Ye Nowell"

Michael Jothan

Angels sing their songs on high,
Sing ye Nowell today!
They sing that Christmas joy has come,
"Sing ye Nowell" they say!
O sing ye Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Sing ye Nowell today!
O sing ye Nowell, Nowell, Nowell;
"Sing ye Nowell" they say!

"God's son to you on earth has come.
Sing ye Nowell today!
Rejoice be glad, ye blessed ones;
"Sing ye Nowell" they say!
Love shall dwell with people now,
Sing ye Nowell today!
"Peace on earth, good will to all,
Sing ye Nowell," they say!

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON- Isaiah 63:7-9

Pew Bible, p. 693 OT

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Reverend Nancy S. Hodgkins

Sermon: The Spiritual Practice of Remembering

Focus: "I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord," Isaiah 63:7

***HYMN 53 - "What Child Is This"**

Greensleeves

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM - "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

English melody, arr. Peter Niedmann

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel!

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER 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 40 - "Joy to the World"

Antioch

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE (all sing) - Refrain to "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Adeste fideles

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - Toccata on *Regent Square* (Hymn 22)

Lani Smith

(The Concluding Voluntary is the final Alleluia of our worship.

You are invited to remain in silence.)

*Please rise in body or spirit.



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Next Sunday, January 4, 10:00 a.m.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated next Sunday. We welcome all to join us for worship either in-person or online.

A Livestream is available for those who prefer to worship from home. Those worshipping with us at home are invited to prepare ahead of time by having some type of bread and drink (that fit your dietary needs) ready for you and your household to use during communion.



Thank you for coming to Westminster today! We hope to see you again soon. If you enjoyed the service, and want to help us continue to share the love of God with our neighbors and transform their lives, please consider donating to our ministries. Donation boxes are located in the Narthex and by the elevator. You can also donate online at www.westminsterdayton.org/give or by scanning the QR code to the left with the camera of any smart device. You can also text "give" to 937-468-4003.

**This Sunday we join in celebration as we baptize Arthur Stanley Knorr,
child of Jacob and Ciara Knorr.**

Music Participants: Westminster Choir - Brent Manley is Organist-Director.

Today's Music: The words of "Joy to the World" are from the pen of Isaac Watts. They are a paraphrase of Psalm 98: ..."for he comes to judge the earth; with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity." The tune has been freely adapted by Lowell Mason from two portions of Handel's *Messiah*.

Choirs for children and youth will not rehearse today. A regular schedule of rehearsals will resume on Sunday, January 11.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

No Children's Classes this Sunday, normal classes resume January 11.

Infants and Toddlers, Room 108 (Infant - 3 years old), are cared for from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 108. Parents of infants will be contacted via text by the nursery staff in case immediate communication is needed while they worship in the Sanctuary. During the worship hour, children take part in an activity and enjoy a snack.

Junior High and Senior High Youth Fellowships will not meet this evening, but will resume on January 11. Merry Christmas!

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Welcome Visitors: We are so glad to welcome you to worship with us today! Whether you are just passing through or looking for a new church community, we hope you feel right at home. At Westminster we believe that Jesus welcomes all people, just as they are, and so do we. We understand the life of faith to be a journey that is better walked together than alone. Following worship please join us for Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall, or join one of our Sunday School classes. We hope you will explore the bulletin as well as our website www.westminsterdayton.org to learn more about us. Please leave us your name and contact information in the Friendship Pad so we can get to know you as well! Grace and peace to you. -Westminster Pastoral Staff and Congregation

The Reverend John Neely is on vacation and will return to the church on Tuesday, January 6.

The Reverend Dr. Caitlin Deyerle is on vacation and will return to the church on Friday, January 2.

The Reverend Dr. Richard Baker is on vacation and will return to the church on Sunday, January 4.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The flowers in the Chancel are given in loving appreciation of our children and grandchildren by Dwight and Georgie Woessner.

If you are interested in donating Chancel flowers, please contact Kay Berg (bergkay07@gmail.com or 937-367-9297). Please note that there is a one month lead time for flower donation announcements.

Emergency Response Team: Shelly Davies, Linda Kohl

If you have a security concern please notify the head usher who can connect you to our security personnel.

Each week the churches of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley keep one particular congregation or group in their prayers. This week the churches are praying for **Reily Presbyterian Church, Oxford**.

Westminster is a praying church and we would love to pray for you. You are welcome to **add your prayer to our Prayer Wall**, located in the Sanctuary near the front on the east wall. You will find paper and pencil to write your private prayer to God and place it between the bricks of the wall. If you have a prayer request you would like to share with our **Westminster Prays weekly email**, please use the Prayer Request Card in the pew rack and place it in the offering box following worship. You can sign up to receive the Westminster Prays email and share prayer requests or other pastoral needs directly with our pastoral staff by emailing caitlin@westminsterdayton.org or calling 937-907-6078.

The Church Office will be closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held in the Sanctuary for **Scott Nekrosius** on Saturday, January 3, at 10:00 a.m.

Capital Campaign Update

75% Funded!

Capital Campaign Update

We're excited to share that our capital campaign is over 75% funded! We have raised \$2.65 million towards our \$3.5 million dollar goal. This milestone not only completely funds the first phase of the project, but brings us closer to making our building more accessible, and preparing Westminster for the future. Your support creates an inclusive and welcoming space for everyone.

How You Can Help

Every donation counts. Consider contributing to the campaign:

- **Make a Direct Donation:** westminsterdayton.org/give
- **Make a Pledge Online:** westminsterdayton.org/centennial
- **Make a Pledge In-Person:** Paper copies of the Capital Campaign pledge forms are available in the Church Office and in the brochure racks of the Narthex.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous financial contributions towards our capital campaign. Thank you for your support!

Emergency Preparedness Class

January 11, 2026, 11:20 A.M.



Are you ready to boost your emergency preparedness and learn how to respond in critical situations?

Get ready for an exciting experience with hands-on activities at four (AED will be separate) dynamic skill stations following demonstrations. This empowering class is led by American Red Cross instructor Becky Bower, alongside the dedicated WPC

Emergency Response Team and Deacon volunteers.

Register by Monday, January 5, to ensure we have adequate supplies. Either sign up online or call the Church Office (937-223-7285).



“Angels from the Realms of Glory” (22)

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

“What Child Is This” (53)

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Joy to the World (40)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.