



1st Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live**

or on our church website at
westminsterakron.org

COME

Opening Voluntary

Comfort Ye (*Messiah*)

G.F. Handel
Ben Hayes, tenor

We welcome you to Westminster's online worship service this Sunday. To set a more worshipful tone while watching this service at home, we encourage you to find a quiet space and light a candle.

If you are joining us on Facebook Live, then you can find a copy of today's bulletin on our church website at westminsterakron.org.

*Call to Worship

Barb Shriner

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near.

We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming. Let us worship God!

Choral Introit

Wait for the Lord

Taizé

*Hymn 9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran-som cap - tive
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine
3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, And or - der all things,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo-ples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un -
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And
far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, And
heart and mind. Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill
til the Son of God ap - pear.
death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
cause us in her ways to go.
the whole world with heav - en's peace.
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jim and Barb Shriner

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

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

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.

Silence is observed.

Response 574 Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

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. Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!

*Response 479, verse 1 Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
LAUDA ANIMA ++

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
Glad of heart your carols raise;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!**

*Passing the Peace
We invite you now to greet one another saying,
"The peace of Christ be with you."

Moment for Ministry Jim and Barb Shriner/Giving Tree

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

God has enriched us in every way - in speech, knowledge, and spiritual gifts. From the fellowship of Jesus Christ, we are sent out to share with thanksgiving what we have received.

Anthem Keep Your Lamps! Andre Thomas

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.*

*Children, don't get weary, Children, don't get weary,
Children, don't get weary
'til your work is done.*

*Christian, journey soon be over, Christian, journey soon be over,
Christian, journey soon be over,
The time is drawing nigh.*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning...

*Response 592 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow *Doxology*
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Time with Young Disciples

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: Your Word stands forever. May we 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.**

The First Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 New Testament

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Second Lesson Mark 13:24-37 New Testament

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 his 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.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Watchful

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the Lord. “Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Prayers of the People

God of power and glory, we remember your awesome deeds across the ages - the times you saved us and brought us home. Yet, we also remember times when we felt alone and afraid. O God, we are your people, the work of your hand. Look upon us with your shining face, especially in the time of need.

We pray for those who look to you for healing and hope...
those who are sick or recuperating from illness or injury...
those who are lonely and need companionship and care...
those for whom the holidays bring sorrow or pain...
those whose deep sadness overshadows joy.
Let your face shine upon us, O God.

We pray for people in need of restoration and reconciliation:
for those battling addictions and those in recovery...
for people estranged from those they love...
for someone lost in grief...
for someone far from home.
Let your face shine upon us, O God,
that we might be saved.

Renew the spirit of a world grown weary with waiting and hoping.
Especially we pray for wars to end,
for hunger and poverty to be crowded out by abundance.
And we pray, too, for the church
because we also grow weary in our waiting and watching
for your power and glory to be made known.
Grant us clarity, passion, and true fellowship
so that we are awake to your presence.

Let your face shine upon the church
and all this weary world, we pray;
in the name of the One born in a manger
and coming again on clouds of glory. **Amen.**

And finally, together as the people of God, let us offer the words of the Lord's Prayer, saying in one voice:

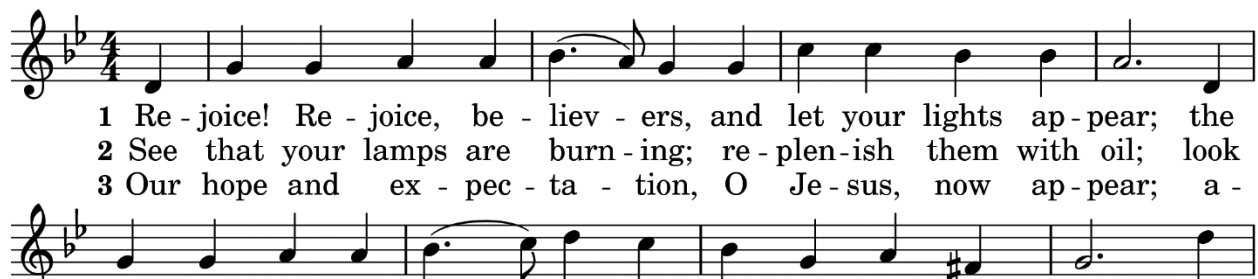
The Lord's Prayer

**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 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.**

*Hymn 15

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN



1 Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear; the
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen - ish them with oil; look
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear; a -
eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near. The
now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil. The
rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere! With

Bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon he will draw nigh. Up,
mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand; a -
hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see the
watch with ex - pec - ta - tion; at mid - night comes the cry.
rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride-groom is at hand!
day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

***Charge and Benediction**

Beware. Keep alert. Keep awake.

God is doing awesome things we do not expect. And Christ is coming near with great power and glory, and with tenderness.

May God strengthen us to the end;
Christ draw near to our very gates;
and the Holy Spirit awaken our spirits;
until, with eager longing,
we greet the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Voluntary

Every Valley Shall Be Exalted

Handel

++ *This response replaces the Gloria Patri during Advent.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers in the Chancel are given by Marcia Holcomb and family in loving memory of John Holcomb.

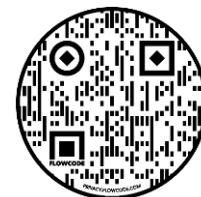
Christmas Food Baskets Our annual Christmastime delivery of food baskets to Greater Akronites in need will take place on Saturday, December 12. The groceries purchased from Acme #1 will be assembled in the church parking lot with deliveries beginning at 9:00 a.m. You can help make another family's Christmas a little brighter by delivering and/or contributing money to help fill the baskets. Donations are of vital importance this year as COVID has damaged the local economy. Baskets and gift cards (for apartments) are valued at \$40 each, but any donation amount is appreciated. You can give online at westminsterakron.org under "electronic giving." Or send a check to the church with "Christmas Baskets" in the memo line. We also need plenty of delivery drivers to make this a success. Email elabbe@roadrunner.com if you can help.

Giving Tree Drop Off Please donate new gloves, hats, scarves and socks this holiday season to benefit homeless women and children in the Access shelter. Our Giving Tree will be placed in Wright-Herberich Hall. Collection dates will be Sunday, December 6, 13 and 20 between 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Zoom Fellowship Today at 4 p.m. With Covid-19 cases on the rise, and Summit County now under a stay-at-home advisory, we imagine that many of you are longing for connection. We invite you to join us that day at 4:00 p.m. for a church-wide Zoom fellowship. This is the Zoom link to take part: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81015631993?pwd=MIk1SFZRaVlpGZjYwR1FRTGFQVkpOUTo9> Meeting ID: 810 1563 1993 - Passcode: 444018. We look forward to seeing you then.

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of November 29–December 5, 2020	
<p>Sunday, 11/29</p> <p>9:15 am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:45 am Tween Sunday School via Zoom</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live</p> <p>4:00 pm Zoom Meeting for Church Members/Fellowship</p>	<p>Monday, 11/30</p> <p>7:00 pm Bible Study Zoom Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 12/3</p> <p>9:30 am Zoom WPC Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Zoom Adult Education</p> <p>Saturday 12/5</p> <p>9:30 am Food For Life in the Kitchen</p>

Giving Online During these difficult times, the church remains grateful for your faithful support. To give electronically on WPC website click under the tab "online giving" and use this QR Code.



The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Staff schedule in the office: **Monday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Tuesday** - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard, Claudine Schooley, and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, Adam Kalcic, and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, and Adam Kalcic.