

WESTMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

Albany, New York December 8, 2024 Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP The Second Sunday of Advent

HHHH

Welcome to Westminster! We're glad you're here.

- If you're visiting us this morning, we would love to meet you and greet you! We invite you to fill out the Welcome Card in the pew and put it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher in the back.
- After worship, please join us downstairs as we continue our fellowship at our coffee hour. We gather in the hall located directly under the sanctuary. Stairs are located through the doors on either side of the front of the sanctuary, followed by another stairway that leads downstairs. Additional stairs and an elevator are available at the rear of the sanctuary. We recognize that our 19th century building can be confusing to navigate! We are here to help—please speak to an usher if you need assistance.

HHH

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

(Let the notes of our Prelude be the musical curtain through which we pass as we gather to worship together. Let the preparation we make together be prayerful.)

Prelude Lo! How a Rose e'er Blooming James Denton

Advent Candle Liturgy

Jessica Chamberlain & Shernette Grant

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 two candles to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to rest among us.

We name this candle Hope. (The first Advent candle is lit.)

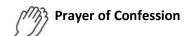
We name this candle Peace. (The second Advent candle is lit.)

Opening Hymn #82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Call to Confession Beth Coombe

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.



All: Loving God, we lift our reluctant hearts to you.

We know that we hold tight to patterns of behavior and patterns of thought that are familiar,

even when we know they are harmful to others and to ourselves.

We harbor grudges.

We hold onto resentments.

We cultivate our fears.

Enliven us, we pray, with your compassion,

for others and for our own selves.

Breathe your Holy Spirit into us

that we may be stirred to walk in new ways

and open ourselves to new insights.

Let your face shine upon us.

Teach us to love!

Assurance of Forgiveness Beth Coombe

Listen now to the plea of the apostle Paul: (Philippians 4:6-7) "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

We chart our path by the star of peace. Even when violence and fear are raging and peace seems like a pipedream, we set our face steadily towards the light.

Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of peace this week, help us to *become* the signs of peace 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 peace. Amen.

Passing The Peace Beth Coombe

Words of Welcome Beth Coombe

Piano Solo "Awake, the Voice Commands" Johann Sebastian Bach

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 Lesson Luke 1:26-38 read by Beth Coombe

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.

Story "Anticipation" Nancy Marie Payne

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD



Prayer Hymn #84

Creator of the Stars of Night

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Leah Threatte

Prayers of the People Leah Threatte

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.



Offertory Music Offertory on "Resonet in Laudibus" David Paxton

Hymn #607 Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Benediction Beth Coombe

Hymn #92 (verse 1) While We are Waiting Come

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Postlude Prepare the Royal Highway James Mansfield

HHH

We welcome Nancy Marie Payne to our pulpit this morning! With over 40 years teaching experience and over 12 years as a professional storyteller, Nancy specializes in researching and creating commissioned historical pieces. Nancy has performed and led workshops in schools, libraries, historical societies, museums and storytelling and writing conferences including Albany's First Night, Story Sundays at the Glen Sanders Mansion, Word Plays at Proctors, the Clearwater Festival, and Underground Railroad conferences. Nancy is a member of the Story Circle of the Capital District.

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2024 CHURCH OFFICERS

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Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session 2024: Nancy Holroyd, Susan Schell

2025: Ephraim Adjei, Peter McKee, Linore Southworth

2026: John Bossung, Kate Gallagher, Felicia Kollie-Gambles, Nathan Powers

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Mary Bullis and Dodie Seagle, Co-moderators
2024: Ruthanne Brod, Cynthia Dwyer, Mabel McGraw
2025: Kelly Crisfield, Carolyn Smith
2026: Mary Bullis, Marie McClumpha, Dodie Seagle

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John Bossung, President

2024: David Adjei, Leif Hartmark, Laura Moody

2025: John Bossung

2026: Pete Seagle, Joy L. Tallmadge, Peter Wrede

CHURCH PROGRAM TEAM

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Belinda Quaye, Director of Christian Education ChristianEd@wpcalbany.org

Emma Mrowka, Organist organist@wpcalbany.org

CHURCH SUPPORT TEAM

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Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

Creator of the Stars of Night



- night, your peo ple's 1 Cre of the stars of a - tor
- 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but
- your great name, O now all knees must bend, all Ie - sus,
- 4 To God the Fa - ther, God the and God the Spir - it, Son,

The Latin original of this text for Advent dates from at least the 9th century, and the English version was created a millennium later as part of the 19th-century recovery of early Christian hymns. It is provided here with its traditional plainchant setting.

TEXT: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; as in The Hymnal 1940, alt. MUSIC: Sarum plainsong, Mode IV, 9th cent.; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

Text Alt. © 1940 Church Pension Fund

Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

(alternate tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR)

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



O Christ, re - deem - er last - ing light, of all, us splen - dor bright, not as mon - arch, but the child a hearts must bow: all things earth with ac - cord, on one Three One, praise, hon - or, be in might, and glo ry



pray you, hear when we call. we us of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild. like those in heaven, shall Lord. call you e - ter - nal - ly. from age age

men.

607

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

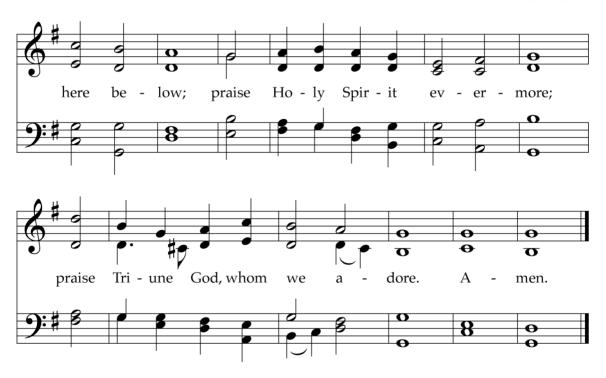
Doxology



TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551 Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg OLD HUNDREDTH

LN

SERVICE MUSIC



107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



- 1 A wake! A wake, and greet the new morn, for an gels
- 2 To us, to all in sor row and fear, Em man u -
- 3 In dark est night his com ing shall be, when all the
- 4 Re-joice, re-joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn-ing. el comes a - sing - ing; world is de - spair - ing, win - ter and cheer - less, Sing out your joy, for soon he is his hum - ble song is qui - et and as morn - ing light so qui - et and the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven-ly door and lives now in-side us for - ev - er. of his an-thems rolls to shat-ter all ha-tred and vio-lence. raised a - bove the strong, and weap-ons be bro-ken a - sun-der. ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo-ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5–6, Isaiah 2:4.

92 While We Are Waiting, Come



This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.