

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2155 University Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001 | (563) 583-1729 | <http://wpcdbq.org>

Inviting All. Exploring Faith. Experiencing God.

MORNING WORSHIP, 9:30AM

DECEMBER 11, 2022

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. Luke 1:13 (NRSVUE)



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER!

We're delighted to worship with you today and hope your experience of worship is meaningful and uplifting. Please note that assisted listening devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Any of our greeters will be happy to offer you assistance.

Parents: We provide nursery care for children 5 years of age and under. All children are welcome to use any of the resources in our Pray Ground (located behind the pews).

Our worship service is always livestreamed and there are multiple cameras in the sanctuary. You may be on camera during your worship experience with Westminster.

** Everyone who is comfortably able to stand is welcome to do so during the portions of worship marked with an asterisk.*

PRELUDE: *Still, Still, Still; Fanfare and Procession on an Old English Carole*
The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

TIME OF WELCOME

Leader: God be with you!

People: And also with you!

*GATHERING SONG GTG #314: *Christ Be Our Light* (vs 3-4)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader: Prepare the way for the Lord! Make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.
How will we make a straight pathway for our God?

People: By straightening the crooks and bends of our own hearts. By removing the secret places we hide from God. By exposing the failings of community and nation, the failings that we would rather hide from ourselves, but cannot be hidden from God.

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. How will we comfort the people of the Lord?

People: By seeing and hearing the world's anguish, and by acting to relieve its sufferings. By beating our swords into plows, that the earth might support the Lord's people and not just the princely or the powerful.

Leader: A voice says, "Cry out." And I say, "What shall I cry?" What shall we proclaim of the Lord's coming?

People: We proclaim that the day of the Lord is here: when we are delivered from sin and death; when the meek shall inherit the earth; when the blind will see and the deaf will hear; when the hungry are fed and the oppressed delivered.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

People: The light grows gradually brighter as we move through Advent together. The candles of Hope and Peace already light our way. Today, we light the candle of JOY.

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

People: Rejoicing in the coming Messiah, we light this candle to guide our steps on the Advent journey. We prepare a place for God to come into our midst.

Leader: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world."

People: On this third Sunday of Advent, we remember generations of faithful priests - those like Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist - who tended to the worship of God while waiting in anticipation for God's coming salvation. We remember their faith and their dedication in the centuries of silence, waiting for the One who would come.

Leader: Today we give thanks for the faithful among us:

People: Those of dedication; those whose hearts are willing to serve; those whose faith is an inspiration to those around them.

Leader: On this Sunday in Advent, we light the third candle as a symbol of the priests: those called by God to lives of joyful faith. We light the candle of Joy, celebrating the coming of the Messiah: the answer to their prayers and the end to their waiting.

*HYMN GTG #106: *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

*TIME OF CONFESSION

Invitation to Confession

Silent Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we have locked ourselves out. In our own way, each of us has locked ourselves out of relationships, out of opportunities, out of our true home. We do it because we are too arrogant, or too stubborn, or simply too human. We have filled our lives and our world with darkness and death because, all too often, we have put our own judgment and desires over yours. We are lost, in need of light and hope and joy.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: You are forgiven. Rejoice and be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Live now as PEOPLE OF JOY, and welcome the Christ in all whom you meet.

People: Amen.

Sung Response GTG #113: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (refrain only)

TIME WITH YOUNGER DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON – *The Worship of the Priests*

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSVUE); Luke 1:5-25 (NRSVUE)

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

*CHOIR ANTEHM with the ancient liturgy of the “O Antiphons”

Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs. 1-4) - WPC Choir

Leader: O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, Wonderful is your counsel. Come and show your people the way of salvation.

People: Come, O Wisdom! Come, O Holy Word of God!

Leader: O Adonai, O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, you judge the poor with justice.

People: Come, O Adonai! Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free!

Leader: O Flower of the root of Jesse, raised up as a sign for all peoples. From the root of the stump of Jesse, a shoot has sprung forth and from his roots a bud has blossomed.

People: Come, O Root of Jesse! Come. Let nothing keep you from coming to our aid!

Leader: O Key of David, all that you open remains open, all that you close remains closed.

People: Come, O Key of David! Come, break down the prison walls and lead your captive people into freedom!

Leader: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice, your light shines upon the lands of gloom.

People: Come, O Radiant Dawn! Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death!

Leader: O King of all the Nations, the keystone which makes all of us one, the stone rejected by the builder who has become the cornerstone.

People: Come, O King of the Nations! Come, save the creatures you fashioned from the dust!

Leader: O Emmanuel, God-With-Us, Desire of the nations, Savior of all people.

People: Come, O Emmanuel! Come, set us free, Lord our God!

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 5-7) – Congregation and Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastoral Prayer

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION – Christmas Joy

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Offertory

*Sung Response GTG #143: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (vs 4)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN GTG #100: *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Leader: And all God's people said:

People: Alleluia! Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE GTG #314: *Christ Be Our Light* (vs 5)

POSTLUDE

Westminster Presbyterian Church is a Certified Hunger Action Congregation and Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

WESTMINSTER CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP – The Property Committee is having a meeting at 10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in joining the committee is invited to attend.

ADVENT STUDY – *The Journey to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton - 10:45 in the board room.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL – Join us after worship today! Pick up at noon downstairs.

MISSED OUT ON LAST YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT? Experienced such joy you want to do it again?! Please join the Youth Sunday School after church on December 18th in Fellowship Hall for a second rendition of "A Very Messy & Chaotic Christmas Pageant!" Youth and adults are invited to re-tell the Christmas story complete with costumes, props, and live music as we re-imagine and celebrate the wonderfully timeless, unexpected, and even chaotic story of the Christ child coming down to us at Christmas. See you there!

SCAN TO GIVE!

Use your
smartphone
camera to scan this
code and give
online.



ONE MORE WEEK TO PLAY MISSION BINGO! - Turn in your cards to the office **BY DEC. 16TH OR DEC. 17TH AT THE HUNGER OUTREACH** and **Win PRIZES!** Prizes will be given out **BEFORE** church on Dec 18th.



Saturday, December 17th

LAST CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Contact Tom Stovall 563-581-7220 or tomstov@aol.com or call or visit the church office. Invite family & friends to help!

“For I was hungry and you gave me food.”



	Amount	QTY
Child	\$25	
Groceries	\$50	
Total		

DUE TOMORROW!!!

AGAIN, this year we are asking the congregation to drop off or mail in checks to purchase Gift Cards by **December 12th**. We will buy gift cards from Hy-Vee, Target, Fareway, Wal-Mart/Sam’s Club through scrip. Any donations received more than what we need, will be donated to Opening Doors. There is a huge need in our community, and we hope you consider donating. **Thank you.**

There are forms available in the office OR found in the stand behind the information counter in church.



Wreaths for Church Decorations

Would you like to donate a Christmas wreath in honor of or in memory of a special someone? Fill out an envelope found in the stand behind the information counter in church or email Mary Kay at marykay@wpcdbq.org and mail your check for \$18. Include the name of who your wreath is in memory of.



Deacons Fund:
Poinsettias for Christmas

Donations accepted through Dec. 16.

Fill out a form found in the stand behind the information counter in church. You can also email marykay@wpcdbq.org, or call the office at 583-1729 and mail your \$15 or \$25 memorial donation. Include who your Poinsettia is in memory of or in honor of.

FROM THE FAMILY OF BETTY CARLIN – Dear Westminster Church, your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. ~ The McFarland Family



"Christmas With the Tylers"

On Tues., December 14, 7 PM, Dr. Luke Tyler and Lizz Tyler will present a Christmas concert in the Westminster sanctuary. The concert will feature holiday favorites with Luke on the piano joined by Lizz singing secular and sacred Christmas songs. The Tylers will be joined by their two daughters, Theia (5) and Elowyn (1½). Some selections will include "White Christmas", "O Holy Night", a medley of carols sung by Lizz and the girls, and a Carol Sing-Along. The "Tyler Family Christmas" is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected for the scholarship fund for NISOM. The scholarships provide private music instruction to students where cost might be a barrier.

WESTMINSTER LIFE AND MINISTRY

Church Office Number: 563-583-1729 | For Pastoral Care emergencies: **563-279-4545**

Pastor: Rev. MargaretAnne Overstreet
 Director: Christian Formation: Bonnie Sue Lewis
 Care Ministry Coordinator: Lisa MacNaughton
 Director of Music: Dr. Luke Tyler
 Adult Choir: Steve Peake
 Timbrel & Lyre Director: Dr. Luke Tyler
 Adult Handbells Director: DeLano Cain-Watson
 WPC Band: Sally Stulken
 Organist/Pianist: Dr. Luke Tyler

Church Administrator: Mary Kay Pancratz
 Financial Secretary: Becky Jenkins
 Custodian: Tim Till
 Digital Storytelling Director: Clare Kysely
 Worship Technology: Monson Nguyen
 Greeters: Dan & Marilyn Emmert
 Ushers: Julie Woodyard/Merrill Crawford
 Hospitality Set Up: Carolyn Dausener
 Clean Up: Lizz Tyler

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Prayers for Gini Gordon who has inoperable abdominal cancer and is on hospice.
- Prayers for Dale MacNaughton, Neil's brother, who has a severe infection after knee replacement.
- Prayers for Wally Brown who is at Dubuque Specialty Care recovering from pneumonia.
- Prayers for Leona Hibben who is dealing with heart issues.
- Prayers for Hanna Rose, daughter of Adam and Tarra Etheredge, undergoing treatment for brain health.
- Prayers for Chuck Whalen, who is facing health issues.
- Prayers for Howard Wallace who is in failing health.
- Prayers for Nancy Wallace as she deals with health issues.
- Prayers for a friend of Shelley Malone's, Mark, who has Multiple Myeloma.
- Prayers for Mary Kay's friend, Mary Schroeder, who will have a stem cell transplant after the holidays.
- Prayers for Tom Stovall who is receiving chemo treatments for prostate cancer.

