LIGHT of COMFORT COME!

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 3, 2023 COMMUNION SUNDAY

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence! Instead you are born among us as an infant. Instead you show us how love is made perfect in weakness. So we will stay alert, or at least we will try, because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Gift of Christmas Karen Annoni

PRELUDE O Come, All Ye Faithful arr. Buckwalter

Westminster Ringers

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE

Pat and Matthew Underwood

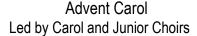
CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today we light for the first time the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope. Hear you heavens, and listen earth, for the Lord has spoken. It is this our Hope, that God's promises are true, that peace and justice will reign.

All: And God said, it is good.

^{*}To all who are able, please stand as we offer God thanks and praise. **Bold type face** indicates that the congregation participates in word or song.





Beth Kenreich



PRAYER OF ADORATION (Unison)

O God, to you alone we lift our souls; in you alone we place our trust; for you alone we wait all day long. For you are the God of our salvation, abounding in mercy and steadfast love. Help us to be watchful for the coming of your promised one -- the one who comes with power and glory, the one drawing near to bring our salvation, the one who comes as a servant wrapped in the clothes of humility. Amen.

*Hymn 348

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain; thousand, thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Now redemption, long expected, comes in solemn splendor near; all the saints this world rejected thrill the trumpet sound to hear: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! See the day of God appear

3 Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne; Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom as thine own. Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus. Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

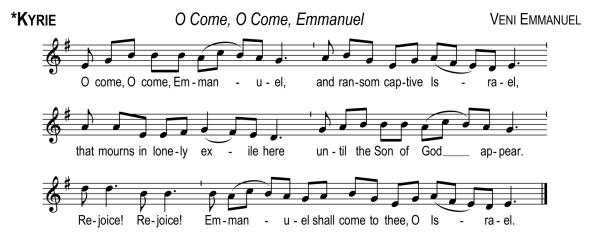
*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done. Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out—against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

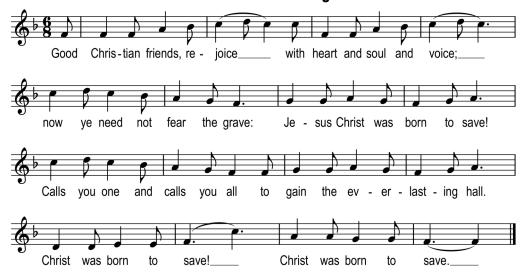
A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER



*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.

(11:00) At this time any and all children through the 5th grade are invited to come forward for Sharing Faith with Children.



(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Jodie Davis

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: Your Word stands forever. May our generation be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Mark 13:24-37

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 (Unison)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might,

and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Tear Open the Heavens"

Rev. John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 352

My Lord! What a Morning

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING

Refrain:

My Lord! what a morning; my Lord! what a morning; O my Lord! what a morning, when the stars begin to fall, when the stars begin to fall.

1 You will hear the trumpet sound to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (Refrain) 2 You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)

3 You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED (Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ all over the world. Offering envelopes can be found inside the friendship register book. We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:



- Place your offering into the plates as you exit the sanctuary
- Visit <u>mywpc.org/offering</u> or scan the QR code at the right to give online
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

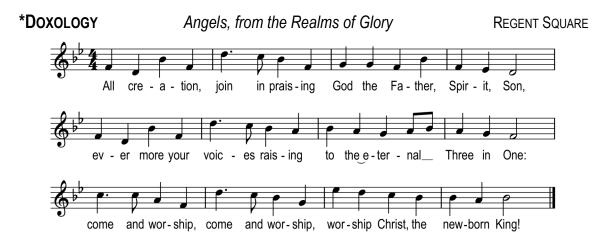
OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind, With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, She bore to men a Savior, When half-spent was the night.



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church welcomes all who believe in Jesus Christ to share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us today. We receive the elements by means of intinction, taking a piece of bread and dipping it into the cup. For those who desire an individual serving, regular or gluten free, they will be on a table in front of the baptismal font and on the small tables located in the balcony. If you are seated on the main floor of the sanctuary, you are invited to come forward to the chancel area by way of the center aisle and return to your pews by the side aisle. If you are sitting in the balcony, an usher will guide you to the sacrament. If you are unable to come forward easily, please signal to one of the ushers or elders so the communion elements can be brought to your seat.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Pastor: Eternal God...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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 this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE MEAL

COMMUNION ANTHEM O Little Town of Bethlehem arr. Moklebust

Westminster Ringers

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

*Invitation and The Lord's Day Greeting

We are glad you are worshiping with us today. If you are joining us online, please remember to 'sign' our online friendship register:

- Click on the *Welcome to WPC!* Click here to sign the Friendship Register banner at the top of the website page
- Visit <u>mywpc.org/friendship</u> or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



1 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Bird, is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE

Ríu Ríu Chíu Westminster Ringers

arr. Tucker

The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer. You may remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly and without disturbing those who choose to stay.

≫ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ≪

During the Advent season, as we anticipate the coming of the Messiah, we pray anew, "O come, O come, Emmanuel." On this First Sunday of Advent, the urn placed near the pulpit is filled with somber hues of green and brown, symbolizing a world whose people walk in darkness, awaiting the Light of the world.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ◆

The Chancel Flowers are donated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of his wife, Yvonne, by Don Piper.

>> THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ◆

PASTORS

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff

Pam Hrncir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

Westminster Ringers directed by Norman Elton

Carol and Junior Choirs directed by Rebecca Elton

Chancel Choir Choral Scholars and Section Leaders

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

Pat and Matthew Underwood

LITURGIST

Beth Stabler

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Jodie Davis

GREETER

9:30am Cheryl Roettger

11:00am Margie Ambrose

9:30am Tony Annoni, Eric Beckhusen, Harley Stewart, Dave Littell

11:00am Jay Hardy, Jeri Hardy, Jerry White, Susan White

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST

Nate Green, Sarah Smith, Walter Schmid

*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS

Dick Sahlen, Duncan McIver, Harold Herring

*WINDSOR MEADE USHER

Paul Hotinger, Happy and Ralph Simmons

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Mike Squire and John Schoenberger

*Satellite campuses

> WPC Elders & Deacons < €

SESSION: CLASSES OF 2024, 2025, 2026

Moderator: John E. Morgan Clerk of Session: Diane Schwarz

Administration: Faith Shartzer* (25), Sarah Houghland (25), Margie Newcomer (26),

Jaynelle Oehler (24), Larry Pully (26)

Christian Education: Sallie McLain* (25), Kelly Kirkpatrick (26), JD Due (26)

Christian Outreach: Kay Allen* (24), Karen McKee (24) Communications: Laura Hild* (24), Martha Squire (24)

Endowment Committee: Al Thomas* (25), Jim Austin (26), Joseph Kinard (26),

Martha Squire (24), Hank Vernon (25)

Facilities: Dale Trowbridge* (25), Jerry Howell (26)

Resources: Tommy Michaels* (24), Elaine McBeth (25), Jay Eaton (26)

Worship: Jim Winthrop* (25)

*Moderator

BOARD OF DEACONS: CLASSES OF 2024, 2025, 2026

Moderator: Janie Moyers (24) **Vice-Moderator:** Ellen Peters (22)

Pastoral Advisor: Pam Hrncir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

Secretary: Ric Cheston (22)

Care Teams

Extra Care: Margie Ambrose (24), Jennifer LaDow (26), Lee Saxton (26)

Grief: Copper Perry (25) Dave Littell (25)

Welcoming a Child, Illness, Surgery, Hospice (WISH): Linda Eichhorn (24), Harold Herring (25)

Brookdale and Other Asst. Living: Robin Sabo (26)

Patriot's Colony: Sue Rennagel (25)

Williamsburg Landing: Joane Bozek (24) Doris Gilfillan(26) Windsor Meade: Shirley Randolph (24), Happy Simmons (25)

Ministry Teams

Celebrations and Concerns: Dougle Winthrop (24), Phoebe Williams (24), Sarah Horner (25)

Christian Fellowship: Happy Simmons (25), Sue Rennagel (25), Nate Green (24), Emily Krogh (24),

Sarah Dulaney (25)

Flower Sharing: Joane Bozek (24), Laura Bechtler (25): Leigh Salud (26), Carol Thomas (26)

New Member: Nancy Archibald (24), Deborah Rockafellow (25), Eric Bekhusen (26),

Martha Burian (26)

Memorial Receptions: Nancy Moseley (24), Jo Ann Youhas (25), Janie Moyers (24),

Rebecca Caprio (26)

Memorial Services: Terry Backus (24), Lynn Newcomer (24), Nancy Miller (24), Duncan McIver (26)

≫ SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ≪

- Stephen Ministry offers help, hope, healing: Are you going through a difficult time? A Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through difficult times or crisis. To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister's confidential care, please contact pastor Pam Hrncir (phrncir@mywpc.org). Learn more about this ministry at mywpc.org/stephen.
- In need of one-on-one prayer? After the 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday morning services, a Stephen Minister will be available in the Church Library to talk and pray with you. No need to sign up. All interactions and conversations with a Stephen Minister are confidential.
- **Monthly grief support group** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in room 220 on the second level. During this meeting we check in with one another and occasionally watch videos about a specific grief topic. All are welcome to attend.

>> PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ≪

To share a joy or concern, please visit www.mywpc.org, select GET CARE on the menu bar, then PRAYER REQUEST from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click SEND REQUEST on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will be shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office (757) 229-4235 with your request. The Prayer Chain Coordinator is: Jo Ann Youhas (handbellringer@cox.net). Please notify Jo Ann when you would like to remove your name from the prayer chain.

If you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request, please contact the Pastor-on-Call listed below for this week. To reach a Pastor during the week, please call the church office.

Sunday, December 3 – Saturday, December 9

Pastor Pam Hrncir • phrncir@mywpc.org • 757-508-4668

Upcoming Memorial Service:

• A Memorial Service for WPC member Mannie Houston who died on Thursday, November 9, 2023, will be held in our columbarium on Friday, December 8, 2023, at 4pm.

The WPC Family extends its deepest Christian sympathy and prayers to:

- Ann, Sarah and Kimberly Jurczyk on the death of their husband and father, Stephen Jurczyk, who died on Thursday, November 23, 2023. A memorial service was held Saturday, December 2, 2023 in the WPC sanctuary.
- The family of Jean R. Migneault, who died on Sunday, November 26, 2023. A memorial service will be held at 3pm, Sunday, December 3, 2023 at Nelsen Funeral Home.

Please pray for:

- Jean Hibbard, Bob Siclari, Ellie Thuermer, Custer, Jean Young.
- Those who have recently lost loved ones, those recovering from various surgeries and our sick and shut-ins who are at home or facility bound.
- Those serving our country in the military services and their families.
- Those affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine.

≫ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ≪

During the Advent season, as we anticipate the coming of the Messiah, we pray anew, "O come, O come, Emmanuel." On this First Sunday of Advent, the urn placed near the pulpit is filled with somber hues of green and brown, symbolizing a world whose people walk in darkness, awaiting the Light of the world.

➢ ANNOUNCEMENTS ←

- If you've not already done so make sure to submit your pledge for 2024. It's not too late! Whether you've previously pledged or would be doing so for the first time, we really need all of our members to make that pledge commitment so we can continue the many wonderful Ministries of our Church.
- Christmas Joy Offering: This special offering provides care and financial assistance to pastors and church workers who face sudden and critical need. It also grants scholarships and support to schools and colleges and makes education possible for many communities of color. Christmas Joy Offering isn't just a program it touches the lives of individuals. God has called us to care for one another in times of need. Please prayerfully consider giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. Envelopes are available in the bulletin (please make checks to WPC with Joy Offering on the memo line) or you may contribute on the WPC website at mywpc.org/christmasjoyoffering
- Gift of Christmas 2023: Just a reminder that the Gift of Christmas Program begins TODAY, Sunday, December 3. The Gift of Christmas is a wonderful way to experience the true spirit of Christmas Giving by supporting one of twenty programs helping folks in need in our communities. When you donate to one of these programs you will receive an Angel Ornament and a Card that you can give to the family member or friend that you are honoring. Look for details in the bulletin and also visit the Gift of Christmas table today or please contact *Karen Annoni for more information.
- The Advent/Christmas fun begins this year with the annual and long-standing tradition, the WPC Advent Celebration. The Williamsburg Christmas Parade will be on TODAY, Sunday, December 3, at 5pm. The theme for the parade this year is "Jingle Bell Jubilee." Activities for ALL AGES will be set up in Stevenson Hall BEFORE the parade, beginning at 3:00pm. We will also be making and serving a couple of bags of the Rise Against Hunger meals that didn't quite fit into the boxes on 11/14. Come and taste what your efforts yielded, and what will be delivered to families around the world to fight hunger. After you partake of the activities inside, bring your chairs outside to get a good spot right outside the church, and join other WPC Families and friends to watch the parade together!
- Sponsor a Poinsettia in Memory/Honor of Someone: The joyful season of Christmas is upon
 us. As we prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth, you are invited to help decorate the church by
 sponsoring a poinsettia. Envelopes for poinsettias can be found in the pew fellowship
 books and in the Welcome Center. Orders may also be placed online. The deadline for

- **ordering is TODAY, Sunday, December 3.** Poinsettias are to remain in place until **AFTER** the 8pm Worship Service on **Christmas Eve.** Kindly leave the plastic saucer and cross your name off the list on the chancel steps if you choose to take your plant.
- The Salvation Army Angel Tree Tags will be now available in Stevenson Hall. Make Christmas Day memorable for someone less fortunate. Stop by the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall. It is decorated with 65 angel tags for children and 10 tags for seniors. Adopt an angel and buy gifts for that child or senior. You will be demonstrating the meaning of Christmas and sharing God's gift of love. Gifts should be returned by Friday, December 8. Thank you for your generous support of the Salvation Army.
- The WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, December 4, 2023 (NOTE DATE CHANGE), at 2:00pm in the WPC Library (and on Zoom) to discuss *This is God's Table: Finding Church Beyond the Walls*, by Anna Woofenden. Adrian Williams, Director of Educational Ministries, will facilitate the discussion.
- The Squares will celebrate the Advent season by considering the familiar story of the birth of Christ. The Nativity Story, which begins the gospel, is well known and loved by all. Through this story The Squares will examine its main characters to find how their good news is like the good news in our own lives. So get this Advent season started with us on December 7, 7:30pm in room 227, or via Zoom (contact *Gary Davis or *Jim Kirkpatrick for the link).
- Westminster Ringers will have two performances at Grand Illumination on Saturday, December 9, at 5:30pm and 6:15pm. We'll be on the Market Square, across from the Courthouse.
- Blue Christmas, December 21 at 3:30. Held in Stevenson Hall this year, we'd like to remember and honor your loved ones through a slide show. If you would like to participate, please email a picture of your deceased loved one by December 14 to Vanessa (vgamble@mywpc.org) or stop by and Vanessa can scan the photo for you. Come for a special service of remembering, recognition, and hope.
- Door code for entry into the church: If you have not received a code which allows you to enter the building, please contact Elbert Fleming (efleming@mywpc.org; 757-229-4325). Please use your door code whenever possible for church entry.
- 2024 Flower Calendar is now in the back of Stevenson Hall. There are several open dates. If you would like to donate flowers on one of those Sundays, please fill in your name and your contact information. Also, kindly let *Ruth Cobb know you have signed up.

*Contact information can be found in our online directory.

You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.

More information about the events and announcements listed above can be found on our website at mywpc.org/news/ or on the church calendar.

> OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS ◆

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access

10:30am Fellowship Coffee Hour / Stevenson Hall

11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or wmbgradio.com

3:00pm Advent Celebration / Stevenson Hall

4:00pm WPC Hospitality Tent—Williamsburg Christmas Parade

MONDAY. DECEMBER 4

1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123 6:00pm UKirk Dinner and Dialogue / LL012

7:00pm Williamsburg Choral Guild Rehearsal / Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

10:00am Adult Bible Study: Christian Believer-Knowing God with Heart and Mind / Rm 220 and Zoo

11:00am Words of Hope: An Advent Grief Writing Workshop / Rm LL010

1:00pm In-house Staff Mtg / Stevenson Hall 6:30pm Presbyterian Women's Circle 4 / Zoom

7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:00am Feeding Faith: College Breakfast / Off-Site
10:00am Monthly Grief Support Group / Rm 220
6:00pm Genesis Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm
6:00pm UKirk Progressive Dinner / Off-Site
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:00am Sanctuary closed for weekly cleaning

9:30am Presbyterian Women's Circle 1 / Stevenson Hall 4:30pm Carol and Junior Choir Rehearsals / Choir Rms

7:30pm Westminster Ringers / Bell Rm

7:30pm The Squares Men's Bible Study / Rm 227

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

5:30pm and 6:15pm Westminster Ringers at the Grand Illumination / Market Square across from the Courthouse

>> NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ◆

December 10, 2023 • Second Sunday of Advent

Light of Comfort Come!

The sermon "Comfort My People" will be based on Isaiah 40:1-11.

*9:30am service is live-streamed on mywpc.org. **11:00am service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740