

# Epiphany



**January 2, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Follow us also on**



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

*At the ringing of the chimes please silence your conversations and prepare your hearts and minds for an encounter with the Living God. We also ask that you power off your cell phones to prevent interference with our live-streaming and recording equipment.*

***Please rise in body or spirit.***

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

# COME

Opening Voluntary      Arioso from Cantata No. 156      J.S. Bach  
Arr. H. Hobson  
Mason Meyer, guest organist

\*Call to Worship      Isaiah 60      Alec Works

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

**People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Leader: Come, worship the Lord of glory.

**People: Proclaim God's praise among the nations.**

\*Hymn #22      Angels, from the Realms of Glory  
REGENT SQUARE

# ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ 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

This is the good news: Christ is the light of the world, who grants forgiveness and healing of our sins.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Response 567

Glory Be to the Father

*Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen. Amen. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace - Greet both friends and strangers saying,  
**The peace of Christ be with you.**

*During this time of pandemic, a nod of the head and wave of the hand will suffice.*

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

God intends to unite all creation, so that all may share in the promises of God's new reign. Therefore with gratitude and joy, let us render tributes and bring gifts, for we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in Christ.

Organ Offertory

Theme and Variations on Noel Nouvelet

(Three Variations) - Arr. W.L. Wold  
Christopher Meyer, Guest Organist

*Offering plates may be found as you exit the sanctuary.*

\*Response 592 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Doxology*

*OLD HUNDREDTH*

**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.**

*Following the Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to remain with their families or to visit with our childcare staff in the nursery.*

## GROW

### Prayer for Illumination

Shine upon us, God of glory, and by your Spirit reveal to us the grace and truth of Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Old Testament

1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

5 May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

12 For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

13 He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Hymn #51

See Amid the Winter's Snow

HUMILITY

The Second Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,  
2 asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'  
3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;  
4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.  
5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:  
6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'  
7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.  
8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'  
9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.  
10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.  
11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Sermon

Your Light Has Come!

The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby

# SERVE

## \*Affirmation of Faith

**God saves the world through Jesus. Those who call on that name will have life. Christ's hand reaches out beyond those who say "Lord" to the infants who live in the atmosphere of faith, even to the farthest stars and planets of all creation. The boundaries of God's love are not known; the Spirit works at the ends of the world before the church has itself spoken a word. God will renew the world through Jesus, who will put all unrighteousness out, purify the works of human hands, and perfect their fellowship in divine love. Christ will wipe away every tear; death shall be no more. There will be a new heaven and a new earth, and all creation will be filled with God's glory.**

## Prayers of the People

We confess, Lord, that because we do not always behave the way we desire for ourselves, there are times when your abiding presence makes us squirm, when the brilliance of your light makes us scurry for cover.

We are ashamed of some of the things we do as you walk alongside us, of some of the thoughts we entertain in the deep places of our hearts. Yet in your grace you continue to stick with us. Your faithful constancy is our companion in joys and a source of relief in sorrow. Thank you for being with us through the many turns and twists our paths took last year.

And now as we enter a new year, bathed in the sacred light of Epiphany, we sense anew how much we need your providential presence. We know that in past months loved ones have suddenly died, precious jobs were suddenly terminated, illnesses both suspected and unexpected were diagnosed - and suddenly all of life changed. So many things surprised us about 2021, O God, and we do not have the vision that can penetrate the months ahead in this new year. All we can do is petition for your mercy and strength to face what is to come. But we pray too that you will keep us in good health, in perfect safety, and in the knowledge that we are loved by you and also by family and friends.

We need that sense of love, O God, because we know there are so many around us who lack this awareness. So many are lonely. So many endured the holiday season with only a grim determination to keep getting out of bed in the morning. The lonely among us are often the invisible among us. But you see them, and by the prompting of your Spirit, you can enable us to see and care for them as well.

We pray silently...

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

**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 #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

\*Charge and Benediction

Let your life bear witness to Christ,  
the light who has come to the world.

And may God, the ruler of heaven and earth, dismiss you in peace;

Jesus Christ, the light of the world, uphold you in love;

and the Holy Spirit, the revealer of God's mystery, lead you in truth, now  
and forevermore. Amen.

Voluntary

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

I. Chorale II. Toccata

Heinrich Fleischer

*Christopher Meyer*



## **Our Musicians Today**

### **Mason Meyer**

Mason is a born and raised Akronite who at a young age became interested in the organ, liturgical music, and classical music. His family encouraged lessons, and he has been hooked ever since. Although not professionally trained, Mason plays as a regular substitute organist for a number of churches throughout northeast Ohio. He continues his studies with Organist/Choirmaster Daniel Fortune at St. Paul's Episcopal in Akron. His wife, Megan, is a trained soprano and teaches Choir at Firestone High School. Mason is the Senior VP/Director of Sales at the Rubber City Radio Group in Akron.

### **Christopher Meyer**

With two musicians as parents, it wasn't a surprise that at age nine Chris began piano lessons. He studied with Craig Ames in Boca Raton, Florida for three years. After moving to Ohio in 2015 he continued piano studies in addition to joining a band and learning to play a variety of instruments including the French horn, mellophone, marimba, glockenspiel, and other marching band "pit" percussion. He was awarded an organ scholarship for three years at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron under the study of Ruth Anderson. In 2021 he began organ study with Dan Fortune at St. Paul's Episcopal and continues piano with Jennifer Stenroos in Bath. Last, Chris has also taken to the bass guitar and plays a vast variety of rock, funk, jazz, and blues.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**February/March Script** Deadline is on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 to send your articles and pictures.

**Taking Down the Greens** Please stay after worship today to help removing the greens.

**Family Skating Event** All are welcome to enjoy activities at Lock 3 such as ice skating and Polar Putt Putt on Sunday, January 9 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Please dispose of your used masks in the trash receptacles located in the narthex and Wright-Herberich Hall.**



## Calendar of Church Events week of January 2—9, 2022

### **Sunday, 1/2, 2022**

10:15 am Nursery Opens

10:30 am Worship Service in Sanctuary & on YouTube Livestream  
The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby Preaching  
First Sunday Food Collection

11:30 am Removing of the Greens

### **Monday, 1/3, 2022 Church Offices will be closed**

### **Thursday, 1/6**

9:30 am WPC Staff Meeting in the Library

### **Saturday, 1/8**

8:00 am Food for life in the kitchen

### **Sunday, 1/9, 2022**

8:30 am Nursery Opens

8:45 am Adult Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room

9:30 am Youth Choir in Youth Room

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am Parenting Group

10:30 am Worship Service with Communion in Sanctuary  
& on YouTube Livestream

The Reverend Cathy Ulrich Preaching

Children's Choir in the Choir Room

11:40 am Outreach Meeting in Room 106

3:00 pm Family Ice Skating at Lock 3

*Happy  
New Year* ★★

For the most recent CDC guidance, we encourage you to visit:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

**Westminster's policy presently includes the following:**

- Masks are now optional for all vaccinated adults. Unvaccinated adults are asked to continue masking.
- Masks are also optional for children and youth of every age, whether they have been vaccinated or not. This is at the discretion of the parent or guardian of the child or youth.
- For the protection of our children, all nursery workers are fully vaccinated and wearing masks.
- Solos and congregational singing will continue both with and without masks.
- We will continue to observe social distancing measures, and the ushers will assist worshippers with seating in the sanctuary. The pews where worshippers are asked to sit are marked with a green sticker. If you would prefer to sit at a greater distance from others, please inform an usher who can guide you to a place where you will feel more comfortable.
- We have returned hymnals, Bibles, and giving envelopes to pews with green stickers. Offering trays and fellowship pads will not be passed at this time. Offering trays may be found at the entrance to the worship space.
- Livestreaming services will continue on YouTube.

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



Staff Schedule in the Office:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Claudine Schooley		Claudine Schooley	Claudine Schooley	Claudine Schooley
WPC Church Office <a href="mailto:wpcoffice1250@gmail.com">wpcoffice1250@gmail.com</a>				
	Margo Works	Margo Works	Margo Works	
Director of Children, Family, and Youth <a href="mailto:wpccchildren1250@gmail.com">wpccchildren1250@gmail.com</a>				
	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	
Music Director/Organist <a href="mailto:wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com">wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com</a>				
WPC Church Finance <a href="mailto:wpcfinance1250@gmail.com">wpcfinance1250@gmail.com</a>				
Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	
Daytime Custodian <a href="mailto:wpcbuilding@gmail.com">wpcbuilding@gmail.com</a>				

Other Staff:

Val Stewart, Director of Children's Choir [wpccchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpccchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com)

Laurel Labbe, Youth Music [llabbe@roadrunner.com](mailto:llabbe@roadrunner.com)

Traci Range, Director of Childcare [wpccchildcare1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpccchildcare1250@gmail.com)

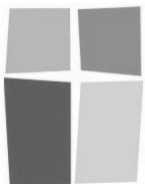
Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician

Volunteers:

Kristy Yates, Director of Adult Bell Choir

Shelley Koutnik, Head of Staff

*The Church Office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.*



Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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