

A THRILL of HOPE

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**please stand as you're able*

WELCOME

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,* arr. J. Martin[1]

***CALL TO WORSHIP/LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE -** The Hughes Family

One: In the midst of busyness, bustling, and buzzing, we pause to breathe and release our burdens. We surround ourselves with candles, lights, greenery, and beauty. May these sights and sounds remind us that we are people of faith, guided by the light of the world. Listen for words of hope on this First Sunday of Advent. It is difficult to gather in this place without acknowledging the hurt all around us. There are unjust systems and harmful powers in place that diminish life.

ALL: What can we do? Where is our hope?

One: Be alert. Pay attention. There are whispers of hope all around you:

ALL: in a meal delivered, a hand extended, forgiveness granted.

One: As we live between the already and the not yet, we remember salvation doesn't happen when all is right in the world.

ALL: The Messiah draws near now, breaking into the present through moments of compassion and flourishing.

One: In this season of holy waiting and wholly longing, we light the candle of hope. Saying goodbye to the powers that harm and welcoming the coming of Christ.

ALL: May the hope of God-with-us thrill and inspire.

***HYMN 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, Hyfrydol[2]

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Before God and one another, we confess our love for power and control that separates us from one another and from you, O God. We cling tightly to wealth because we fear vulnerability. We insist on our own way because we fear change. We reject love and salvation when they come to us from outside our comfort zone. We follow our own paths instead of your own faithful leading. Forgive us through your endless grace and guide us into your truth. Lead us by the mercy of Jesus, who is our way and our life. Amen.

QUIET REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***CELEBRATION SONG 137** *He Came Down,* He Came Down[3]

He came down that we may have hope, He came down that we may have hope,
He came down that we may have hope, hallelujah for evermore. REPEAT

***PASSING THE PEACE**

One: ...the peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64:1-9

[1]O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—[2] 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! [3] When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. [4]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. [5]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. [6] 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. [7]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. [8]Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. [9] Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

One: The word of God for the people of God. ***ALL: Thanks be to God.***

Scripture Reading Mark 13:24-37

[24] "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not
give its light, [25] and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens
will be shaken. [26] "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power
and glory. [27] Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. [28] "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.
[29] So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very
gates. [30] Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken
place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. [32] "But about
that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the
Father. [33] Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. [34] 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. [35] 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, [36] or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37] And
what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

One: The word of God for the people of God. ***ALL: Thanks be to God.***

TIME FOR WONDER (Children's Time)

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

SERMON *Keep Awake*

***HYMN (insert)** *There Is a Mighty Question*, Ellacombe[4]

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S 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 today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION - *Please also pass the friendship form through the row.*

OFFERTORY *My Lord, What a Morning,* arr. M. Hayes[5]

***DEDICATION HYMN** *Advent Doxology,* God Rest Ye Merry[6]

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,
and with true love and fellowship each other now embrace.
This holy time of Advent brings promises of grace.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

***HYMN 772** *Live into Hope,* Truro[7]

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*, P. Manz[8]

Leaders Today

Pastor: Rev. Julie Erkel Hagee
Liturgist: Jeff Hayes
Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman
AV/Tech: John Tarr/Josh Mou
Bud Smith, Baritone
Ushers/Greeters: Doug & Juanita Halls, Sue Hummel, Kathy Key (Deacon)

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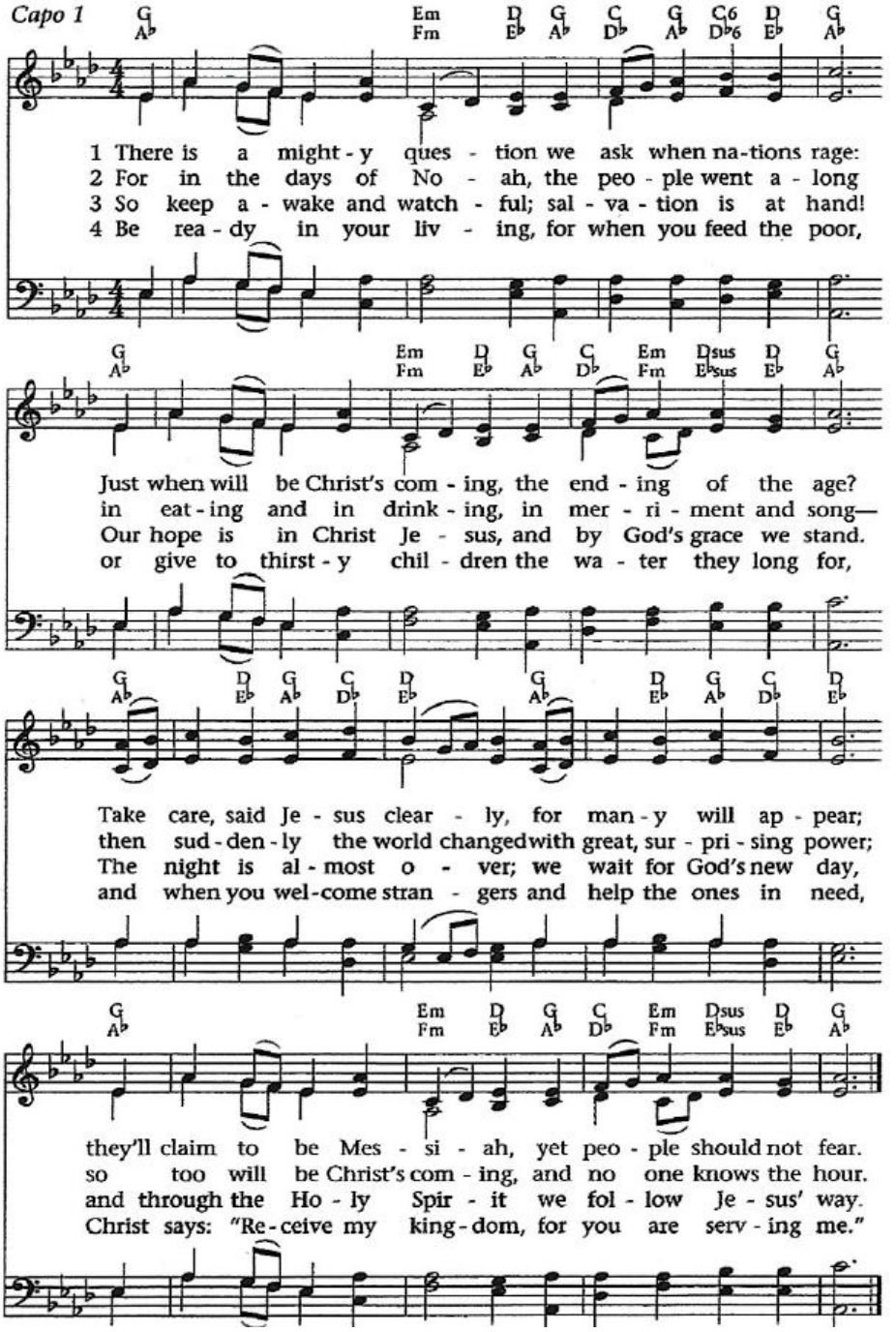
THERE IS A MIGHTY QUESTION



WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS November 29, 2026

Christmas Auction and Dessert - December 5th, at 1:00PM
The Christmas Dessert and Auction is this Saturday, December 5th, from 1 to 3 pm in the Narthex at Westminster. Donations for the auction are needed! Please bring to the auction a new item or an item you have created, cooked or baked. If you wish to donate but cannot attend, please contact Ruth Hein at 608-347-4724 and give her the item by December 4th. The auction is sponsored by the PWW and funds raised are donated to local community agencies. All are welcome for fellowship, fun and some early Christmas shopping. For questions or to help with the auction contact Judy Graham at jcracker@charter.net.

Advent Celebration - December 6
Join your Westminster family in fellowship hall as we celebrate Advent together on December 6 following worship. We'll be decorating cookies for the guests at Beacon and the students of Pres House, crafting Advent wreaths, and making Chrismon ornaments. Festive sweaters are encouraged! Prizes will be awarded!
Cookie Bakers needed!
Sign-up in the narthex to bring 2 dozen undecorated cut-out sugar cookies to be decorated at the December 6 Advent Celebration.

Sunday, December 20 - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
In the worship service on December 20, the Chancel Choir will lead us in a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The structure of this 75-minute, alternative worship service is based on services led by the King's College Choir and conducted annually at their chapel in Cambridge since 1918.
In this Festival, we have an opportunity to respond to God's word through carols and choral compositions spanning the centuries and exhibiting our rich heritage of Christmas music. The service will be enriched by organ, piano, and handbell accompaniments. The congregation will also join in singing several carols.
Be sure to invite a friend to join you for this special service of worship at Westminster at 9:45am on December 20!

From your Mission Committee
Thanks to everyone who filled out a Christmas card for the Jail Ministry. Please read this brief testimonial from the mother of one the inmates: "I've talked with my son about the cards many times. He's talked about what it meant when he received one. He's talked about how the guys in his pod passed them around so that others could read the messages. There was an older guy in his pod who gathered ones that people were willing to let go of, and put the ones he'd gathered up around his bunk. Thank you for making it possible for God's light and grace to shine in the Dane County Jail." -Lucy

Angel Tree
The tree is up! Gift tags are on the tree for children in the Allied Drive/Dunns March neighborhood. If you take a tag, **please write your name on the sheet by the tree** and return the gift wrapped and ready to go by December 13. If you want us to shop for you, please provide a check for $35 along with a tag, put it in the basket on the table and we will take care of it for you! Put "Angel Tree" in the check memo. The tag indicates the gift the child wants, you don't have to purchase everything on the tag, it should be around $35-$50 total. Let Kathy Kamp know if you have questions! Thanks for participating in this holiday tradition!

Cherokee Tutoring
Cherokee Middle School is looking for people who are interested in tutoring students. If you are interested in this opportunity, please let Kathy Kamp know. It would require some training and could be math or reading. You would work one-on-one with a student to provide the help they need. It would not begin until after the new year.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS
Care List: Jack Hamann, Gloria Hanson, Gay Didriksen, Peg Zimmer
Members & Friends: Kate Dooley, Wally Douma (home & recovering)