

Westminster At Worship

1st Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

10:30 a.m.



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is a time for praise and prayer.

People: Advent begins!

Leader: As we anticipate the birth of Christ the child, let us prepare well.

People: Advent begins!

Leader: Come people of God, let us worship.

People: Advent begins!

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Hear us now as we come to you in silent confession. —SILENT PRAYER— Lead us in your truth and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

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

**People: In and through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

"An Advent Reflection"
Dawn, Ken, & Brandi

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 64:1-5, 8-9 (NRSV)

64

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

2

as when fire kindles brushwood

and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,

so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

3

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

4

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

5

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

8

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

9

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

NEW TESTAMENT
Mark 13:24-37 (NRSV)

The Coming of the Son of Man

24 “But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’
with great power and glory.

27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect
from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends
of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch
becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that
summer is near.

29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you
know that he is near, at the very gates.

30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until
all these things have taken place.

31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not
pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the
angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

35 Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,

36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

SERMON

“Ready or Not — Here it Comes”

Rev. Dr. Ewen Holmes

†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

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Dawn, Ken, & Brandi

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

†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

Now at the turning of the season, we come before you, grateful at this opportunity to give and receive, intent upon sharing all good things with the world, in your name, as your people, God of light and love. Bless us as we bless others. All glory and honor be yours. Amen.

BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
Dawn, Ken, & Brandi

CHARGE

BENEDICTION

MINISTERS
TRANSITIONAL PASTOR
PARISH ASSOCIATE
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR
NURSERY SUPERVISOR
CHOIR DIRECTOR
HAND BELL DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
TREASURER
CUSTODIAN
SECRETARY
CCLI License #2328090

All the People
Rev. Dr. Ewen Holmes
Rev. Linda Williams
Nikelle Johnson
Elaine Edwards
Dawn Auger
Peggy Hanson
Wendy Tally
Heather Heidtman
Harold Miller
Judy Harrelson

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 29, 2020

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS: Although we will not gather for in-person worship on Christmas Eve due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we would still like to follow Westminster tradition and fill the sanctuary with poinsettias. If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia, please let the church office know at 989-686-1360. Each poinsettia is \$10.50 and includes a 6-inch pot with foil and bow. Color choices include red, pink, white, and marble. Please submit your payment of \$10.50 by Friday, December 11. **Note:** We realize some of you have paid for Easter dedication flowers, but because of the stay-at-home order in place during Easter, we were unable to order flowers. If you have paid for Easter flowers, your payment will go toward a poinsettia plant.

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 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!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: We invite everyone to participate in this year’s Christmas concert! Please submit a recording and we will assemble all submissions and post the final video on Westminster’s website and Facebook page. Please contact Dawn, Wendy, or the church office with any questions. Please submit your recording by Tuesday, December 1.

THE UNCLUTTERED HEART ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Join us on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom beginning on Thursday, December 3. 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, November 29, 2020

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, December 1

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. Personnel Meeting

Wednesday, December 2

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

6:00 p.m. Property Meeting

7:00 p.m. Mission Partnerships

8:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom

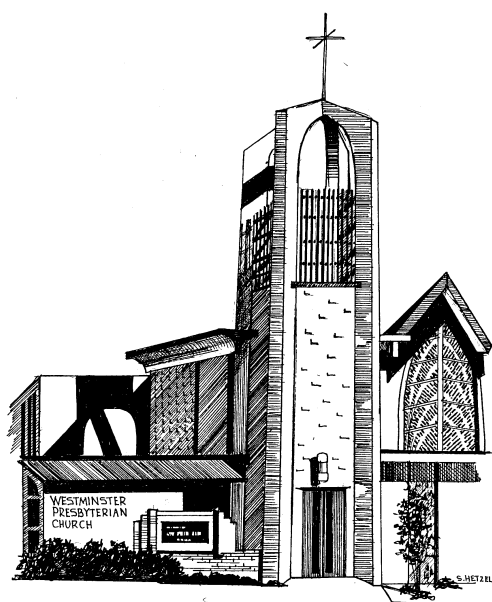
Thursday, December 3

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

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

Next Sunday, December 6

10:30 a.m. Worship Service



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.

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

Friday

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