

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Knowing Christ.....Making Christ Known

November 29, 2020
9:45 A.M. Traditional - Live-Stream Worship



GATHERING THOUGHT

THOSE WHO DREAM . . . KEEP AWAKE

The power of dreams lies in waking up. For when we close our eyes, we can see a better world. When we close our eyes, we can dream a better world. But when we open our eyes, we begin the work of faith.

The power of worship is the same. When we enter this space, we can see a better world. When we enter this space, we dream a better dream. But when we leave this space we begin the work of faith.

So come. Dream your dream. Find hope here. For after we have worshiped together, we will begin the work of faith. Let it be so.

(Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org)

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

November 29, 2020

1st Sunday of Advent

9:45 A.M.

PRELUDE

Fantasia on “Veni Emmanuel”

Rowley

WELCOME *(Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad in your pew.)*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Amanda, Joey, Avril, and Aria Lawn

I dream of the days when we could be part of a crowd.

I dream of snow days.

I dream of empty beds in jail cells.

I dream of a world that will let kids be kids.

I dream of full tables instead of empty bellies.

I dream of schools with enough money to teach.

I dream of parents with enough money to feed.

I dream to keep awake, because if we don't dream of better days, then we might forget that this is not what God imagined.

So today we light the candle of hope, for hope is the very thing that keeps dreams alive.

May this light be an invitation to keep awake.

May this light be our invitation to be Advent people – people who dream.

Let us worship God!

HYMN #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Original Dreamer, over and over again in scripture, we hear Your dream for a beautiful world. We hear Your dream for peace and reconciliation. We hear Your dream for harmony and togetherness. We hear Your dream for community and hope. We hear Your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes. We continue to live with the curtains drawn, the covers pulled tight, eyes shut to the realities of the world. Forgive us. Kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights. Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world. With hope we pray..... (*time for us to offer silent prayers of confession.*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

ADVENT RESPONSE *For You, My God, I Wait*

For you, my God, I wait
with hope born of the Word.
Like sleepless ones who long to dream
I wait and call my Lord.

O God, you are my hope;
I know that you forgive.
Your love redeems me from the depths
so I may rise and live.

A DECLARATION OF FAITH *(from the Presbyterian Church US)*

God sent the promised Deliverer to His people. Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to His people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Thanks be to God! Amen.

THOUGHT FOR CHILDREN

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING – “*The Peace of Christ*”

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Shop for Hope* Monica Justice

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

OFFERTORY *Come Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing* arr. Gardner
Alex Krenz, soloist

*Come thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melod'ous sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I
hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought
me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God; He, to rescue
me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy
goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee. Prone to
wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

DOXOLOGY

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 (from *Feasting on the Word*)

Faithful God, we thank You that Christ is being revealed in every
time and place until He comes again in the fullness of glory.
Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in
us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen. (*please be seated*)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 13: 24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

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

“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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

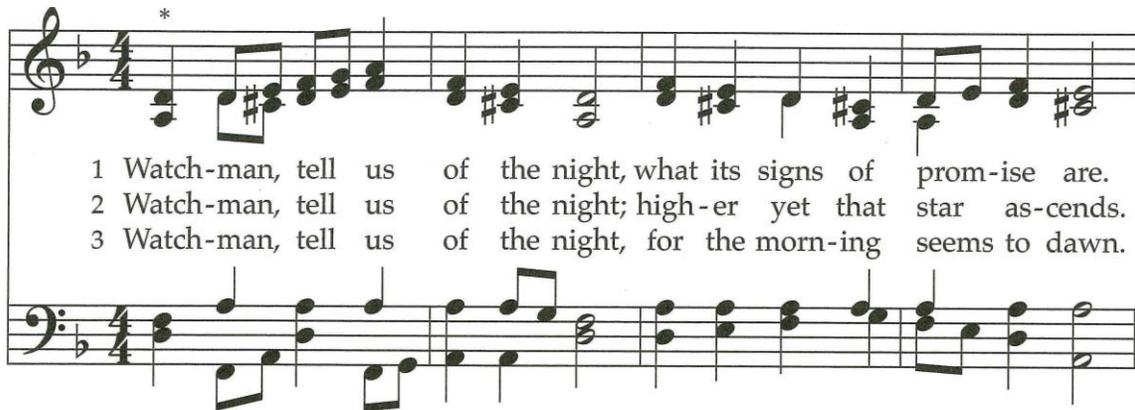
MEDITATION

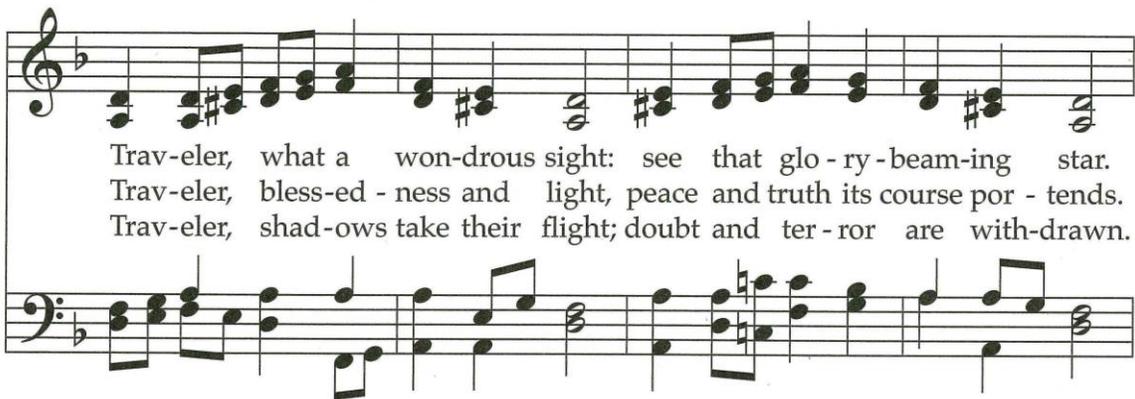
“Wait, Watch, Hope!”

Jennie Clark

HYMN #97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

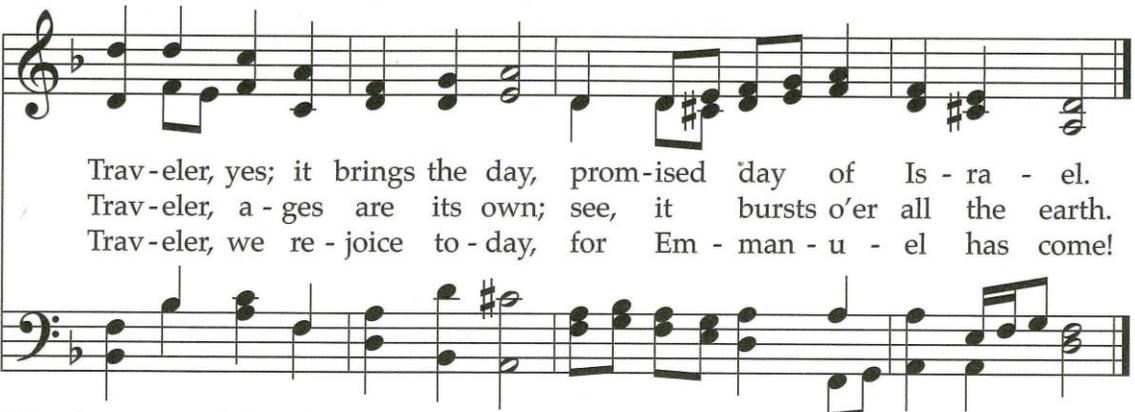
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 1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.



Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.
 Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.



Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?
 Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.



Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.
 Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
 Trav-eler, we re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The King Shall Come

arr. Johnson

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A Few Notes

Happening Today:

Celebrate Wonder KidsConnect (via Zoom) from 8:45-9:30am every Sunday as we honor the spiritual life of your children.

No Journey Class this morning.

Virtual Youth Group: No youth group this afternoon.

Upcoming Events:

Westminster's Giving Tree is Online this Year! Help to make this holiday season special for those in need during these challenging times. The need for gift donations is even greater this year and we need your help to share God's love at Christmas! Simply click on the organization you wish to purchase, signup online, and follow the directions provided: [Pocopson Nursing Home](#), [Migrant Ministries](#), [Domestic Violence Center](#), and [Family Promise](#). We will be collecting gifts curbside at Westminster from 12-2pm on Sunday, November 29 & December 6, and from 10-12pm on Saturday, December 5. Questions or help with gift delivery, contact [Angela Emrich](#) or [Debbie Zakarian](#).

Book Discussion Group, Monday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Join us in the discussion of Matthew Alfeo's book entitled, *Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure*. Please let Ivy Jost know if you are attending via zoom at donivyjost@verizon.net.

Red Cross Blood Drive, December 8-9, 12:00-5:00 p.m. in Spellman Hall. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the need for blood is greater than ever before, and giving blood is one of the most precious gifts you can give someone – the gift of life. Type the following into your computer browser to sign up: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and use sponsor code WPC.

Virtual Christmas Choir Concert, Sunday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. (live streamed). Join us for a virtual Christmas concert, *Where Peace and Love and Hope Abide this Christmastide*, which will include recordings of past Christmas concerts, a virtual choir anthem and a premier telling of a wonderful true story called *The Christmas Tablecloth*.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2021 Stewardship Campaign

688 pledges totaling \$1,850,693

92% of our \$2,023,747 goal

October 2020

General Fund – Missions and Church Operations

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% vs. Budget</u>
YTD Tithes and Offering	\$1,835,306	\$1,875,234	-2%
YTD Expenses	\$1,818,157	\$2,046,716	-11%

We want to sincerely thank you for keeping your General Fund pledges up to date; as you can see, this month tithes and offering have fallen short of what we expected and budgeted. We encourage you to keep up consistent giving, so that we can achieve 100% of our pledged support. Please consider electronic giving. Setting up your giving is simple through the “Donate” button on the “Give” page on the church website, or request an authorization form by contacting the church office.

Thank you for your commitment to the mission and ministry of Westminster.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Live Streaming – Sunday

- 9:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship
- 11:10 a.m. - Contemporary Worship
- 5:00 p.m. – Prayer Worship

Live Streaming – Wednesday

- 9:10 a.m. - Prayer and Communion Worship

TEXT GIVING is available. You can give via your phone; it's easy, secure and instant. Start a new text message to 610-616-2826. Enter the dollar amount of your gift as the text. Send. First time givers are prompted to a link to enter credit/debit card information.

PRAYER CHAIN members receive a weekly list of prayer requests via email and members include them in their conversations with God. To have a prayer request included in the Prayer Chain or to become a member, contact Jeanne Klaver at jeanneklaver@gmail.com or fill out the prayer request form at www.westminsterpc.org.

TRANSCRIPTS, VIDEO AND AUDIO OF PREVIOUS SERMONS are available online at www.westminsterpc.org.

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Ministers of Jesus Christ	All the Members of the Congregation
Pastors	Jennie Clark, Jon Frost, Ann Hatfield, Don Lincoln
Pastor Emeritus	Robert D. Young
Director of Music	Bob Morris
Associate Director of Music/Organist	Glenn Kinckner