



Westminster Presbyterian Church

125 N. Wilkinson Street • Dayton, OH 45402
www.westminsterdayton.org

Service for the Lord's Day – December 7, 2025 Second Sunday in Advent

"So perhaps a better question than 'Do I believe in miracles?' is 'Am I acting like I do?' Am I including the people who are typically excluded? Am I feeding the hungry and caring for the sick? Am I holding the hands of the homeless and offering help to addicts? Am I working to break down religious and political barriers that marginalize ethnic, religious, and ethnic minorities and people with disabilities? Am I behaving as though life is more than a meaningless, chaotic mess, that there is some order in the storm?" - Rachel Held Evans, *Inspired*

CARILLON PEAL

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

"Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us" (Hymn 17)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Hymn 9)

Advent Hope

Johann Gottfried Walther
12th century chant, arr. David Lasky
Derek Hakes

(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 - "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

German Chorale

From heaven above to earth I come
To bring news to everyone!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To all the world and gladly sing.

This is the Christ, God's Son most high,
Who bears your sad and bitter cry;
He will himself your Savior be
And from all sin will set you free.

-Martin Luther

*WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

AJ, Kendra, Olivia,
Teddy, and Spring Stich

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*HYMN 9 - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Veni Emmanuel

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Kylie Hettinger, Director of Discipleship

Holy and wonderful God, we confess that we have closed our eyes to what you are doing. We prefer to concentrate on problems, bad news and violence. When we do, we miss all the healing, freeing and helping you accomplish in our world. We pass up opportunities to participate in your Good News. We rob ourselves of so much joy. Forgive us and give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to treasure your mission in the world. Fill us with unquenchable joy at the coming of Jesus. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal confession. #)



SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON - Matthew 14:22-36

Pew Bible, p. 16 NT

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Caitlin T. Deyerle

Who do you trust?

Focus: "But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

***HYMN 602 - Song of Zechariah**

Merle's Tune

(Children in Grade 3-8 will leave the service at this time.
An adult leader will be in the Narthex to escort them to their classroom.)

***STATEMENT OF FAITH (from *A Brief statement of Faith*)**

The Reverend Nancy S. Hodgkins

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM - "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright!
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore for us a Savior
When half-spent was the night.

***Doxology (Hymnal No. 592)**

Old Hundredth

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Response** (All sing) - "In the Bleak Midwinter" (Hymn 36, stanza 4)

Gustav Holst

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart**

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 12** - "People, Look East"

Besançon

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** (All sing)

Veni Emmanuel

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - Fughetta and Toccata on "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Johann Pachelbel

(The Concluding Voluntary is the final Alleluia of our worship. You are invited to remain in silence.)

*Please rise in body or spirit.

What is Advent? The season of Advent begins the Christian Year. The four Sundays preceding Christmas mark a time of preparation. Advent comes from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival." The color is blue. The main preparation Christians make to welcome Christ anew into their lives is through self-examination and repentance. Advent is a season of penitence. It is similar in purpose to Lent and was modeled after it. Christians remember their own need for God to come again in their lives, confessing their sin and separation from God, and expressing deep longing for what God alone can give, the gift of new life and salvation. Advent is a time to remember that we also wait for Christ to come again. We are still sinners in need of redemption. The whole world longs for peace and justice. We continue to look for Jesus Christ to come to save us.

Music Participants: Carillon Bells (Aaron Meece, Director) - Westminster Choir - The Reverend John Neely is Organist-Director.

Today's Music: The Latin hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Hymn 9), dates back to the twelfth century. A series of seven Advent antiphons were sung at Vespers the week prior to Christmas. Each of these antiphons began with "O" followed by a biblical title for the Messiah.

"Glory to God," music by Jacques Berthier, © 1979, 1981, Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) is reprinted under CCLI License #2287801.

Choirs for children and youth today. New members are welcome.

Children's Choirs and Youth Handbells (Sundays)

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Genesis Singers (4 and 5 year olds, Pre-Kindergarten) - Rm. 104 - Hilary Toerner, Director

Cherub Choir (grades K-2) - Theater - Rachael Boezi, Director

Calvin Choir (grades 3-6) - Rm. 100 (Choir Room) - John Neely, Director

Knox Ringers (grades 7-12) - Rm. 203 - Brent Manley, Director

Youth Choir – Note time change

3:30-4:45 p.m.

Knox Choir (grades 7-12) – Choir Room and Sanctuary – John Neely, Director

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Please stop by our Children's Ministry check-in desk anytime between 9:40-10:05 a.m. to record your child's attendance and receive their name tag.

Infants and Toddlers, Room 108 (Infant - 3 years old), are cared for from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 a.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.

Classes for children and youth today. New members are welcome.

Pre-K - 2nd Grades:

10:00-10:20 - Worship with family in the Sanctuary

10:25-11:30 - Sunday School

Pre-K & K, Room 101

1st & 2nd grades, Room 103/105

3rd-8th Grades:

10:00-10:40 - Worship with family in the Sanctuary

10:45-11:30 - Sunday School

3rd & 4th grades, Room 109

5th-8th grades, Theater

Youth Fellowship will not meet this Sunday due to the Advent Christmas Dinner and Program. All Families are encouraged to attend. The Knox Choir will sing. Please see the announcement for more information.

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

Celebrate Advent, this holy season of waiting, with an Advent devotional book from our library. *Please check out books by signing the folder on the small table.*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The flowers in the Chancel honor Jane Collins' life of love, care, and kindness.

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: Tim Kemerley, Scott Spangler

During the service, **if you notice someone who appears to require medical attention**, please raise your hand or contact the head usher. Emergency Response Team members will care for the person.

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 **Oxford Presbyterian Church**.

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.

Our new Pastoral Affiliate, the Rev. Curtis Baxter, can be reached at curtis@westminsterdayton.org or 847-707-5510.

WPW Pecans are still available!

The pecans have arrived and will be available before and after worship. There are plenty of extras for any last minute additions to your stocking stuffing needs. Please come to Room 106 downstairs to pick up your order if you haven't already done so.



Thank you to those who chose to participate in this special WISE Ministry Program. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to the Perry Street side of the church next Saturday, December 13, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A volunteer will come to your car to retrieve your gifts. Please put all gifts for each child in 1 bag/box clearly marked with the child's name and code number. The code number (i.e. 1-A; 45-C, etc.) is indicated in the upper right-hand corner of the child's letter and on the heart. Please consider donating Christmas wrapping supplies (paper, gift bags, tags, tape, bows) so the parents of the children can wrap and label the gifts as desired. If you have questions please contact Jenne Gross (jenne@westminsterdayton.org).



In this time when many of our neighbors face scarcity and hunger, please consider making a financial donation to the Hunger Fund. While non perishable food donations can still be made directly to the Foodbank, Westminster will no longer be collecting food donations.

Every dollar donated to the Hunger Fund provides four meals to those in need without the additional labor of being sorted by volunteers for expiration or damages. This strengthens the purchasing power of the Foodbank, putting greater variety, more nutritional balance, and larger quantities of products in the hands of those who need it most.

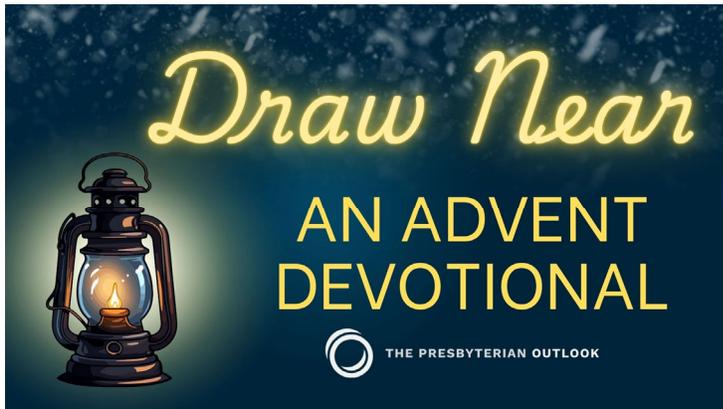


Today,
December 7, 5:00 p.m.
Suggested Donation \$5.00

Our annual Advent/Christmas Potluck dinner will be held today, at 5:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to feed 10-12 people. The main dish, beverages, and table service will be provided. A \$5.00 donation per adult is requested to help us continue this tradition.

The choral program of Advent and Christmas music begins at 5:45 p.m. Participants include Knox, Calvin, and Cherub Choirs, and Genesis Singers.

This event is for everyone, not just parents and grandparents of program participants. Bring your friends and neighbors! Reservations are not required for this event.



Draw Near: An Advent Devotional
by Teri McDowell Ott

Each Advent, we are invited to slow down and pay attention – not just to Christmas on the horizon, but to Christ's presence with us here and now. *Draw Near*, written by *Outlook* Editor/Publisher Teri McDowell Ott, is a devotional that helps you do just that.

Following the traditional Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, each week offers Scripture, reflection, prayer and a simple practice to guide your days. **Every week in Advent we will have new reflections available in the Westminster Notes and some paper copies will be available in the Church Office.**

Do you want to sign up for the Westminster Notes, our bi-weekly e-newsletter?
Contact Brittany Campbell (Brittany@westminsterdayton.org)



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.

Christmas Poinsettias

Your donation can help lift the spirits of another!



As part of our Advent/Christmas preparation, we purchase dozens of poinsettias that will be delivered by the deacons and care teams to members who could use extra cheer. You are invited to share in the funding of this special Christmas ministry by donating money in memory, honor, or celebration of someone you care about.

The poinsettias purchased with your donations will be delivered well before Christmas, bringing joy and comfort wherever they go. *Please note: no other flowers will be ordered except those being delivered by deacons and care ministries.*

It is suggested that your gift be \$12 or more, but may be any amount you wish. Checks must be received in the Church Office by **Next Sunday, December 14**, and made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and marked "Church Decorating." Donations may also be made online on our website (www.westminsterdayton.org). The worship service bulletin on December 21 will include names of the donors and names of those being recognized by your generous gift.

Your donation must be accompanied by a paper form, or online form, for your message to be included in the bulletin.



Christmas Poinsettias

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ to decorate our church.

Please print NAME(S) ONLY of those you wish to appear in the bulletin.

(circle one) In memory of - In honor of - Celebrating

Given by



EARTH STEWARDSHIP

ADVENT CALENDAR



8 Purchase new socks for men or women and donate to the ID ministry program at WPC. Other items needed are individual snacks, books for children.

9 Avoid single use plastic, from restaurants or for gatherings in you home. If having a large crowd, borrow needed plates and flat wear. Or even have guest bring their own! Remember the cloth napkins!

10 Decorate outdoors for birds and animals. Hang seed balls, pine cones stuffed with peanut butter and seeds.

11 Join Presbyterians for Earth Care.

12 Plan meals carefully to reduce waste. Up to 40%of food brought into the home in December is thrown away! Freeze or Compost leftovers.

13 Gift an experience instead of material objects. Museum membership, music lessons, a concert or sporting event, time with a parent. Something to look forward to!

14 Always bring reusable shopping bags when food or gift shopping. Keep them in your car. Give bags as gifts to family and friends not yet in the habit.

Earth Stewardship Ministry Team shares Earth friendly suggestions for the Advent season. Each Sunday, the bulletin will post the tips for the coming week. The entire calendar is available on the website or through the QR code.

Wishing all a blessed, season that cares for God's creation.

Visit our Fair Trade table in Fellowship Hall for some great green gift ideas from members of the Earth Stewardship Ministry Team!



Preparing for Whom?

· The Messiah We Expected
and the Messiah Who Came ·

Adult Education Class, West Parlor, 11:20 a.m.

The theme of the second week of Advent is "preparation." But whom are we preparing for? This class will explore the "Messiah gap" of the first century -- the difference between Jewish hopes for a national liberator, and the surprising, transformative ministry of Jesus. We will examine prophetic scripture, and contrast it with our own understanding of the Messiah our hearts are preparing for this Advent.



Next Sunday, December 14, 10:00 a.m.

A traditional service of Christmas scripture, music, and prayers. Music will be presented by the children and youth choirs, Westminster Choir, and the Westminster Ringers.



Friday, December 19

12:00 noon - Handbell Prelude Westminster Ringers

12:10- 12:40 p.m. - Carol Sing

A fun and festive community event with carol singing by all and music by the Vocal Ensemble of Xenia High School. A quick lunch for \$7 will be served following the Carol Sing. Invite your friends!

A poster with a teal background. On the left, there is a graphic of a white notepad with a red cross on a book, a pencil, and a paperclip. The text on the notepad reads "Bible 101" in a large, bold, black font, followed by "With Pastor Caitlin" in a smaller black font. Below the notepad, it says "A Parents Fellowship Class" in a white font. On the right side of the poster, there is a block of text in a white font.

Join us to as we explore the Bible. How did it come to be? Who wrote it? And how on earth are you supposed to understand it? This class is open to all Parents Fellowship regulars as well as others of any age or stage who have questions about the bible. We will use Rachel Held Evans' book Inspired as a starting point if you want to read along. We will meet in the Mission Room from 11:30-12:15.

Church Calendar December 7-December 13

Sunday, Dec. 7

- 8:30 am-12:00pm Hunger Sunday
 8:30am-12:30pm Nursery Birth-Age 3, Nursery
 9:00am-9:45am Confirmation Class, 209
 9:15am-9:45am Westminster Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
 10:00am-11:00am Worship, Sanctuary
 10:20am-11:30am 1st & 2nd Grade, 103, 105
 10:20am-11:30am Pre-K & K, 101
 10:45am-11:30am 3rd & 4th Grade, 107, 109
 10:45am-11:30am 5th-8th Grade, Theater
 11:00am-12:30pm Coffee & Conversation/Fair Trade, Heritage Hall
 11:15am-12:15pm Knox Ringers Rehearsal, Rooms 207, 203, 205
 11:20 am-12:15 pm Adult Ed.-Preparing for Whom?, West Parlor
 11:30am-12:15pm Calvin Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
 11:30am-12:15pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Theater
 11:30am-12:15pm Genesis Singers Rehearsal, 104
 11:30am-12:15pm Parent Fellowship, 102
 3:30pm-5:00pm Knox Choir Rehearsal , Sanctuary
 5:00pm-7:00 pm Advent / Christmas Dinner Fellowship Hall, Kitchen

Monday, Dec. 8

- 8:30am-6:00pm Homicide Victims Setup, Sanctuary, Lib, FH, Narthex
 9:30 am-12:30pm Sunshine Circle-Lunch, Offsite
 6:30pm-8:30pm Homicide Victims Service, Sanctuary, Lib, FH, Narthex
 6:30pm-8:30 pm Bridge Interest Group, West Parlor

Wednesday, Dec. 10

- 9:00am-12:00pm Staff Meeting, West Parlor
 10:00am-12:30pm ID Ministry, Chapel, Chapel Reception
 12:15pm-1:30pm Women's Therapeutic Court, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Dec. 11

- 6:00pm-7:15pm Carillon Bells Rehearsal, 301
 6:00pm-7:15pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal 207, 203, 205
 7:30pm-9:30pm Westminster Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday, Dec. 12

- 10:00am-12:00pm Poinsettia Delivery, Choir Room

Saturday, Dec. 13

- 10:00 am-12:00 pm Gifts from the Heart Dropoff Chapel, Chapel Reception
 10:00am-12:00pm Poinsettia Pickup Choir Room, Wilkinson St.

* Please note these dates and times are subject to change. This calendar does not include all private meetings and events in the church. Please contact church staff to reserve meeting space.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (9)

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!

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!

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!

Song of Zechariah (602)

Blest be the God of Israel,
Who comes to set us free;
Who visits and redeems us,
Who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
Of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise
And bring the people peace.

God from the house of David
A child of grace has given;
A Savior comes among us
To raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald,
Forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation,
The harbinger of day.

On those who sit in darkness
The sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness
Upon the sinner’s eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims

Along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior
With songs that never cease.

“People, Look East” (12)

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.

Bird, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.