

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

**December 5th, 2021 | 10:00am**

**Live Streaming | In Person**

**Order of Worship  
Second Sunday of Advent**

**Gathering Music**

*Steven Johnson*

***“Arise, Shine”***

*Arise, shine, for thy Light is come. Arise, shine, for thy Light is come  
And the glory of the Lord is risen, the glory of the Lord is come  
The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*

***“Here I Am To Worship”***

*Light of the world You stepped down into darkness;  
Opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore You;  
Hope of a life spent with You.*

*Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.*

*King of all days, O so highly exalted;  
Glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly You came to the earth You created;  
All for love's sake became poor. (Refrain 2x)*

**Welcome**

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

## Lighting the Advent Candle

The Brock Family

### *Advent Song: "Light the Advent Candle"*

*Light the Advent candle, two: Think of humble shepherds, who  
Filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

## Call to Worship

Deb Norton

### Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

GTG #121 (vs 1 & 2)

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.*

## Preparing for the Word

### Call to confession

Liturgist

#### Prayer of confession (in unison)

Refining God, it is not easy for us to admit we are not a blameless people.

We trust the false promises, but have trouble believing those you send to us.

We find ourselves captive to emotions and lusts which stun us,  
but doubt you can save us.

We prefer the shadowy streets of the world, rather than walking in your Light.

Forgive us, Faithful One.

May the Light of Christ show us your way;

may the Love of Christ overflow from our lives to others;  
may the Life of Christ be our model as we seek to be your people.

Words of forgiveness

*Liturgist*

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

*Gloria Patri*

**Hearing the Word**

**Message for all God's Children:**

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

*"Standing watch"*

**Prayer for illumination:**

*Liturgist*

**Old Testament Lesson: *Malachi 3:1-4***

*Liturgist*

**Anthem: *"A Great Light"***

*Choir*

**New Testament Lesson: *Luke 1:68-79***

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

**Sermon:**

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

***"Preparing the Way, against all odds"***

**Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem***

***GTG #121 (vs 3 & 4)***

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!*

*So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.*

*No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,*

*where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;*

*cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.*

*We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;*

*O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

## Gathering at the Lord's Table

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer after Communion

Invitation to the Offering

*Liturgist*

Offering response: *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

(GTG #144 vs 4)

*What can I give him, poor as I am?*

*If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb*

*If I were a wiseman, I would do my part,*

*Yet what I can I give him, give my heart*

Prayers of the people

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

(Prayers offered by the congregation)

The Lord's Prayer

### Going forth in Joy!

Closing Hymn: *"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"*

*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey.*

*Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.*

*Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!*

*Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.*

Benediction

*Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

Postlude

*Steven Johnson*

**Thank you to those involved in worship today:**

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Ushers: Charlotte Jacobs and Lois Ann Rayner

Liturgist: Deb Norton

Advent Candle: The Brock Family

Musicians: Steve Johnson and Choir

## **Remember in Prayer**

*Pray for all those*

*touched recently by violence and natural disasters, the healing of national hostility and mistrust, efforts to feed the poor and provide shelter for the homeless in our area, and the following people:*

*It is with great sadness that we report the passing of **Harry and Elsie Marshall's son, Erik**, on Saturday afternoon, November 27, 2021. Erik had just been transferred to hospice care. We extend our sympathy and prayers for comfort and strength to Harry, Elsie and Kent.*

***Deb Norton** has asked for prayers for her sister, **Pam Bosco**, who lives in Rochester, NY and is undergoing surgery today to treat a serious infection. May God guide the hands of her doctors and bless her with a full and speedy recovery.*

***Nancy Shapiro's** brother-in-law, **Charlie Brabant**, who lost both parents and his sister this year, is seriously ill and scheduled to undergo 2 surgeries on Monday.*

**Theresa Altvater** (Sarah Altvater's grandmother)

**Linda Book**

**Chuck Burton** (Lois Raynor's relative)

**Jay Carlson** (Clare MacDonald's son-in-law)

**Ed Carter**

**Pauline Cottingham**

**Frances Cowgill**

**Peter Culin** (Sue Culin's brother-in-law)

**Bill and Sandra Hrin**

**Lib Macnab**

**Marcy**

**Sharon**

**Lacey Meade** (Betty Pratt's daughter)

**Rev. Innocent Mabuza**

**Karen Reed Noel** (Jim Reed's half-sister)

**Betty Pratt**

**Robbie**

**Janet Waugaman** (Sally Waugaman's daughter)

Our church has a prayer chain of members who will pray for any person you ask. Contact Leslie Marsh by phone at 302-542-9927 or email at [cmarshjr@verizon.net](mailto:cmarshjr@verizon.net)

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