



Westminster United Church

"Embracing Our Community"

Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

December 10, 2017

10:30am

Our Mission Statement



Westminster United Church is a Christian family sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the congregation, the community and the world at large. We provide a spiritual home for worship, celebration of the sacraments, and Christian Education.

Statement of Inclusion



We embrace people of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientations, gender identity, abilities, ethnicity, social and economic circumstances, in the membership, ministry, leadership and life of this congregation.

Hymns, responsive readings and unison prayers are displayed on screen.

Please do not leave handbags or valuables unattended.

Thank you to those participating in today's service:

Greeters and Candle lighters	Westminster Youth
Scripture Reader	Bev Crumb
Ushers:	Team 2 - Carol O'Neil, Mark Clarke Clarence MacPherson, Don Fry Barb Auchterlonie, Dave Summers
Tech Booth	William Von Zuben, Martin Gilroy
Coffee and Tea Servers	Team 4 - Heather Montague Ken Montague, Dean Mortimer
Volunteer Custodian(s)	Team 2 - Dave Summers, Don Fry Ava Tomlinson



Thank you for silencing your cell phone.



(* Indicates to please stand as you are able.)

We Gather Together

Prelude - Be Still, My Soul - Sibelius

**Welcome and Announcements -
The Life and Work of the Church**

Call to Worship

One: In a story passed on through the ages...

All: In a love surpassing all loves...

One: In a God who sacrifices self...

**All: In the birth of a child, Emmanuel, God with us....
is a flame that will kindle the world.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Colin, Jenn, Amy & Evan deBruijn

One: Jesus is coming and we are preparing to welcome him again into the world and into our lives.

Last week we lit the first candle in our Advent wreath, the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of peace.

We yearn for peace. And we are given peace in our minds, hearts and spirits when we come to God in faith.

Peace is an Advent gift given to us that can ease tension, inspire courage and offer a promise for the future.

We look forward to the promised day when neighbours and nations will live together in peace.

**ALL: May this eternal truth be always on our hearts
That the God who breathed this world into being
Placed stars into the heavens
And designed a butterfly's wing
Is the God who entrusted God's own self
to the care of ordinary people
becoming vulnerable that we might know
how strong is the power of Peace
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.**

Words by John Birch www.faithandworship.com

**Sung Response - Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
(tune Love Divine) vs. 1 & 3**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Greeting One Another - The Peace of Christ be with you

***Hymn: VU 31 O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

The Bible is placed, candles lit

To Offer Ourselves

Invitation to Offering (*our commitment to support the Life and Work of the church*)

(Children and youth are encouraged to place their offerings in the offering plate at this time, too.)

Offertory - Comfort, Comfort, Now My People - *Cruger*

***Sung Response: VU 55**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

Prayer of Dedication

To Hear God's Word

Time with all God's Children

Sung while children leave for J.^a.M.

**MV #33 Jesus Came Bringing Us Peace
Jesus came bringing us peace,
Jesus came bringing us peace,
Jesus came bringing us peace,
hallelujah forever more!**

Anthem - Et In Terra Pax - *Purifoy*

Scripture Background

Scripture Reading: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

A Sermon on the Gift of Peace

To Respond in Faith

Time of Silent Reflection

***Hymn: MV 158 Dream a Dream**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

To Go Into the World

***Hymn: VU 44 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

***Blessing and Sending Out**

*Sung Response: VU 7

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Postlude - Songs of Peace - arr. Martin

Advent at Home

Read Isaiah 11:6-9

Jesus came to teach us how to live our lives in love and peace. In Isaiah we hear about animals paired together who don't normally have friendships. Sometimes we find it hard to get along with others. What small step could you take today to try to move towards God's peace with others?

Prayer: God, we want to build a community of peace and justice. Give us the opportunities this Advent in small ways to make our world a more kind and loving place. Amen.

Prayer Requests during the Service

Our weekly worship service provides a time for submitting prayers of concern, thanksgiving and praise. You will find prayer forms in the pew pockets.

Prayer/praise requests are collected along with the offering. Please place the completed prayer cards in the baskets as they are circulated and your weekly offering in the metal plates. The requests are read in the service during our prayer time together and then forwarded to the Prayer Group who will continue to pray for each concern.

Please note that Westminster will be closed from Monday, December 25 to Monday, January 2 with the exception of the worship service held on Sunday, December 31 at 10:30am. The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.



Advent means arrival and is a time of preparation and waiting. The four Sundays of Advent are Dec. 3, 10, 17, and 24.

The following symbols are part of this tradition: the wreath, a circle reminding us of God's endless love and the greenery reminding us of new life; the colours of purple or blue remind us of royalty and of hope; the colour white reminds us of Jesus Christ, the light coming into the world.

Look for the symbols in the sanctuary and the narthex, ponder them and the light that is within yourself.

Allow your light to be a reflection of God's love in our world.



All Welcome

Coffee and tea are served after worship in the gym. Purchases of the organic coffee, tea, and Fair Trade chocolate bars we sell every Sunday enable us to provide the organic coffee & tea after church.

Reasonably priced Christmas gift baskets are now available at our table in the gym.

The Scott Woods Old Time Christmas Show is Tuesday!

Join us this **Tuesday, December 12** at **7:00pm**. Tickets may be purchased after worship in the gym or from the church office. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for children age 6-12, children 5 and under get in free.



Longest Night Service



The Wellness Committee's Longest Night service is next **Sunday, December 17** at **7:00pm**.

This service offers a time of care and concern for those who may be grieving or sad during this Christmas Season or for people who are feeling stressed or 'out of sync' with the seasonal emphasis on happiness, togetherness and family gatherings.

Westminster Mitten Tree



The Outreach Committee is pleased to continue Westminster's Advent tradition of the Mitten Tree. Please hang your donations of warm mittens and gloves for both children and adults on the tree that will be in the Narthex.

All donations will be presented in January to area schools and community groups that have expressed a need.

Today, Sunday, December 10th, after worship the Wellness Committee will be in the gym taking orders for festive and prayerful **Christmas Cranberry Prayer Candles**. The candle vase arrangements are a fundraiser and a joy for us to assemble. These lovely centerpieces or host gifts will be available for purchase and *pick-up on Sunday, December 17th in the Narthex* after service.



Thank you to all who recycled the vases from last Christmas.

And **tonight**, please join the Wellness Committee, Parish Mosaic and the Westminster Choir at **7:00pm** for the annual **Lessons and Carols Service**. Come share in the comfort and joy in our sanctuary as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and inclusivity around the Manger. This holy time closes by candlelight with "Silent Night", followed by hot cider and cookies in the Narthex.



Happy Anniversary Westminster United Church!



In 2018, we will be celebrating Westminster United Church's 60th Anniversary! We want to celebrate in a way that includes all church members and highlights our rich history. To that end, we are creating a "60th Anniversary" working group to plan and lead the celebration activities and events. If you are interested in being a part of this group please let us know by providing your name and contact information to our church administrator, Beth or by providing Tom McNown with your information

(tom.mcnown@gmail.com or 289-927-4666) by Friday, December 15th, 2017. An initial planning session will be scheduled in early January. Additionally, please forward any suggestions or ideas for this exciting event to either Beth or Tom.



The Annual UCW Collection of Men's & Ladies toiletries for local shelters is upon us.

Please find the bins in the Narthex by the office doors for your donation. Only new items will be accepted until Sunday, December 17. Thank you!!

Christmas Hampers

Today is the last day we will have tags for gifts for the **75 hampers** that we are assembling this year. The gifts are to be *returned on Saturday, December 16th between noon and 4:00 p.m.* Delivery will be Sunday, Dec. 17th after church. Thank you for your generosity!

December Worship & Events

<p>Lessons and Carols Service December 10 7:00pm</p>	<p>Scott Woods Old Time Christmas Show December 12 7:00pm *Tickets \$25.00</p>
<p>Longest Night Service December 17 7:00pm</p>	<p>Christmas Eve December 24 10:30am</p>
<p>Christmas Eve Youth Play December 24 2:00, 4:00 & 6:30pm</p>	<p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service December 24 10:00pm</p>

Westminster Weekly Calendar

Monday December 11

08:30 AM - 04:30 PM-YDAC (Room 1, Youth & Computer)
09:00 AM - 03:30 PM-UCW Catering Prep (Kitchen)
09:30 AM - 12:30 PM-Taoism Tai Chi (Gym)
06:30 PM - 08:30 PM-Guides (Gym)
07:00 PM - 09:00 PM-Foodmangroup Meeting (Kitchen)
07:00 PM - 09:00 PM-M&P (Founders Room)

Tuesday December 12

12:00 PM - 10:00 PM-Scott Woods Band (Sanctuary)
12:30 PM - 03:00 PM-Stroke Recovery Christmas Lunch (Gym/Kitchen)
02:00 PM - 10:00 PM-Scott Woods Band (Narthex, Founders Room)
07:00 PM - 09:00 PM-Scott Woods Concert (doors open 6:00) (Sanctuary)

Wednesday December 13

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM-We Care Health Services (Room 1)

Thursday December 14

07:00 PM - 08:30 PM-Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
07:00 PM - 08:30 PM-Family Karate (Gym)

Friday December 15

08:30 AM - 04:30 PM-YDAC (Room 1, Computer Rm, Gym)

Saturday December 16

08:00 AM - 08:00 PM-Christmas Hampers (Gym)
01:00 PM - 04:00 PM-Wellness Candle Fundraiser (Computer Room)

Sunday December 17

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM-Sunday Worship
08:00 AM - 08:00 PM-Christmas Hampers (Gym)
10:45 AM - 10:50 AM-Stewardship Moment
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM-Cranberry Christmas Candle pickup (Narthex)
12:00 PM - 03:00 PM-Christmas Play Practice (Sanctuary)
07:00 PM - 08:00 PM-Longest Night Service (Sanctuary)

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