

**PRELUDE** Christmas Carol Sing (begins at 9:20am)  
*Please select your favorite Christmas Carols from among Hymns 108 through 156. Then call out the hymn number when the Minister of Music invites you to do so.*

## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

### **WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES**

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

**People:** **So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

**Leader:** But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

**People:** **Teach us, O Lord, how to lead lives of holiness and godliness while, in accordance with your promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.**

**Leader:** This is the day that the Lord has made;

**People:** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

### **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

**\*HYMN 309**

*Come, Great God of All the Ages, Abbot's Leigh<sup>1</sup>*

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

Holy and merciful God, we confess we neglect to seek your wisdom for our lives. Instead, we think more highly of ourselves and our own knowledge, choosing to go our own way in this world. We let the cares and concerns of this world crowd out the promise of your Word, that you are with us always. We confess we face the future with un-

certainty and misgivings. Help us put our trust in you so we may live faithful and obedient lives, as we depend on the wisdom of your Holy Spirit and the love of Christ to shape our lives and actions (*continue with silent confession*). Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Who is in a position to condemn?

**People: Only Christ. And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

Leader: Anyone in Christ is a new creation. The old has passed way. Everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*ACCLAMATION HYMN 113** (Refrain) *Angels We Have Heard on High, Gloria*<sup>2</sup>  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Please turn to the back wall and wave to our online worshippers, offering them the peace of Christ and then greet each other.

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*There is no Spiritual Adventures today. Children should return to their parents.*

### SERMON

*In Gratitude*

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### \*HYMN 308

*O God, in Whom All Life Begins, Noel<sup>3</sup>*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

### PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN

*Hear Our Prayer, Anderson<sup>4</sup>*

Musical notation for the first line of the hymn. It consists of a single staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer. O Lord now hear our prayer." The first measure is marked with a '1' above it, and the second measure with a '2'. The third measure is marked with a '3' above it, and the fourth measure with a '4' above it.

Musical notation for the second line of the hymn. It consists of a single staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The melody continues from the first line. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer. O Lord now hear our prayer." The fifth measure is marked with a '5' above it, and the sixth measure with a '6'. The seventh measure is marked with a '7' above it, and the eighth measure with an '8' above it.

9 When the world is dark, 10 and the way feels drear. 11 12

13 O Lord, let our faith 14 be so much more than our fear. 15 16

17 Hear our prayer. 18 O Lord now hear our prayer. 19 20

21 Speak, O Lord. 22 We lis-ten. 23 You are 24 there. 25

## INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

### CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

### OFFERTORY SENTENCES

#### OFFERTORY

*An Expression of Gratitude, D. Schwoebel<sup>5</sup>*

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you.

Always with joy in ev'ry prayer for you.

I thank my God for your fellowship in the gospel  
from the very first day 'til now.

I thank my God for you!

And I am sure that God, who began a good work in you,  
will bring it to completion at the day of Christ.

And this I pray that your love may abound more and more.

Abound in knowledge, in judgment,  
that you may approve what is excellent to the glory of God.

That you may be pure and blameless,

filled with the fruits of righteousness which comes through Christ Jesus.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you.

Always with joy in ev'ry prayer for you.

I thank my God!

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

**Good and gracious God, in this season during which we have given and received so many gifts, we thank you for the greatest gift of all, your Son Jesus Christ. In response to your love and mercy, we bring our tithes and offerings to you. Bless them and us, so our gifts may be multiplied and our hearts may be generous as we seek to do good and share what we have; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **DISSOLUTION OF THE PASTORAL CALL**

from the Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

*congregational responses are in bold*

## **LITANY - Led by the Clerk of Session**

Let us pray for the saving presence of our living Lord:

In your world,  
**be present, Lord.**

In this congregation,  
**be present, Lord.**

In this community,  
**be present, Lord.**

In this presbytery and the whole church,  
**be present, Lord.**

In the homes and hearts of all your people,  
**be present, Lord.**

## **LITANY- Led by the Pastor**

Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord:

For work begun but not completed,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For expectations not met,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For wounds not healed,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For gifts not shared,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For promises not kept,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## LITANY—Led by the Clerk of Session

Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place:

For friendships made,  
for joys celebrated  
and for times of nurture and growth,  
**thanks be to God.**

For wounds healed,  
expectations met,  
gifts given and promises kept,  
**thanks be to God.**

For our fellowship in Jesus Christ,  
and for the love of God, which has sustained us,  
**thanks be to God.**

## DISSOLUTION - Led by the Clerk of Session

Do we, the members and friends of Westminster Presbyterian Church, release Scott Anderson from service as our pastor?  
**We do with thanks to God.**

Do you, Scott Anderson, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this congregation?  
**I do with thanks to God.**

Loving God, Alpha and Omega,  
you are both beginning and end.  
Our endings and our beginnings  
are rooted in your love.  
Whether near or far,  
we are held close by your love, and  
kept safe from any lasting loss.  
Let our time together end with your blessing.  
Touch all memories with your grace and peace.  
Help us to live with courage and gladness  
in the future you present us.  
In every time and place,  
may we offer you our highest and our best;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

With thanks to God  
for the ministry of this congregation

and the ministry of God's servant Scott Anderson,  
and with hope for God's abiding grace  
in the years to come,  
this pastoral relationship is now dissolved.

With God's help and love  
may our lives be blessed  
and our labors fruitful  
as we offer ourselves gladly  
in the service of our common Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**\*HYMN 305**

*Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*, Darwall's 148th<sup>6</sup>

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Improvisation on 'Ode to Joy*, arr. M. Hayes<sup>7</sup>

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### **Leaders Today:**



Pastor: Rev. Scott Anderson

Liturgist: Rev. Sandy Nuernberg

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: John Tarr

The Chancel Choir

Dorothy Blotz, piano

Ushers/Greeters: Sue Dornfeld, Abe Aberle, Ed Cothroll

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **2025 Dine with Nine**

We will be kicking off another season of meeting/eating with your Westminster family. As in the past, we will form groups of 9-10 which will meet several times over the year for fellowship and food. Groups can meet at the church, in homes, at restaurants, at a park, etc. Each group decides the venue and the menu! This is a great opportunity to get to know your Westminster community better and in a fun setting!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can email Katie in the office or Juanita. Each year we mix up the groups so you can get to know a new set of fellow Westminster community members better. We will have a kick-off potluck at the church on February 21. Any questions, contact Juanita Halls (jjh71152@gmail.com).

### **Interim Pastor**

The new interim pastor, Rev. Sara McCulloh Tonje, will be starting February 1. In January we are blessed to have coverage at the pulpit: 1/5-Sandy Nuernberg, 1/12-Lynnette Torrich, 1/19-Rev. Devon Reynolds (new Presbytery Executive), 1/26-Sandy Nuernberg. If you have pastoral needs in January, you may contact Rev. Sandy Nuernberg at: sn333@aol.com or 608-695-4248.

### **Nursery**

The nursery is open and children ages infant through 4 years old are welcome! Please be sure to sign in when you drop off. Thanks!

### **The Racial Equity Book Study Kicks Off in January**

A four week book study will be presented by The Racial Equity Working Group of Westminster. The book, *The False White Gospel*, will be available in the church office starting January 2 for a discounted price of \$5.

The book study will take place on 4 Sundays after worship (11AM) on **January 19th through February 9th**. We hope you can join us for this important discussion.

### **\*IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS\***

**Care List:** Bucky Pike, Rick Dettloff, Nancy Prine

**Members & Friends:** Jerry Tarr, Hilda McCreight, Jenny Root

### **Collection Plate**

Collection plates are located at the sanctuary doors. You may use the QR code to make contributions online. Thank you!

