

# Westminster At Worship

*1st Sunday of Christmas*

December 27, 2020

10:30 a.m.



## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When they present Jesus at the temple,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus as the answer to  
prayer,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: This very morning,

**People: God is here.**

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

**People: God is there.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord of life and blessing, we say we will follow you no matter what the cost, but too often we don't follow through with what we profess. Too often we shy away when we think others may disagree with our beliefs. Too often we don't hold ourselves accountable for what we have done. Too often we maintain silence when we hear others being stereotyped. Too often we imprison others with snap judgments and deep-seated prejudices.**

**Forgive us, O Lord! May your healing grace transform us to a life that reflects our calling to be disciples of the Christ Child. *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**

*"Were You There on that Christmas Night"*  
Dawn, Nikelle, Judy

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

#### NEW TESTAMENT

#### James 1:19-27

#### Hearing and Doing the Word

<sup>19</sup> My dear friends, you should be quick to listen and slow to speak or to get angry. <sup>20</sup> If you are angry, you cannot do any of the good things that God wants done. <sup>21</sup> You must stop doing anything immoral or evil. Instead be humble and accept the message that is planted in you to save you.

<sup>22</sup> Obey God's message! Don't fool yourselves by just listening to it. <sup>23</sup> If you hear the message and don't obey it, you are like people who stare at themselves in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and forget what they look like as soon as they leave. <sup>25</sup> But you must never stop looking at the perfect law that sets you free. God will bless you in everything you do, if you listen and obey, and don't just hear and forget.

<sup>26</sup> If you think you are being religious, but can't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and everything you do is useless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that pleases God the Father must be pure and spotless. You must help needy orphans and widows and not let this world make you evil.

## SERMON

*"The Art of Sheep Herding"*

Rev. Dr. Ewen Holmes

## †AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

*"What Child is This"*

Dawn, Nikelle, Judy

## 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

God, you call us to give as we have received in this Christmas Season when you have shared your Child with us. Help us to share our blessing with those in need.

#### †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

Mary and Joseph had their firstborn child dedicated to you, O God. As we bring our gifts to be dedicated to you, may they be used to fulfill the mission of your church, this congregation. *Amen.*

## BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

### HYMN OF DEDICATION

*"Joy to the World"*  
Dawn, Nikelle, Judy

### 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 DECEMBER 27, 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 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](mailto: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:** The final class is Thursday, January 7. Join us 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](mailto: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\*\*](mailto: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 27, 2020**

10:30 a.m.    Worship Service

**Wednesday, December 30**

1:00 p.m.    The Wired Word via Zoom

**Thursday, December 31**

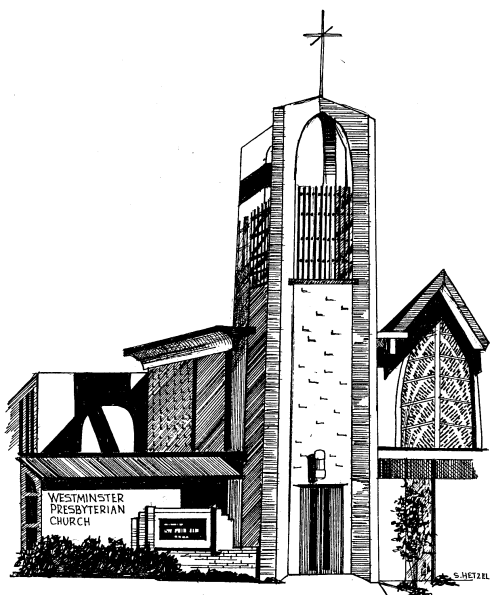
1:00 p.m.    Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran

**Friday, January 1**

1:00 p.m.    Happy New Year! (Church office closed)

**Next Sunday, January 3**

10:30 a.m.    Worship Service



### **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)

### **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.