

Westminster Presbyterian Church

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020

11:00 a.m.

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prelude Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

William H. Bates

Westminster Chimes

Words of Welcome

✠Call to Worship

Based on Isaiah 61:1-4

Leader: God's anointed one is drawing near.

People: He will bring good news to the oppressed.

He will bind up the brokenhearted.

He will proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.

Leader: He will bring comfort to all who mourn.

People: He will give them garland instead of ashes,

gladness instead of mourning, praise instead of lament.

Leader: Let us rejoice - for the Lord is drawing near!

People: We will rejoice and worship God.

✠Hymn: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?

2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;

3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!

your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.

to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



✠Please rise as you are able.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: God is here today. God promises wondrous things to the ones who wait.

People: Our hearts sing a song of joy, for we know that Jesus is coming.

Leader: Joy is the sun rising above the horizon;
 Joy is Sarah's laughter, Mary's song, and Elizabeth's blessing;
 Joy is a dove carrying an olive branch.

People: Joy is a gift from the Spirit. Joy is a response to faith.
 Joy is what we long for deeply.

Leader: We light this candle as a reminder that God is the source of our joy.

People: Let there be joy; let there be light!

Sung Response He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

*He came down that we may have joy;
 He came down that we may have joy;
 He came down that we may have joy;
 Hallelujah forevermore.*

Prayer of Confession

God of the angels, Remind us to "be not afraid!"
 For we are joyful, yet we do not raise our voices in song.
 We see the good that you do, yet we do not testify to the world.
 We feel the warmth of your love,
 yet we do not trust that this warmth will carry us through the cold.
 We hear your call to enact justice, yet we sit idly by.
 You say that your Good News is for all,
 yet we struggle to believe that all means all.
 Forgive us; remind us to "be not afraid!"
 and send us out to be your joyful, faithful people. Amen.

(time for silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Children of God, believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

GOD'S WORD IS READ AND PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-55

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Jessie Light-Wells

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

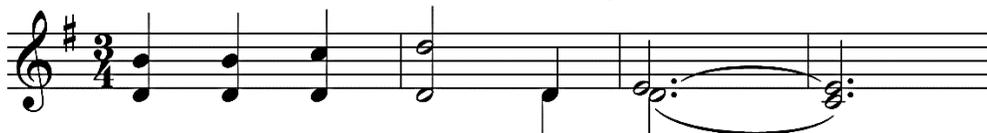
Anthem Come Down, O Love Divine

Tadman-Robins

Time for Personal Reflection, Prayer, and Giving

Prayer Meditation While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING



1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;



while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.



Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,



while we are wait - ing, come.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

...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.

WE BEAR GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

✠Hymn The Canticle of the Turning

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

✠Benediction

Postlude Improvisation on *Wie Schoen Leuchtet der Morgenstern*

When our worship is over, our service begins

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ANNOUNCEMENTS
DECEMBER 13, 2020

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor:	Rev. Alex Lee-Cornell	Sound Technician:	Bill Vilbig
Worship Leader:	Laurel Henderson	Livestream:	Leiza McArter
Interim Music Director:	Anna Peeples		Dexter Colorado
Interim Organist:	Seth Luna		

WESTMINSTER WELCOME

Today we welcome Rev. Jessie Light-Wells to the pulpit. Rev. Light-Wells is the Campus Minister for UKirk SMU, the PC(USA) campus ministry. at Southern Methodist University. She grew up in Kansas City, attended Vanderbilt University and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and served at Preston Hollow Presbyterian prior to this call. She is passionate about ministering to college students, bread-making, and bike riding, and is married to Zach.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Worship on Christmas Eve is scheduled for 4:30pm on 12/24. As with all WPC services, worship will be streamed live on Facebook (details below). For Christmas Eve, limited in-person attendance is also available, but you are requested to **call or email (214-351-3251, emilyc@wpcd.org) the church office in advance** to reserve your spot. Childcare will be provided. Come celebrate Christ's birth with us!

LESSONS AND CAROLS

On Sunday, December 20, the outstanding Westminster music staff will lead us in our annual service of Lessons and Carols. We hope you will join us on Facebook Live for the much-needed joy and comfort that comes from telling cherished stories and singing familiar songs.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering provides financial assistance to current and former PC(USA) workers and families and also enables students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. Please consider for your gift to this special offering to be collected via Venmo (@West-Presby) or by mail.

WORSHIP NEWS

Due to the increased COVID presence in Texas, the session voted on Tuesday at their November meeting to offer worship as "streaming only". Worship will continue to be streamed live at 11am from the sanctuary. However, until further notice, the session kindly requests that **everyone without a leadership role in the service remain at home and stream online** to maximize health and safety in accordance with the current public health.

2021: A YEAR OF GENEROSITY

The stewardship campaign for 2021 is underway! The kingdom of God is made real through the human ministry of congregations like Westminster and organizations like our mission partners. In these anxious times, the stewardship committee challenges you to consider a posture of radical generosity—not for the benefit of WPC, but for the whole world. If you did not receive a stewardship packet in the mail, you may pick one up from the church office or fill out an online pledge card at: <https://forms.gle/P9w4pd7Bmx6bSrRK7>.

DONATION REQUEST

The Stewpot, one of our partner mission agencies, is in need of the following items: large body wash bottles, large shampoo and conditioner bottles, large bars of soap and individually wrapped toilet paper. You can drop off the items in the wood box by the church office at WPC. If you have difficulty finding the box, or have questions, please call or text Mike Stanley at 817-724-7430. Thank you for your support!

END OF YEAR GIVING

The end of 2020 is quickly approaching. If you have not yet made your planned contribution, please consider making your gift by December 31. For questions about year-end giving, please contact Dan Stoyak, WPC Account Manager (dans@wpcd.org).

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

Westminster welcomes your continued support. Checks can be sent to Westminster Presbyterian Church, 8200 Devonshire Dr, Dallas, TX 75209 or give online through Venmo (our username is West-Presby). If you have questions or need help, contact Dan Stoyak in the business office dans@wpcd.org or 214-351-3251.

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship at Westminster is broadcast live on Facebook directly from the WPC sanctuary beginning at 11am every Sunday morning. To access the livestream, be sure to "Like" the Westminster Presbyterian Church - Dallas Facebook page at www.facebook.com/westminsterpresbyteriandallas. Even if you are not a registered Facebook "user," you should be able to access the live stream by clicking that above link. You can see previously broadcast full worship services and sermons by clicking the "Videos" tab on the Facebook page. Videos of services, sermons, and choral anthems are also available on our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2YYEjyOBjYTxzSzEwiTw>.

UPDATE: MISSION STUDY GROUP

The Mission study group meets weekly. They are now working on a timeline of a "people's history" of Westminster. It is currently being assembled on the stage of the Fellowship Hall. Go check it out! If you have a memory or event you would like added to the timeline, let us know.

PRAYER AND DEVOTION

Pastor Alex will host a brief time of midday devotion and prayer on Facebook Live every weekday at noon. Please visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/westminsterpresbyteriandallas at 12:00pm every Monday through Friday to participate in the prayer.

FACEBOOK PAGE AND GROUP

Westminster has a Page and a Group on Facebook. The Group name is "WPCD Church Family Group," while the Page is "Westminster Presbyterian Church - Dallas." The Page is public:

<https://www.facebook.com/westminsterpresbyteriandallas/> This is where you can stream the worship service and get other important news and announcements. The Group is private, and you must request to be admitted: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wpcdallas/> This is where we will share prayer requests, conversations about our church identity and mission, and other "private" matters. Join us today!

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