



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
December 24, 2023
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP ONLINE
The Fourth Sunday of Advent



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Introit Creator of the Stars of Night https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpyTQwo_gYo

Advent Candle Liturgy

Nate & Victor Powers

One: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,
And set lights in the sky—sun and moon and stars.
By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.
By these stars, they knew God was with them.

Two: Today we light four candles to bring the fire of the stars
down from heaven to earth, to rest among us.
We name this candle Hope. *(The first candle is lit.)* We name this candle Peace. *(The second candle is lit.)* We
name this candle Joy. *(The third candle is lit.)* We name this candle Love. *(The fourth candle is lit.)*

Opening Hymn #105 "People, Look East"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WA4WzctS5T4>

Call to Confession

One: We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way.
Let us confess our sins before God and one another.



Prayer of Confession

**All: God of Love, you are indeed great.
You have given us wonderful blessings: life and love.
Forgive us for not aligning our lives with yours
and for not loving the way you love.
Instead of singing out praises to you,
we mutter our complaints about the people around us
and the world in general.
We have so much and yet we wish we had more.
We give our attention to those who are richer and more famous than we are
and forget those who are struggling around us.
Forgive us, God, and call us back to you.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Listen now to the wisdom of the early Christians:
"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.
God's love was revealed among us in this way:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might live through him.
In this is love, not that we loved God

1 John 4:7-12

but that he loved us and sent his Son
to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
Beloved, since God loved us so much,
we also ought to love one another.
No one was ever seen God;
if we love one another, God abides in us,
and his love is perfected in us.”

Two: Even when sharp words rattle in our ears,
and our hearts sit cold and numb,
we set our face steadily towards the light
and chart our path by the star of love.

One: Let us pray:
Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of love this week,
help us to become the signs of love that others are searching for.
As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens,
help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s love. Amen.

Passing The Peace

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

One: Holy God, our hope and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

"Nothing Will Be Impossible"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD



Prayer Hymn #158: "Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-00XptjD4>

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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 ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



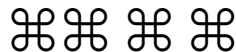
Closing Song:

"My Christmas Prayer" featuring Bebe Winans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-cAJeuLwo>

Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff



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