

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

Psalm 146:5-8

As the lights are dimmed, please watch for the coming of the light.

Bringing the Light

Laurie & Ted Hartzell (8:30a & 11:00a)

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candle

(Adapted: Isaiah 11:6 + 'I Will Light Candles This Christmas' by Howard Thurman)

One: As the Lord has promised, in days to come:

All: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad.

One: The desert shall rejoice and blossom.

All: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ:

One: A candle of hope where despair keeps watch.

A candle of peace for these tempest-tossed days.

And a candle of joy despite all the sadness.

May they help us to find our way.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Opening Voluntary (A musical prayer offered on behalf of the people of God.)

(8:30a) "Greensleeves (What Child Is This)" arr. Chip Davis  
Mannheim Steamroller Collection  
Judy Kempf, Flute

(11:00a) "Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. David Cherwien

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Susan Jennings

++ Hymn 119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Mendelssohn

Call to Confession

Rev. David Baak

(Trusting that God is love, we express our lament, our brokenness, and our failings to God.)

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you promise to meet the hopes and fears of all the years, and yet we do not seem to prepare for much to change. You offer us glimmers of what is to come; you welcome us to live into freedom and wholeness right now. And still, we struggle to trust that it is really possible. Holy God, cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

Silent Confession

Kyrie - Unison

"Lord, Have Mercy"

John Weaver

Musical notation for the Kyrie Unison. The first line shows the melody for the first phrase: Lord, have mercy. The second line shows the melody for the second phrase: Christ, have mercy. The lyrics are written below the notes.

++ Stand as you are able

The Assurance of God's Grace

One: Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.

All: All our sins are pardoned. All our debts are paid.

One: Speak tenderly to one another, for we are all God's beloved.

All: Nothing is too hidden or too deep to escape the reach of God's love. Nothing.

One: In Christ, we are completely known, completely loved, and completely forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia. Amen.

++Response Hymn 103 (Stanza 3, sing twice)

Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.

Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

++The Passing of the Peace (A sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.)

One: Christ came, in the fullness of time, teaching us to love one another.

All: For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

One: The commandments are summed up in this word: Love your neighbor as yourself. And bear one another's burdens.

All: In this way we will fulfill the law of Christ.

One: May the love of God dwell in your hearts, and may the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

(8:30a) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" arr. Chip Davis  
Mannheim Steamroller Collection  
Judy Kempf, Flute

(11:00a) "Rejoice! Rejoice!" John R. Paradowski  
quoting "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Solos: Madeline Faasse, Lily Fiore, Audrey Faasse  
Bells: Christian Lawrence, Elizah Hyde, Charlie Lanning, Elise Gerville-Réache,  
James Preston  
Carol Choir

"A Home for Jesus" Ruth Elaine Schram  
Cantus and Cherub Choir

"Ding! Dong! Merrily on High!" arr. Carl Nygard, Jr.  
Ding dong, merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing.  
Ding dong, verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.  
Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers.  
May you beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.  
So, in imitation here let steeple bells be swungen.  
Songs of adoration clear by people well be sungen. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.  
Handbells: Mo and Henny Maher  
Chapel Singers and Kirk Singers

Blessings with Younger Disciples

(Children three years through second grade may finish their time of worship in the Worship Centers. Children's worship leaders or parents will shepherd them from the Sanctuary to their rooms. Parents may pick them up in their worship rooms following the service.)

In the pews: May the Lord be with each of you as you worship together.

Children: And may the Lord be with each of you as you worship together.

In the pews: Go in peace!

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

(We pray that the words of Scripture may be encountered as God's Word.)

Scripture

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 35:1-10

Old Testament p. 663

Sermon

Into Joy

Rev. Jen Porter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayer of The People and The Lord's Prayer

Mark DeVries

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Call for the Offering - Signing of the Friendship Register  
(Please sign the friendship pad and pass it down the pew. Thank you!)

Offertory  
(8:30a) "Menuet" and "Badinerie" from Orchestral Suite No. 2 J. S. Bach  
Judy Kempf, Flute

(11:00a) "Where Riches Is Everlastingly" Bob Chilcott  
Into this world this day did come Jesus Christ both God and Man,  
Lord and servant in one person, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity.

He that was rich without a need appeared in this world in right poor weed,  
To make us that were poor indeed, rich without any need truly.  
I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity.

A stable was his chamber, a crib was his bed, he had not a pillow, under his head;  
With maiden's milk that babe was fed, in poor clothes was wrapped the Lord Almighty.  
I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity.

A noble lesson here is taught, to set all worldly riches at naught,  
But pray that we may be thither brought where riches is everlastingly.  
I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity.  
Henry Duitman and Lee Copenhaver, percussion  
Sanctuary Choir

++Doxology (means "words of glory"—they are a traditional expression of praise to God.)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Prayer of Dedication

Living Hope, again we stand face to face with your good news. Unstop our ears and move us by your Spirit. Open our hearts to the depth and beauty of your promise. Loosen our tongues to sing your praise and speak your good news. We commit ourselves to this future, believing in all that will and shall happen, in these days foretold by prophets long ago. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

++Hymn 134

"Joy to the World"

Antioch

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Noël"

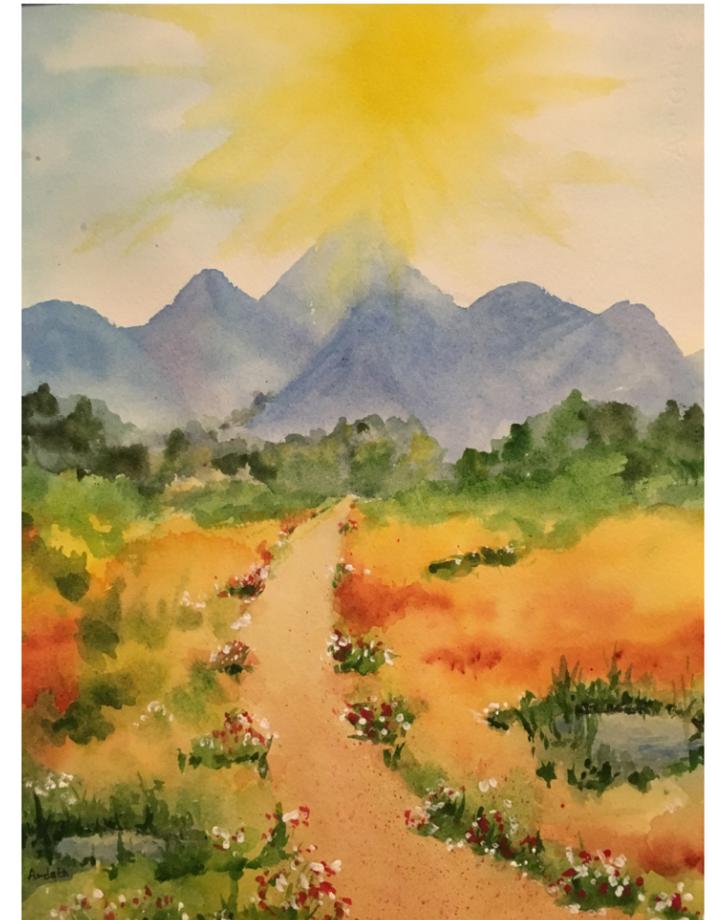
Louis-Claude Daquin

The Charge

Go into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold on to all that is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak and help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.



ADVENT:  
FINDING OUR WAY



Artwork by Ardath McCall.

One of the Art in Advent pieces displayed in the chapel.

Into Joy

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2019  
8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

**AHEAD IN WORSHIP**

**Sunday Services at 8:30a & 11:00a**

**December 22 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Finding Our Way into Love**

Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Preaching

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16

Music: Beth Colpean, Harp at 8:30 and 11:00a

Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**December 24**

**4:30 pm**—An interactive service for all ages

**Witnessing Christmas**

Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor

Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families

**8:00 pm and 11:00 pm**

**What, Really, Is the Point of Christmas?**

Rev. David Baak, Preaching

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Music: 8:00p - Sanctuary Choir, Kirk Singers,

and Alumni Singers

11:00p - Lee Copenhaver, Cello

**FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS**

**Finding Our Way: Art in Advent**

**9:40 - 10:30 a.m. in the chapel**

Throughout Advent, pieces of art will be on display in the chapel responding to each of our four passages from Isaiah. Over these four weeks, the chapel is open to walk through in prayer and reflection. During the Formation hour (12/15) we will reflect and have conversation together. December 15 will highlight art for Isaiah 35:1-10 and 7:10-16. Thank you to the members of the congregation who spent time reflecting on Isaiah and finding their way into these various art mediums.

**Introduce Yourself to Rev. Laurie Hartzell**

**In the parlor**

To help introduce Laurie to our congregation and our congregation to Laurie, on Dec. 15, Laurie will be present in the parlor during the Formation hour and following the 11:00a service for informal conversation. Please stop in to say hello and introduce yourself. She will have a few questions to offer a brief written response to, for example: "What is something you want me to know about Westminster?"

**Welcome to Westminster**

*If you are new to Westminster, this information may help you get oriented.*

**WELCOME**

Join us after the service in the Gathering Place or Parlor for coffee and cookies and community.

**ASSISTANCE**

If you'd like a large-print bulletin or a hearing device, please ask one of the ushers at a sanctuary entrance. For T-loop hearing assistance, set your hearing aid to T.

**CHILDREN**

Children are welcome throughout the service! Please don't worry about their coos, questions, laughs, cries, or dropped markers. Stop by the Gathering Place shelves for special worship bags/folders and children's bulletins to help children engage with worship.

Staff and volunteers offer nursery care to little ones (0-3 years) from 8:20a until 15 minutes after the 11:00a service ends. A Moms' Nursing Room is available down the Children's Ministry hallway, accessible through the nursery.

Children ages 3 through 2nd-grade will be invited to continue worship in an interactive setting in our Nurturing (ages 3-4) and Worship (K-2nd grade) Centers. They'll wait for you at the end of the service in the Children's Ministry hallway off the Gathering Place.

616-456-1456 / westminstergr.org / Office Hours: Mon - Thurs. 9:00a - 4:00p

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Preacher .....Rev. Jen Porter, Assoc. Pastor for Faith Formation & Pastoral Care

Liturgists .....Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Membership

.....Rev. David Baak, Executive Pastor

.....Mark DeVries, Elder for Youth

Minister of Music .....Helen Hofmeister

**Music for Worship**

8:30a - Judy Kempf, Flute

11:00a - Cantus Choir

Jackie Schoon, Cantus Choir Director

Cherub & Carol Choirs

Luanne K. Barnes, Cherub & Carol Choir Director

Chapel & Kirk Singers

Sanctuary Choir

Janlee Richter, Accompanist

**TODAY'S GREETERS** - Members of Adult Faith Formation Committee

**8:30a:** Atrium .....Deb and John Flietstra

Narthex..... Marcia and John Kaye

**11:00a:** Atrium ..... The Strand family

**USHERS** - Team C

**8:30a:** Doug and Joanie Dowling, John and Sue Porter

**11:00a:** Keith Combs, Kari and Chris Fuller, Ann and Jim Jarvis, Kevin Larr,

Ben and Sharon Vander Wilp, Rich Zimmerman

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND WORKSHOPS:** During Christmas holidays, there will be no children's choirs or children's workshops between the services on **Sundays, December 22 and 29**. There will be worship centers and nursery during our worship services. Enjoy all our special Advent and Christmas worship experiences!

**NURSERY 8:30 & 11:00a:** .....Amanda Stek Berends and Staff

**WORSHIP CENTER - 8:30a - Advent III**

Leader..... Kathy Smith

**Center 1 - 11:00a** (5-year old & Kndg.) - *Advent III*

Leader .....Gordon Griffin

Greeter .....Drew Hausig

**Center 2 - 11:00a** (1st & 2nd graders) - *Advent III*

Leader .....Lisa Smith Heethuis

Greeter .....Lindsey Wierenga

**Nurturing Center - 11:00a - Jesus Is Born!**

Leader .....Sandy VanBrouwer

Greeter .....Sarah Schantz

**Please remember in your prayers this week...**

Kyle Nolan, as this is his last Sunday at Westminster. We pray for blessings and joy as he and Amanda enter into this time of new experiences and adventures. We offer our love and well wishes as they move forward.

**DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15 - JAMES 5:7-10**

"Born into poverty in 16th-century Spain, Juan de la Cruz (John of the Cross) joined the Carmelite order at the age of 21. Later, he met Teresa of Avila, who recruited him to help her restore a spirit of radical simplicity to the Carmelites. Their reforms were not welcomed in the days of Spain's Inquisition, and Juan suffered a great deal of persecution at the hands of his religious brothers. One of the great mystics, he teaches us how to draw closer to God during the 'dark night of the soul.'"

*Prayer:* Lord, help us not to despair when you seem far away or when our walk with you proves treacherous. Give us grace to trust your presence even when we feel your absence. Amen. (from Claiborne, Common Prayer, 65).