

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 18, 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

The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

*GATHERING SONG GTG #133: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

TIME OF WELCOME

Leader: God be with you!

People: And also with you!

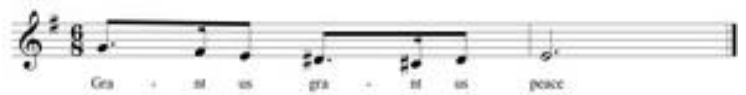
*GATHERING SONG GTG #147: *The First Noel*

OPENING PRAYERS

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

Sung: Grant us, grant us peace.



Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

Sung: Grant us, grant us peace.

Prayers for the Church

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

Sung: Grant us, grant us peace.

The Lord's Prayer Sung: *Repeat each stanza after Song Leaders*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

SOLO: *The Magnificat* (vs. 1) from Holden

Leader: Today, we gather, eager to begin the celebration:

People: Praising the God who cares so deeply for all creation, we light the fourth candle, the candle of LOVE. The love and mercy of God transforms us entirely, so that we become bearers of the Hope, Peace, and Joy of Advent. We become vessels of God's extraordinary Love.

Leader: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, who shows us the way to bear the Love of God in the world.

People: Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings

boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

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

People: Who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

SOLO: *The Magnificat* (vs. 2) from Holden

TIME WITH YOUNGER DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON: The Proclamation of the Mothers

Scripture: Luke 1:39-56; Isaiah 7:10-14 (NRSVUE)

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

*TIME OF RECONCILIATION

Invitation to Confession

Silent Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are coming unraveled, pulled apart from every angle, because we have chosen our own way. Too often, we have rejected your way to true peace, true wholeness. We are in need of a way back from the messes we make for ourselves. We are lost, and we need Christ to come quickly.

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 LOVE, and welcome the Christ in all whom you meet.

People: Amen

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with You.

People: And also with you.

*HYMN GTG #129: *Lo, How a Rose 'er Blooming*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

SCAN TO GIVE!

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



MINUTE FOR MISSION – Christmas Joy

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Offertory: Breath of Heaven (by Amy Grant/Chris Eaton)

*Sung Response: Christmas Doxology

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

G D G C D⁷ G
Glo-ry be to God the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son, glo-ry
D G C D⁷ G C Am
to the Ho-ly Spir-it, glo-ry to the Three-in-One. Here we of-fer to you
D Bm Em Am D C
glad-ly all the gifts that you im-part, as we
G C D⁷ Em C G C D⁷ G
glo-ry in your Pre-sence, giv-ing from a grate-ful heart.

WORDS: Brenda J. Heard
MUSIC: Traditional Polish melody

W ZLOBIE LEZY
8.7.8.7.8.8.7.

Words copyright © 2003 Brenda J. Heard. Permission to copy and use in local church worship and music is granted with the inclusion of this entire copyright citation on every copy or screen. Source: The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, Center for Worship Resourcing, PO Box 340003, Nashville, Tennessee 37203-0003. Telephone (615) 340-7070; Website <http://www.umcworship.org>; Email Address: WorshipCenter@gbod.org.

*HYMN: *All Who Are Thirsty* (by Brenton Brown/Glenn Robertson)

All who are thirst - y, all who are __ weak, come to the four

5 C² Am⁷ G/B C² C²/D G
 - tain. Dip your heart in the stream of life. Let the pain and the sor - row

10 Bm⁷ C²
 be wash'd a - way in the waves of His mer - cy as deep cries

15 Am⁷ G/B C² C²/D § CHORUS 1 G G² G^{SUS} G C² C²/D
 out to deep. (We sing) Come, Lord Je - sus, __ come.

21 G G² G^{SUS} G C² C²/D G G²
 Come, Lord Je - sus, __ come. Come, Lord

26 G^{SUS} G C² C²/D G G² G^{SUS} G
 Je - sus, __ come. Come, Lord Je - sus, __

31
 __ come.

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Leader: And all God's people said:

People: **Alleluia! Amen.**

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

POSTLUDE



Christmas at Westminster

Sunday Dec. 18th

Children's Christmas program after worship
Youth Christmas party - 5pm

Saturday Dec. 24th

7pm: worship with candles, carols, and communion

Sunday Dec. 25th

Community Christmas Day worship - 10am
at St. Luke's UMC, 1199 Main St, Dubuque

Sunday Jan. 1st

Community New Year's Day worship - 9:30am
Westminster is hosting! Come show our hospitality!

WESTMINSTER CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP – MISSED OUT ON LAST YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT?

Please join the Youth Sunday School after church 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!

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY TONIGHT 5-6:30 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. 6th thru 12th graders come celebrate with us and our friends from First Presbyterian!

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: Lisa & Neil MacNaughton
Ushers: Randy Roos & Adam Etheredge
Hospitality Set Up: Doug & Jean Cheever
Clean Up: Shirley Meriwether

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Prayers for Russ Hibben and family grieving the death of their wife and mom, Leona Hibben. Services are pending. Russ is currently in Mercy Hospital.
- Prayers for Gini Gordon's family during this difficult time of grieving after Gini's death on Dec. 7th. A Celebration of Life will be this summer, on Gini's 92nd birthday, June 15th.
- Prayers for all of those who received food at yesterday's Westminster Hunger Outreach. May they be nourished knowing that God loves them. Also, thanks to all the volunteers that put their faith in action to demonstrate God's love.
- 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 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 and has been very sick the past 5 weeks.

If you would like to have your name on our Bulletin Prayer Request list or want to be added to the Prayer Chain for prayers, please advise the church office (583-1729).

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

DECEMBER 18 - DECEMBER 27

Sunday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Coffee & Donuts

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Children's Christmas Program

1:30 p.m. Worship at Bethany Home

5:00 p.m. Youth Group, FH

Monday, December 19

1:00 p.m. J.M. Book Club, Narthex

6:00 p.m. Den Mtgs., Classrooms

7:00 p.m. Adult Handbells Rehearsal, SA

Tuesday, December 20

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi, FH

6:00 p.m. Session/Deacon Mtg. & Potluck

Wednesday, December 21

Becky OFF

Saturday, December 24

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25

**10:00 a.m. Community Christmas
Worship Service at St. Luke's United
Methodist Church**

Monday & Tuesday, December 26 & 27

OFFICE CLOSED for HOLIDAY

Friday, December 30

HOTLINE DEADLINE

OPENING DOORS - is so grateful for the response we received for paper towels and toilet paper! We are well stocked right now. Thank you so much!



**Buy
Scrip
in the
WPC
office
M-Th**

Year End Giving

December is traditionally a generous month at Westminster. Many people complete their pledges before the end of the year, and many people give extra so we finish the year in the black.

Thank you for your financial support of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

In order to have your contribution included on your **2022 Contribution Statement**, please make sure it arrives at the office

by Christmas!

Becky Jenkins, Financial Secretary

Holiday Office Hours

For Christmas, since the Holiday is on a Sunday, the office will be closed Mon. & Tues., Dec. 26 & 27. The office will also be closed Mon., January 2nd for New Year's Day.

MargaretAnne will be on Vacation the week between Christmas & New Year's.

DUE TO YOUR CHRISTMAS SPIRIT...

Your generosity has helped:

21 kids with a \$25 Walmart gift card

11 families with \$50 in groceries

4 Residents at Bethany Home with 3 gifts each

Christmas Blessings!