



***Epiphany of the Lord***  
***Sacrament of the Lord's Supper***

January 4, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

*†Those who feel comfortable standing may do so.*

*\* Denotes hymn number in pew hymnal. Some lyrics may be different than what is projected on the screens*



**DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**PRELUDE**

**SETH CUNNINGHAM**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the dark of morning,  
**the stars still shine.**

In the depth of winter,  
**the birds still climb.**

At the start of the year, tender and new,  
**God is here.**  
**God is near.**

Do not rest in your fear.

**God is here.**

So like the stars and the birds,

**Let us worship holy God.**

**†HYMN** *“What Star is This, with Beams so Bright?”* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*What star is this, with beams so bright,  
more lovely than the noonday light?  
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,  
glad tidings of our God to bring.*

*'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,  
“From Jacob shall a star proceed”;  
and lo! the eastern sages stand  
to read in heaven the Lord’s command.*

*While outward signs the star displays,  
an inward light the Lord conveys  
and urges them, with tender might,  
to seek the giver of the light.*

*O Jesus, while the star of grace  
impels us on to seek your face,  
let not our slothful hearts refuse  
the guidance of your light to use.*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Ever-loving God, we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy. However, we know that is not how the world works.**

Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to face  
with fear once again.

So today we pray — forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in  
our tracks. Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from  
following your call.

Forgive us when fear is louder than love.

Show us how to turn our fear into action.

Show us how to live like the Magi who searched for you in a  
fearful world. With hope we pray ...

*— A time of silent confession —*

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

So join me in these words of forgiveness:

**Whether fear inspires us to action,**

**or stops us dead in our tracks,**

**God's love for us is boundless.**

**We are seen.**

**We are surrounded with grace.**

**We are sent to serve.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **†RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE**

\*NO. 188 (REFRAIN ONLY)

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## **†SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*At this time, children (5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger) are invited to a worship experience just for them. The leaders will meet them at the back of the church following the bell choir music and will bring them back before Communion.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## HEBREW LESSON

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

## GOSPEL LESSON

**Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18**

## SERMON

*"Fear Doesn't Stop Us"*

**Rev. Jamie Milton**

## +HYMN

*"We've Seen God's Face"*

TRADITIONAL POLISH MELODY

*See the inside back cover of today's bulletin*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars.  
We have seen the longest night, and *still* we believe.  
We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of  
tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear.  
We believe this good news is for all people.  
So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles,  
even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good  
news. We will reach for each other.  
We will look for God in our midst.  
We will sing songs of joy.**

**We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born.  
We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable  
love. So *still*, we believe.  
Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

WPC CHANCEL CHOIR

*“Do You Hear What I Hear?”*

*Words and Music by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne;  
Arranged by Harry Simeone.*

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*— Please record your presence on the “Friendship Pad” —*

### **†DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### **†PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Merciful God, may your justice roll down like waters, your  
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. May these gifts and  
offerings be an answer to your call — a call to deliver the  
needy, rescue the weary, and defend the poor and the  
defenseless. In the holy light of your redeeming love, we pray.  
Amen.**

## **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

## **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **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.**

### **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*You are invited to come forward to receive communion. Using either station at the front of the church, you will receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice. Please take communion before returning to your seat. If you wish to remain seated, someone will bring communion to your seat. GLUTEN FREE OPTION on table.*

## **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE AND RECEIVING STAR WORDS**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## †HYMN

### *“We Three Kings of Orient Are”*

No\* 233

*We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.*

*Refrain:*

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)*

## †CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go forth as a light to the nations.

**We go forth, following the star of Christ's birth.**

Go forth as a people of blessing.

**We go forth, proclaiming hope to the poor and needy.**

Go forth as a light to the nations.

**We go forth, with God's blessings.**

## POSTLUDE

**SETH CUNNINGHAM**



### **Liturgical texts used with permission from:**

*Service liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).*

*Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020 . Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.*

*Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 4, 2025

- **TODAY AFTER WORSHIP:** If you are able, please stay after service and help us take down the Christmas decorations around the church building.

- **GATHERING AND GAMES NEXT SUNDAY:** Join us for our first Gathering and Games of 2026 following worship on **January 11**. Bring a game and a snack to share, or just bring yourself!

- **PARKING LOT REMINDER:** Please remember that we are only allowed to use the parking lot across Dewitt Street (at Lake Effect Chiropractic) when the business is closed. This includes Sunday mornings, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings after 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings after 7:00 p.m. Our payment and rental agreement does not allow us to park in their new parking lot off Vermont Street.

Thank you for helping us to be good neighbors! Westminster owns and maintains the small lot directly behind the church across Vermont Street, and the large lot across Wenona Street from the church.

- **LYDIA CIRCLE** will meet **Thursday, January 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the Session room**. We are using the *Horizons* Bible Study, "Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." If you would like to join, contact Barb Tolles at 989-963-9369 or email her at [apple2chool@yahoo.com](mailto:apple2chool@yahoo.com)

- **DEBORAH CIRCLE** will meet **at 4 p.m. Thursday, January 22 at the home of Sherry Holley**. If anyone wants to join, please call Karen Schoeppach at 989-684-1322 or email her at [kaysue@chartermi.net](mailto:kaysue@chartermi.net).

MINISTERS

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PARISH ASSOCIATE

LITURGIST

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

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Rev. Linda Williams

Don Clough

Leah Sneller

Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Seth Cunningham

Judy Harrelson

Seth Cunningham

Rachel Webb

Martha Tapley

Bill Petzold

Pat Foster

Harold Miller



## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 4, 2025

• **Children are always welcome in the sanctuary.** **NURSERY CARE** is available for infants and toddlers during the worship service. Our nursery is equipped with a paging system. Quality childcare is provided by Elaine Edwards, who is infant/CPR trained.

• **TODAY'S LOOSE OFFERING** will be used to support the ministry of the Westminster Deacons.

• **WINGS OF PRAYER:** If you have someone you would like to add to our Wings of Prayer list, please contact Patti Wesenick at 989-737-6844.

• **BUILDING OUR FAMILY OF FAITH:** Join the *Bring a Friend Challenge*! Each time you bring a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member to worship or a church event, you and your guest will be entered into a raffle for prizes (gift cards, a stainless-steel tabletop grill, and more!). Stop by the Wenona Street Welcome kiosk before or after worship for tickets and details.

• **YOUTH GROUP DINNERS:** Do you like to cook or bake meals? If yes, then we would love for you to **sign up to help with Youth Dinners for Sunday night youth group meetings**. If not, there is still a way you can help with dinner. You can choose to provide dinner by providing pizza,

chicken tenders, Mac & Cheese or something along those lines. We usually have dinner from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. You will get a count a couple of days in advance. Please scan the QR code, visit



<https://tinyurl.com/bd7hv7u8> or see Leah Sneller to sign up.

• **CARING CONNECTIONS:** Come join us on the first Thursday of every month. Our Caring Connections Group will also be open to the Bay City community. Any questions, please see Mary Nicholson or Rev. Linda. Caring Connections will meet again on **Thursday, January 8** from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Lounge.

• **WINTER BOOK GROUP:** Our Book Group will begin discussing our next book, *The Measure of a Man* by Sidney Poitier, beginning on **Tuesday, January 6** at 1:30 p.m. in the lounge. Come join us! Books are available in the church office (suggested \$5 donation). For questions, please call the church office or Rev. Linda.

• **LUNCH AND LAUGH WINTER SERIES:** **Mark your calendars for Tuesdays January 27 and February 24.** In January, everyone is encouraged to bring along their favorite table games to share some fun and friendly competition. We hope to have enough people to play Bunco again! Then, in February, we'll enjoy a movie together — do you have a favorite film you'd love to watch? Come join us for these special afternoons! Bring your own brownbag lunch; beverages and a sweet treat are provided. Any questions, please call the church office or Rev. Linda.

• **BEING PRESBYTERIAN:** When we meet for our next Being Presbyterian class at **5:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 18**, we'll be looking at why we worship the way we do. We'll take a deeper look at what worship means in the Reformed tradition. We'll gather for dinner, then spend about an hour and a half discussing how our own services reflect that tradition.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 4, 2026

- **OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026** are available for pickup here at the church in the long hallway outside of the sanctuary.
- **YEAR-END STATEMENTS** will be mailed or emailed around the second week of January. Please review your statement carefully. If you find an error, please let Pat know immediately, so she can make the correction and begin closing the books on 2025.
- **CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES:** Heading to a warmer climate this winter? Have you moved recently? Do you have a new email address? Please call the church office to let us know of these changes so your statement and other church correspondence reaches you.
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** If your New Year's resolution is to strengthen your connection to God and maybe even read more books — including the Bible

– come join us for our Adult Bible study series here at Westminster. We provide two opportunities for folks to participate – **Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.** in the Lounge or **Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. by Zoom.**

- **AED TRAINING SESSIONS** are planned for after worship on **Sunday, January 18** and **January 25**. These trainings are intended for lay people, and anyone who is interested in attending is invited! Call the church office for information.

**Per Capita for 2026 is \$35.00**

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

103 E. Midland Street, Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-1360 email: [office@wpcbc.org](mailto:office@wpcbc.org)

website: [wpcbc.org](http://wpcbc.org)

The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Monday through Thursday. Closed noon  
to 1 p.m. for lunch each day.

## Giving to Westminster

There are many ways to share your gifts with Westminster.

Cash and checks are welcome. Please use your offering envelopes or the envelopes found in pew backs and place

your gift in the offering plate when it is passed.

Visit our website

[www.wpcbc.org](http://www.wpcbc.org) and click on the "Give Now" button at the top of the page This

will direct you to our Online Giving Portal or simply scan the QR

Code. Contributions can also be sent through the mail to the attention of the Church Treasurer. We're grateful for your gifts, however you choose to give. THANK YOU!



GENERAL FUND	Month to Date thru December	
	29	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	\$ 27,838	\$ 429,157
One-time Gifts	\$ -	\$ 31,000
Other Cash Received	\$ 46	\$ 32,180
Total Income	\$ 27,884	\$ 492,337
Expenses	\$ 39,418	\$ 436,360
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (11,534)	\$ 55,977

Budgeted expense total for the year is \$474,000.

# We've Seen God's Face

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

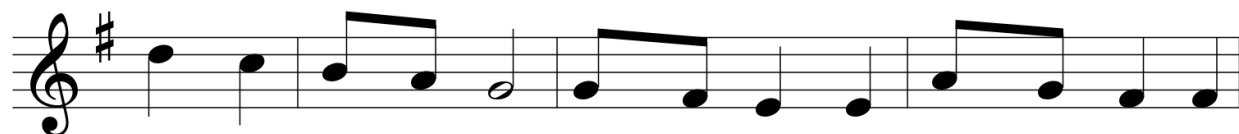
Traditional Polish melody



Like the ma - gi from the east we tra - vel in - to  
If we find our path has led us to King Her - od's  
We will trust that star to guide us to the place where  
When new threats de - rail our jour - ney from the path we



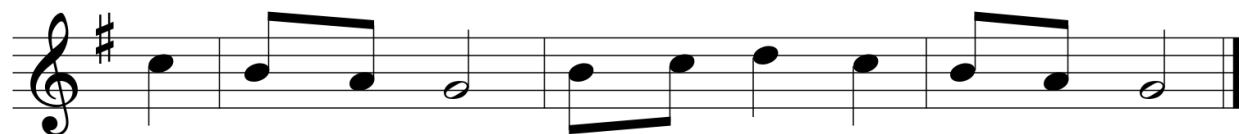
the un - known Step by step we make the jour - ney, called by  
den of fear Still we'll keep our fo - cus fixed on chas - ing  
we were called Find - ing God em - bod - ied in the humb - lest  
planned to take We won't let fear par - a - lyze us, no we



God to seek the throne O - ver moun - tains, through the des - erts  
down that star so clear Though the ty - rants rage and threat - en  
dwell - ing place of all As King Her - od sends his sol - diers  
won't stay locked in place Stay - ing nim - ble, we'll move for - ward



Seek - ing Christ we fol - low e - ver 'Til at last  
Noth - ing weak - ens our pro - fess - ion It is God's  
Time stands still while we be - hold him Here's where we  
Keep - ing safe by cross - ing bor - ders Move a - round



we reach the place Where we hope to see God's face  
voice we have heard Fear will not have the last word  
were called to be God's in - car - nate love to see  
the fear with grace For we know we've seen God's face

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WISHES ALL OF YOU

H A P P Y  
*New Year*

MAY GOD BLESS YOU RICHLY  
IN THE YEAR TO COME!

