

Westminster At Worship

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

10:30 a.m.



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to worship with expectations: God revealed in new and astonishing ways.

People: God comes to us in real time. God comes to us in dreams.

Leader: Sometimes God's presence is hard to take in — difficult to believe.

People: Oh God, we long to believe. Help our unbelief!

Leader: God is present here. God is working in our midst.

People: Then our mouths are filled with laughter, our tongues shout out with joy!

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We bow our heads in holy reverence. Oh God, we long to be free of burdens that hold us captive. We long to be bearers of good news to the oppressed. We long to return to your favor. Forgive us our transgressions; loosen the chains of doubt that bind us.

Hear now our prayers as we come to you in silent prayer...

— Silent Prayer —

Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**People: In and through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Wonderful Peace”
David Fenske

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Good News of Deliverance

61 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
4 They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

(Sermon Slide: Henry Tanner Annunciation)

NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 1:46-55

Mary's Song of Praise

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his
servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

SERMON

“Life Interrupted”
Rev. Linda Williams

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

SUBMITTED BY REV. REBECCA F. HARRISON, PRESBYTERIAN PASTOR; LITURGYLINK

We are an Advent people, a people of hope.

For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God’s promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.

Even so, we are not a naive people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist. We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.

But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end.

The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be.

And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love, and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

“Once in Royal David’s City”
Dawn, Judy, Nikelle

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

As Mary moved from tears to acceptance she sang, “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...surely from now on all generations will call me blessed.” Mary said yes to God. Mary accepted the burden and the responsibility of being God’s chosen. She gave her whole self over to God. God calls to each of us. How do we respond? What do we bring? In the spirit of Mary’s “yes,” let us bring forth our offerings and gifts.

†DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, our answer too, is “Yes!” Yes, we will serve only you. Yes, we will bring our whole selves to the effort. Yes, we will sing your praises to the universe. Accept these offerings as tangible proof of our collective “yes.” May they be magnified for your use in our time. Amen.

BEING SENT WITH GOD’S WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

*“Come and Hear the joyful singing”
Dawn, Judy, Nikelle*

CHARGE

Leader: Go from this place to spread God’s peace.

People: We go planting seeds of peace in the world.

Leader: Go from this place to share God’s love.

People: We go laughing and shouting Good News.

Leader: Go from this place to live God’s spirit.

**People: We proclaim God’s liberty; God’s spirit set free
in the world!**

Amen!

BENEDICTION

Today's liturgy is attributed to Worship Ways, Rev. Penny L. Lowes.

MINISTERS	All the People
TRANSITIONAL PASTOR	Rev. Dr. Ewen Holmes
PARISH ASSOCIATE	Rev. Linda Williams
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR	Nikelle Johnson
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 13, 2020

SEASONAL SUNSHINE: The Spiritual Growth committee has been working to find ways for people to feel more “present” at church, even if they are unable to be physically present here on Sundays. We are working on a project called Seasonal Sunshine. This is a craft kit that the church will deliver or mail to you. Projects will be simple yet fun to complete, and the finished project will be featured throughout the church during the Christmas/Winter season. It is an easy, enjoyable way to put your own creativity to work and showcase it at church, even if you are not in the building (and even if you don't see yourself as being crafty or creative)! It would be great to see everyone come together to make something beautiful for our church! Our first project is a Thumbprint Snowflake for Christmas/Winter which we want to showcase in the sanctuary

during the Advent/Christmas season! This project is for people of ALL AGES! Please let Nikelle know if you would like a kit (cedirector@wpcbc.org), and we will arrange to get you one!

PER CAPITA & OFFERING ENVELOPES: If you have not paid your 2020 per capita (\$29.00), you can still get that in this month. Offering envelopes for 2021 will be available for pick-up at the church during regular office hours.

THE UNCLUTTERED HEART ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Join us on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. This is an Advent Bible Study using the book, *"The Uncluttered Heart"* by Beth A. Richardson. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

THE WIRED WORD ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Join us on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Enjoy lively conversations about current events in the news and the Bible passages that relate to those events. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

SPIRITUALITY OF AGING: Our Spirituality of Aging groups have begun gathering in groups of twos over the phone. We realize this is not the way we would have all hoped to have gathered this Fall, but for the ten to twelve who have signed up, it has become a way to remain connected during these coronavirus days. For these "two-by-two" conversations, we are using *"On the Brink of Everything,"* a beautiful book of reflections on what we can learn as we move closer to "the brink of everything." This book is written by beloved and bestselling author Parker J. Palmer. It's never too late to join in! If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our "two-by-two" discussion format, please give Rev. Linda a call.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City.

This Week at Westminster

Today, Sunday, December 13, 2020

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, December 15

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Wednesday, December 16

1:00 p.m. The Wired Word via Zoom

Thursday, December 17

1:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran

7:00 p.m. Advent Adult Faith Formation via Zoom

Next Sunday, December 20

10:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program

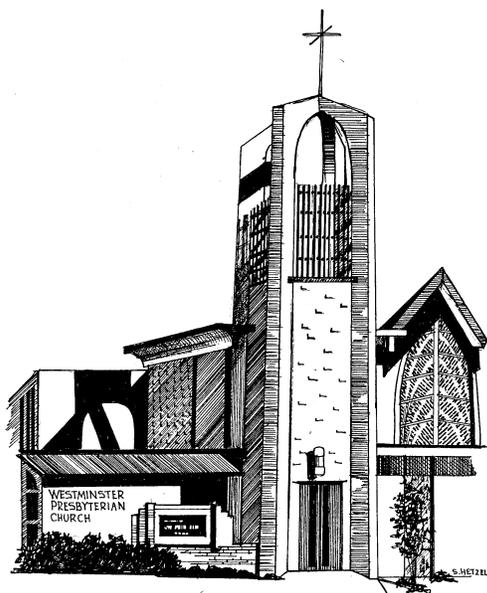
*A Light
in the Darkness*

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. - *Meditations on Christmas*
4:00 p.m. - *Bay County Christmas*
7:00 p.m. - *Lessons of Hope*

wpcbc.org

**JOIN US
ONLINE!**



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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989-686-1360

email: office@wpcbc.org

website: wpcbc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

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

lunch 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Friday

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