



A Warm Welcome to All!

We seek to be an inclusive church,
and to show love and compassion in many ways.
If you are a visitor, we invite you to worship with us often
and to consider joining our congregation.

If you'd like to become more connected, please contact
Pastors Scott Paczkowski or Jan Scott at 274-1534.

Order of Worship

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Gathering the Community of Faith

PRELUDE

Christ, Be Our Light
Juli Bey - Organ

Music: Bernadette Farrell
Arr. Ron Schmoltze

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scott Paczkowski

**Please let us know you are worshipping with us,
by filling out the "Attendance Form,"
found on the livestream page.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Adopt-A-Family

Patty Daft

Celebrating God's Presence

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isa. 64)

Chris Jensen

One: You alone, O Lord, are God.

All: Come down, O God!

One: You have done wonderful things in the past.

All: Come down, O God!

One: We need you here with us now.

All: Come down, O God!

One: We wait for you.

All: We wait with hope.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lance & Kyla Routson and Family

One: As the season of Advent begins we celebrate hope.

**All: We know that through the birth of a tiny and helpless child,
God is coming to save the world.**

One: While we watch and wait for Jesus to arrive, we join in God's mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.

All: We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ's light shine through us.

One: We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of healing as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

All: Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.

(Please observe a moment of silence as the candle is lit.)

One: Let us pray:

All: God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life; and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption. Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #2 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

(Music on pg. 8 of worship bulletin.)

Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard

Text: Charles Wesley

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Isa. 64, Mk. 13)

You call us to wait, to watch, to be ready. But we are so easily distracted, busily doing other things. We grow drowsy and complacent. Give us wisdom, as we prepare for your coming. Forgive our foolishness and our impatience. Restore us by your grace. Look upon us with your favor, that we might know your presence. Shape us into vessels of blessing, for we are your children, longing to touch your Spirit. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON (Isa. 64)

One: God is the potter who shapes our lives.

All: God is the parent who loves us.

One: We are the people of God-

All: forgiven, loved, and freed.

*SUNG RESPONSE #38 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (vs. 3) Music: Richard Willis

Text: Edmund Sears

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.**

CHILDREN'S ADVENT MOMENT

Scott Paczkowski

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

When the pastor says, "God of Mercy," please respond with, "Hear our 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.**

Dedicating Our Lives and Offerings

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

As Dark Awaits the Dawn
Juli Bey - Organ

Music: Carl F. Schalk
Arr. Kenneth L. DeJong

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Hope Has Found Us (vs. 1)

Tune: HYFRYDOL

(*Music on pg. 9 of worship bulletin.*)

Text: Stephen M. Fearing

**Hope has found us, grace has grown us, never more should we despair.
Waiting, watching, giving, growing, gather us as we prepare.
God made flesh will come among us, call us his, and us, his own.
God with us will keep his promise, never will we be alone.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Proclaiming God's Word

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:

Mark 13:24-37 (NRSV)

Chris Jensen

"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."

ANTHEM *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*
Aaron Schultz - Tenor; Juli Bey - Piano

Arr. by Mark Hayes

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV)

Scott Paczkowski

O that you would tear open the
 heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake
 at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
 and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
 no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
 who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
 those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
 because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
 and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
 and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
 or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
 and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
 we are the clay, and you are our potter;
 we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
 and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

SERMON

“Hope Amidst Lament”

Scott Paczkowski

Sending the Faithful into God's World

*CLOSING HYMN #9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1,2)

(Music on pgs. 10-11 of worship bulletin.)

Music: Adapt. Thomas Helmore

Text: 12th Cent. Latin

*BENEDICTION (1 Cor. 1, Mk. 13)

Scott Paczkowski

One: Stay awake, for God is coming.

All: Prepare your heart, for God is near.

One: In the darkness, a candle of hope burns brightly.

All: In the quiet, God speaks to us.

One: Go with joy, and remain aware and awake.

All: May each one of us receive the grace and peace from God the creator, and from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*CHORAL AMEN

DANISH AMEN

(Westminster Virtual Choir 1st time, Congregation 2nd time)

POSTLUDE *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*
Juli Bey - Organ

Music: A. Davisson
Arr. David N. Johnson

* All who are able, please stand.

Participating in Worship this morning...

Rev. Dr. Scott Paczkowski, Senior Pastor

Scott@westpres.org

Rev. Dr. Bill Ekhardt, Associate Pastor, Chief of Staff

Bill@westpres.org

Rev. Jan Scott, Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care

JScott@westpres.org

Aaron Schultz, Director of Music and Art

ASchultz@westpres.org

Juli Bey, Organ and Piano

Juli@westpres.org

Chris Jensen, Liturgist

Lance, Kyla, Page, Lucas & Abbey Routson, Advent Candlelighters

Westminster Choral Scholars:

Lauren Bailey, Claudia Sloat, Krister Strandkov, Everett Reed

Drew Robertson, Youth Director - Media Engineer

DRobertson@westpres.org

Laura Sherlock, Communications Director - Media Engineer

LSherlock@westpres.org

Lance Bergeson, Greg Shane - Media Engineers

Westminster Chancel Guild

Church Music/Streaming Licenses

CCLI: #11161622

CCS: #12829

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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley, 1744

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and

peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us;
yet a King, Born to reign in us for - ev - er,

Let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear de - sire of
Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf -

ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Hope Has Found Us

An Advent Hymn

For use as an independent hymn or each respective verse can be used for the traditional weeks of Advent (hope, peace, joy, and love) for a sung response to the assurance of pardon.

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2015

Tune: HYFRYDOL



1. Hope has found us, grace has grown us, ne - ver more should we de - spair.
2. Peace has found us, war has left us, ne - ver more should we a - buse
3. Joy has found us, laugh - ter hugged us, ne - ver more should sad - ness live.
4. Love has found us, kind - ness held us, al - ways we are in your care.



Wait - ing, watch - ing, giv - ing, grow - ing, gath - er us as we pre - pare.
sword and steel to solve our con - flicts, peace should be our on - ly muse.
May our frowns turn in - to smi - les, bless us all with joy to give.
May our songs be ones of glad - ness, fill - ing us with mirth to share.



God - made - flesh will come a - mong us, call us his, and us, his own.
God - made - flesh will come a - mong us, calm our hearts, wipe ev - 'ry tear.
God - made - flesh will come a - mong us, join our fun, and glad - ness send.
God - made - flesh will come a - mong us, hearts em - brace, and grace up - hold.



God - with - us will keep his pro - mise, ne - ver will we be a - lone.
God - with - us will keep his pro - mise, ne - ver will we live in fear.
God - with - us will keep his pro - mise, ne - ver more will grief off - end.
God - with - us will keep his pro - mise, per - fect Shep - herd, we, his fold.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL LM with refrain

Latin, c. 12th century

Stanzas 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1854

Stanza 3 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916

Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854

Accomp. John Weaver, 1988

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

- continued, next page

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - continued

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". It consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, with lyrics underneath. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment, with the middle staff in the right hand and the bottom staff in the left hand. The piano part features a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

Westminster Announcements

Adopt a Family this Holiday Season - This year we will support three families from Family Promise and two families from Monroe Elementary School. You can select items to purchase at <https://volunteersignup.org/4LA39>. If it is easier for you, email Susan at Sdenton@westpres.org or call her at the church office, 274-1534, and she will help you in the selection of a gift. Please bring the wrapped and tagged gifts to the church for distribution by December 15.

Please return your pledge cards - If you have not submitted your pledge card for 2021, please do so as soon as possible. Fill your card out and return it to Westminster, 4114 Allison Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310-3398. Thank you for your ongoing faith and commitment to Westminster!

Westminster Kids' Newsletters - Hey, Kids! Here's a newsletter just for you! Sent weekly to your homes, each newsletter focuses on our upcoming Sunday's Bible verses. Have fun coloring and learning at the same time! Parents: Three newsletters are available (one for ages 2-3; another for 3-7 year-olds; and one for 8-11 year-olds). If you'd like to receive this newsletter for your children please contact the office, 274-1534, or email Laura at Isherlock@westpres.org.

Daily Devotion - Monday thru Friday Pastor Scott posts a daily online devotion. If you wish to receive Pastor Scott's Daily Devotion, please contact Susan in the church office, sdenton@westpres.org or 274-1534.

Prayer Requests - If you have a prayer request you wish to share with our church family, please select the Prayer Request button on the livestream worship page of the website, or contact Susan Denton at sdenton@westpres.org.

Bedtime Bible for Adults, too! - This podcast was originally designed for children, but now people of all ages are enjoying it! Listening to Bible stories, hearing beloved hymns and praying is a calming way to end your day. Each episode has an interactive prayer, Bible story, song and closing prayer. New episodes are added each weekday. You may subscribe to receive these podcasts daily, or log-on to BedtimeBible.org. For more info, contact Laura Sherlock at LSherlock@westpres.org. Pleasant dreams!

Our Weekly Newsletter is available in print or by eblast. Please call the church office, 274-1534, or email Susan at sdenton@westpres.org, if you wish to receive the newsletter in either format.

Upper Room and These Days Devotionals Available - The current issues of these devotional booklets are available in the office. Call Susan or Joan at 274-1534, if you'd like one mailed to you.

How Can I Contribute My Offering or Pay My Pledge?

- **Mail** - Westminster Church, 4114 Allison Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310-3398
- **Online** - At www.westpres.org/donate
- **Text** - WPCDSM to 73256.
- **Call the Church Office** - 515-274-1534 for credit card or ACH contribution, ask for Ruth Bloxham, accountant. Thank You!



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WE ARE WESTMINSTER...

We Worship with Tradition • We Connect as a Church Family

We Engage in Mission • We Raise 21st Century Disciples

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

We welcome all persons as participants in our congregation, regardless of age, race, gender, marital status, physical condition, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic background, economic status, or any other human condition.