

Westminster At Worship

*A Celebration of Worship
Proclaim Hope
The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 19, 2021

10:30 a.m.



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTMINSTER AT WORK

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Away in a Manger"
Little Ringers

†CALL TO WORSHIP (from Proclaim Hope 4)

LEADER: We gather in preparation,

PEOPLE: For good news is about to be proclaimed.

LEADER: We gather in expectation,

PEOPLE: For joy is about to be sung in "Alleluias."

LEADER: We gather in celebration,

PEOPLE: For we know good news is coming.

LEADER: We gather in anticipation,

PEOPLE: For hope is about to be born anew.

**ALL: With preparation, expectation, celebration, and
anticipation, let us worship God!**

OPENING HYMN

THOMPSON

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Handbell Choir

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

LEADER: Where do we proclaim hope?

LEADER: On hillsides and valleys, in villages and cities,

PEOPLE: Go tell it everywhere.

LEADER: How do we proclaim hope?

LEADER: In lament and in song. In sighs too deep for words and
 jubilant exclamation.

**PEOPLE: With the spirit of the Lord upon us, bringing good news
 to all.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we live as if your light had never overcome the
darkness. We confess that we stumble in shadows rather than
walk in the light of Christ. We fear to have hope because
sometimes it feels safer to sit in the dark of our despair. We
wrap ourselves in self-doubt and do not trust that you are
bigger than any problem we can conjure.**

**But you come to us, a tiny human, to show us what our
humanity may be like — full of promise and justice and hope
for life in the household of God. Restore in us that hope that
lets our light reflect your glory and proclaim the good news
of your love. Amen.**

— *Silent Confession* —

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we
are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

MUSIC

MONVILLE

"Is It He?"

Tom Monville, voice and guitar

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Scripture
Luke 4:16-21

MUSIC

"Believe"

Nancy Dobson, voice

"Lullaby of Christ Child / What Child is This"

Jan Witucki, harp

Scripture
Leviticus 25:1-13

MUSIC

"Every Valley"

Ken Wright & Harrelson Family, voice

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Leah & Faith Sneller, saxophone and flute

Scripture
John 1:1-4, 14

MUSIC

"Welcome to the World"

Brandi Higgins, voice

"What Child is This"

Lillian Graves, piano

Scripture
Luke 2:6-7

MUSIC

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"
Judy Harrelson, voice

"Sing We Now of Christmas"
Aaron & Emily Morse, bell tower duet

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

DOBRINSKI

"Ding Dong! Merrily on High"
Handbell choir

†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For your promises to which we hold, we give you thanks. For those worshipping with us today, we give you thanks. For family, friend, and stranger, we give you thanks. For the gifts you give us that we return to you, we give you thanks. For the hope that lives each Advent of a love that has no end, we give you thanks. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PEOPLE: 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.

BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"
Children's Choir

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Dawn Auger & Wendy Tally



| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| MINISTERS | All the People |
| PASTOR | Rev. Jamie Milton |
| PARISH ASSOCIATE | Rev. Linda Williams |
| LITURGIST | Pam Monville & Nikelle Johnson |
| DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY | Brandi Higgins |
| NURSERY SUPERVISOR | Elaine Edwards |
| CHOIR DIRECTOR | Dawn Auger |
| HAND BELL DIRECTOR | Peggy Hanson |
| ORGANIST | Wendy Tally |
| TREASURER | Heather Heidtman |
| CUSTODIAN | Harold Miller |
| SECRETARY | Judy Harrelson |
| CCLI License #2328090 | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 19, 2021

PRAYERS are extended to the family and friends of Barbara Conklin. Barb passed away on Thursday, December 9, 2021. No services are planned at this time.

PRAYERS are extended to the family and friends of Harold Sauer. Harold passed away on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. A funeral service will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, December 21 at 10:30 a.m. Visitation with the family will take place at 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

FLOWERS today are given by the Secret Snowman: To all members of Westminster Presbyterian Church — young, old, and in between... may the year ahead hold many magical moments of hope and love.

USHERS ARE NEEDED for the 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship services. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Chris Elzinga at 989-450-7113. Thank you!

2022 FLOWER CHART: The 2022 Flower Chart has been posted on the easel next to the Wenona Street entrance. This is an opportunity for you to honor or memorialize an occasion of a special loved one. Please print your name on the Sunday date you would like. Marie Capp will get in touch with you for floral arrangements and what you wish to have printed in the bulletin.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: 2022 envelopes are available for pickup in the hallway outside the Chapel.

PER CAPITA: If you have not paid your 2021 per capita (\$28.76) you can still get that in this month. Per capita for 2022 is \$29.00. Please do not pay your 2022 per capita until January 1 or after.

CONTRIBUTIONS you would like credited for 2021 must reach Heather Heidtman (or be postmarked) by December 31, 2021. Anything received or postmarked after December 31, regardless of the date on the check or offering envelope, will be credited to 2022.

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM: Join us TODAY at 4:00 p.m. for a fun-filled evening for children, youth, family, and friends to walk the streets of Bethlehem at the time Jesus was born. There will be lots to see and do in Bethlehem.

Y u m m y f o o d ,
shopkeepers to do crafts
with, people to talk with
about their life in
Bethlehem, and even
Mary and Joseph will be
there. You won't want to
miss this!!



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE: Sometimes, in the midst of the busy Christmas season, we simply need a quiet place to sit with our thoughts, to be, and to worship. We need the space and time to acknowledge our feelings and concerns; we need to know that we are not alone. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us. Join us for our "Longest Night" Contemplative Christmas Service as we worship together through prayer, scripture, and music that acknowledges God's presence is always with us — and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Join us tomorrow, Monday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow the service.

INTERGENERATIONAL MOVIE EVENT: For many people, the holiday season feels like it is not quite complete without watching a favorite movie with family or friends. On Tuesday, December 21 — when the kids have already started Christmas break — we will gather in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 p.m. to watch the movie, "The Star." In addition to just the fun of all being together to watch a movie, we will enjoy snacks together — popcorn, soda, and of course Christmas cookies. If you are an adult who loves to make Christmas cookies or a family who likes to bake together, you are welcome to share your tasty treats with the whole group. Any questions, please call the church office, Brandi Higgins, or Rev. Linda.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Join us on Christmas Eve for one of our candle lighting services. This year's services will be held at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Twenty minutes prior to each of these services (12:40 and 6:40), those who wish are invited to gather outside in front of the church around the Advent wreath for a time to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols before proceeding inside for our Christmas Eve candlelight service.

PJS & PANCAKES: There are no Sunday School classes for children or adults on Sunday, December 26, but join us at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for an intergenerational pancake breakfast. Come in your pajamas!

OUR STEPHEN MINISTRY PROGRAM is venturing into volunteering with Hospice. We would like to invite anyone in the congregation to join us. Your time commitment is up to you. The Hospice co-ordinator is great to work with, and will assign you with the job that best suits your interests and time. There will be a training session after Christmas for us all to do together. Please call Jan (989-686-1557) or Pam (989-225-8259) for more information or to be put on our volunteer list.

THE WIRED WORD, "where current events and faith intersect," meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. News is inevitable — whether good or bad, but what better way to extract hope from this input than to juxtapose scriptures as tools

to persevere and navigate our daily walk in Christian faith. Our weekly Wired Word gatherings allow us to reflect on the week's happenings with others who may not share exactly our same thoughts and opinions, but are equally dedicated to thinking about and talking about how current events intersect with our faith questions and convictions. Any questions, or to receive study material and Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 686-1360 or parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: When we respond to Jesus' summons to "Follow me" and we choose to follow, we are committing to a lifelong apprenticeship journey — one in which we will continually be formed, reformed, and transformed. Discipleship is not a skill, it's a way of life. Bible Study classes will be offered at two different times to accommodate various schedules. Join us on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room or Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The same study materials will be used at both gatherings, and are available for pick-up in the church office. See Rev. Linda or Pastor Jamie with any questions.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD: If you are looking for grief support groups, health clinics, or volunteer opportunities that take place within our community, please check out the community bulletin board located in Fellowship Hall.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

This Week at Westminster

Today, Sunday, December 19

- 9:00 a.m. First Light (Sunday School)
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 4:00 p.m. A Night in Bethlehem

Monday, December 20

- 6:00 p.m. Longest Night Service

Tuesday, December 21

- 12:00 p.m. Intergenerational Christmas Movie ("The Star")
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Friday, December 24

- 12:40 p.m. Carols outside around the Advent wreath
- 1:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service
- 6:40 p.m. Carols outside around the Advent wreath
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service

Saturday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Next Sunday, December 26

- 9:30 a.m. PJs & Pancakes
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time



**There is no Adult Bible Study
the weeks of December 26
and January 2.**

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Bay City, MI 48706
989-686-1360

email: office@wpcbc.org
website: wpcbc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

