

Epiphany



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EPIPHANY SUNDAY
JANUARY 5, 2025

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.

PRELUDE

*Allegro, Sonata No. 36, M. Clementi*¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 147

Leader: Blessed God, Israel's God, the one and only wonder-working God!

People: All earth brims with your glory; let the mountains give exuberant witness and shape the hills with the contours of right living.

Leader: Outlast the sun. O God, outlive the morn—age after age.

People: Be like rainfall on fresh-mowed grass; yes, earth-refreshing showers of rain. Let the snows cover us as a blanket of hope.

Leader: Let your righteousness burst into blossom, let peace abound, and Your Word rule from sea to shining sea.

People: All the earth shall brim with your glory! Praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

*HYMN 666

*O Splendor of God's Glory Bright, Puer Nobis Nascitur*²

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin, our personal pride hide the brightness of your shining light upon us. We think of ourselves, turn away from the poor, ignore cries for justice, and can't seem to strive for peace. In your mercy cleanse us of our sin, filling us again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory that shines in the face of Christ Jesus (continue with silent confession). Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen your glory! Alleluia!

People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth! Alleluia! Through your grace, we are forgiven, indeed. Amen.

***ACCLAMATION HYMN 192 (refrain)** *Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining³*
Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

***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

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all

who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

After the message, children may follow the teacher to room 11 for Spiritual Adventures.

SERMON

Grace and Goodness

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness, Christ, Be Our Light⁴

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

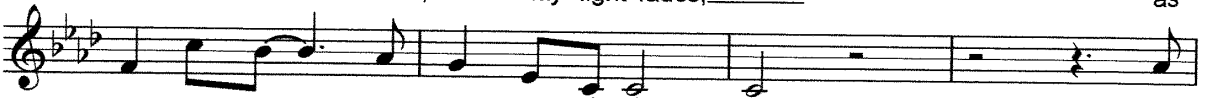
Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN

Christ the Light, D. Witkowski⁵




1. O rad - iant light, O Sun di - vine, of
2. O Son of God, the source of life, praise
3. Lord Je - sus Christ, as day - light fades, as



God the Fa - ther's death-less face, O
is your due by night and day. Our
shine the lights of e - ven - tide, we



im - age of the Light sub - lime, that
hap - py lips must raise the strain of
praise the Fa - ther with the Son, the



fills the heav - 'nly dwell - ing place. _____
 your es - teemed and splen - did name. _____
 Spir - it blessed and with them one. _____

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY SENTENCES (*The offertory plate will be passed around by the ushers.*)

OFFERTORY

*O Sing a Song of Bethlehem, Mozart/Burkhardt*⁶

***DEDICATION HYMN 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, Praise God*⁷
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

SEALING THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you,

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and every place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: Sanctus Hymn 559 - Holy, Holy, Holy⁸

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, with thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith.

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WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Tortorich, 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.

Collection Plate Update

The worship committee has concluded it's study on the collection plate and has decided to return to a passed plate during the offertory. You may still use the QR code here to make online donations.

Thanks for your flexibility!



The Racial Equity Book Study Kicks Off January 19!

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

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

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).

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!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Care List: Lynn Chapman, Bob Klassy, Bill & Sue Bridson

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

The members of Westminster Presbyterian Church recognize the land the church occupies is the ancestral home of the Ho-Chunk Nation, who have called this land Teejop (day-JOPE) since time immemorial. We recognize and respect the inherent sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation and the other eleven First Nations within the boundaries of the state of Wisconsin.