

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent



**December 20, 2020  
at 10:30 a.m.  
on Facebook **Live****

**or on our church website  
at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org)**

**Family Sunday**

## COME

Opening Voluntary    Two Duets on Christmas Tunes    *Noel Nouvelet*    *Pat-a-Pan*  
*Bob Carlyon, organ & Valerie Thorson, harpsichord*

*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](http://westminsterakron.org).*

\*Call to Worship

Liam Hauerwas

The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.

**We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

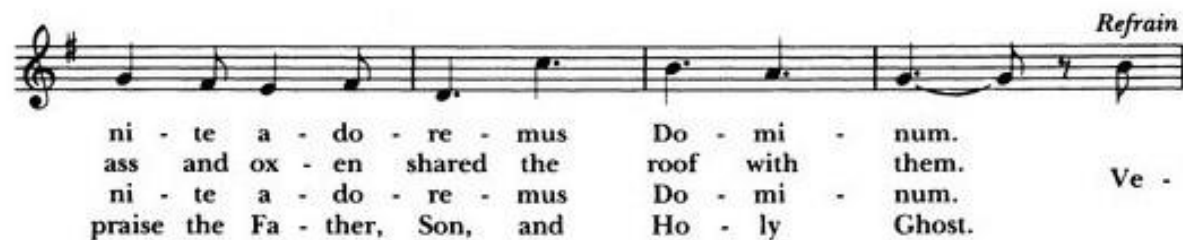
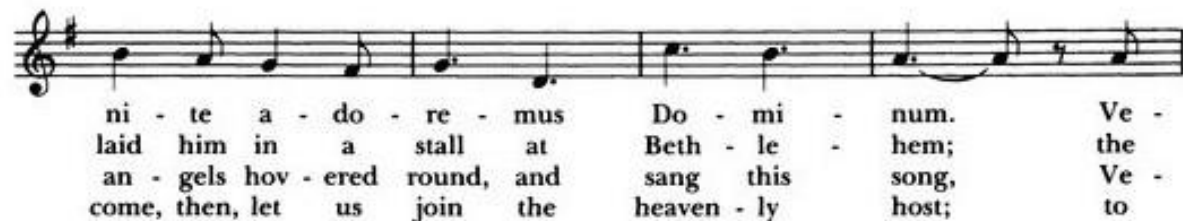
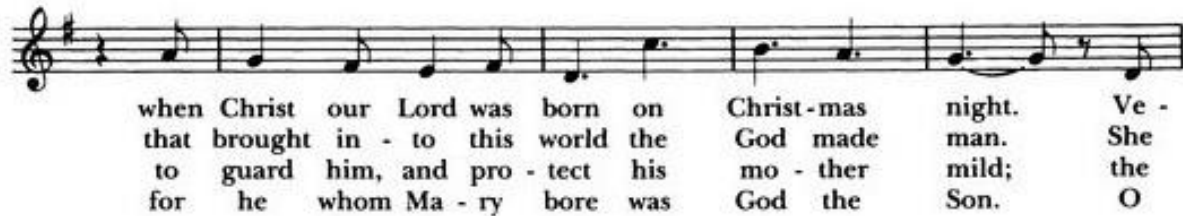
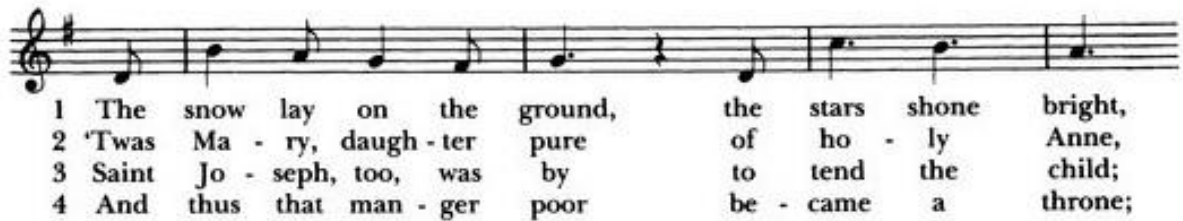
The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

**We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn.

**Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, holding fast to what is good,**

**we are witnesses to the light of Christ!**



Lighting of the Advent Candles

Liam Hauerwas

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.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel ("God is with us").

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

## ENCOUNTER

### Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to the One whose mercy endures from generation to generation.

### Prayer of Confession

**Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. 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

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.

\*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.**

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

At this time of year, the abundance of some and the needs of so many stand in marked contrast. As we bring now our tithes and offerings, may Christ's heart rejoice and the needs of others be tended.

Anthem

Mary, Did You Know

*Zachary Troyer, soloist*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? The child that  
you delivered will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? When you  
kissed your little baby, Then you kissed the face of God.*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again; The lame will  
leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary, did  
you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know  
that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb? This sleeping child you're  
holding is the great, the great I AM!*

\*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.**

**GROW**

Prayer for Illumination

Astonishing God, send your Holy Spirit upon us as we await the coming of your Son. Fill us with good things that we may conceive your reign on earth through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Old Testament

- 1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
- 2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
- 3 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:
- 4 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

- 19 Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: "I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.
- 20 I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;
- 21 my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.
- 22 The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.
- 25 I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.
- 26 He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'"

The Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

New Testament

- 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be

impossible with God.” 38 Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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

Sermon

Son of Mary

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

## SERVE

### Prayers of the People

Let us join our voices with Mary, who celebrates God’s greatness and sings of God’s blessing for all who are poor and oppressed.

Eternal God, we pray for the world, that our warring ways may be overturned, even now, through the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ; for nothing is impossible with you.

We pray for the mission of your church, that we may proclaim the good news of the age as we rejoice in the gift of our Savior.

We pray for all who suffer, that we may feed the hungry and lift up the lowly through the power of your holy and life-giving Spirit.

We pray for your creation, that we may safeguard its well-being from generation to generation to your honor and glory.

We remember before you those who have died and pray for those who will die today, that they may rest with you eternally in your kingdom where there is no end.

Through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we magnify you, almighty God, forever and ever. **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.**

## The Christmas Story - Children's Virtual Christmas Pageant

*Please remain on our Facebook page as we will switch the live stream to the pageant video (including our closing Hymn), our closing benediction, and special postlude music.*

\*Hymn 40, verses 1 and 4

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re - ceive her King; Let
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their songs em - ploy; While
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground; He
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove The



ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the sounding joy, Re -  
comes to make His bless - ings flow Far as the curse is found, Far  
glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness, And won - ders of His love, And



heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
won - ders of His love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

### \*Charge and Benediction

Do not be afraid, for God is with you,  
and will strengthen you in your journey through Jesus Christ,  
to whom be the glory forever!

Magnify the Lord and rejoice,  
for nothing is impossible with God.  
And the blessing of God,  
who creates, redeems, and restores,  
be with you now and always.

Voluntary

Duet on "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

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



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Flowers For Chancel** As we will continue online worship in the new year we thank all those who have made flower memorials this past year. Flower arrangements have added a richness to our worship experience. If you would like to make a flower donation in love or in memory in the coming year please contact Kristy Yates at [ksjyates@gmail.com](mailto:ksjyates@gmail.com).



## **Giving Tree Drop Off**

We will be collecting your gifts today on December 20 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Thank you for your generous participation.

## **Monthly Financial Report**

November 2020	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$31,369	\$41,370	\$513,390	*\$562,265
Total Expenses	\$35,822	\$54,169	\$446,807	\$567,735
Net	(\$4,453)	(\$12,799)	\$66,583	(\$5,470)

\*Budgeted total revenues include anticipated withdrawals from Rowley investments necessary to balance the budget totaling \$20,969 for the year.

Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the detailed financial report for the period ending November 30, 2020.



**Youth Calendar/Confirmation class** There is no Youth Group Zoom meeting Sunday, December 27 and Sunday, January 3. Confirmation class will start via zoom on January, 10 at 7:00 p.m.

**Virtual New Year's Fellowship Event** Zoom in on Sunday, January 3 at 4:00 p.m. to wish your WPC friends a Happy New Year! Noisemakers, silly party hats, and glasses (both the kind you wear and the kind you drink out of) are encouraged! Zoom link to join the meeting: Passcode: 909310  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85744261600?pwd=THVuVlZ2OXJlMXBpVnpJM3RlVHpuUT09>



### **Puzzle Exchange Box**

A reminder to jigsaw puzzle fans - check out the puzzle exchange box by the back door. It is getting pretty full of a variety of puzzles! Feel free to bring puzzles you are ready to pass along, and/or take one to enjoy.

**Today Food Distribution starts at 1:00 p.m. & the Free Hot Meal Dinner for the community is at 5:00 p.m.**

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of December 20 - 26, 2020	
<b>Sunday, 12/20</b> 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 1:00 pm Giving Tree Drop Off 1:00 pm Food Distribution 5:00 pm Free Hot Meal	<b>Monday, 12/21</b> 6:30 pm Evening Circle Zoom Meeting 7:00 pm Bible Study Zoom Meeting <b>Thursday 12/24 Christmas Eve</b> <b>Offices closed</b> 4:45 pm Candlelight Service on Facebook Live <b>Friday 12/25 Christmas Day</b> <b>Offices closed</b>

**Church offices will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and on Friday, December 25 and also on Thursday, December 31 and on Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the Holidays.**



## **2020 Christmas Poinsettias Memorials and Gifts**

- In loving memory of Kaye Lebold from Charles Lebold & family
- In memory of John Holcomb from Marcia Holcomb & family
- In memory of Bob & Betty Johnson, Laurie Johnson Fox and Neil Johnson from Paul & Candy Johnson
- In memory of loved ones from Pat Schumacher
- In loving memory of Jon Daugherty from Ellen Daugherty
- In memory of our parents from Art & Jean Schooley
- In loving memory of Claude Wilton by Anna Marie Wilton & family
- In loving memory of Jules & Claire Pommier and Nancy Schiring from Bill Blackstone
- In memory of Ed's parents, Chuck & Marilyn Labbe and in honor of Laurel's parents, Millard & Martha Manning from Ed & Laurel Labbe
- In loving memory of Robert J. "Bob" Werner from Shirley Werner & family
- In loving memory of her husband, Jack Keogh; her parents, Dr. & Mrs. Edward H. Jones, Jr. and her brother, Douglas Edward Jones from Dr. Nancy Keogh
- In memory of my grandfathers, William O. Yates & Clarence D. Mann from Kacey Yates Gable
- In loving memory of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Sears from Sandy Gruneich
- In loving memory of our grandparents & great grandparents Hanna, Melver, Tutt & Ward from Cathy, Kevin & Zoe Melver
- In loving memory of our parents, Don & Marian Donaldson and Harry & Mary Ellen Shriner from Jim & Barb Shriner
- In honor of Jo Barnes and in memory of Bill & David Barnes from Bruce & Pookie Barnes, Brittany, Nichole & Winnie
- In loving memory of William Brideweser MD from Margaret Brideweser & family