

with all the world. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you and all whom you love, this day and forevermore.  
Go into the night, glorifying and praising God for all you have seen and heard.  
May Christ be your light this night and forevermore.

#### Departing Music



Theron Brown, *piano, leader*  
Jordan McBride, *bass*  
Zaire Darden, *drums*  
Chris Coles, *saxophone*  
Tommy Lehman, *trumpet, vocals*

#### Advent CALENDAR

#### Month of December

**Friday, December 24**  
**5:00 pm Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Service**

*Paragon Brass & Choir*  
Pastor Tom Ulrich preaching  
Church Offices Closed

**Saturday, December 25**  
***Merry Christmas!***

**Sunday, December 26**  
**10:30 am** Lessons & carols  
Pastor Tom Ulrich preaching

*In order to accommodate the anticipated large number of worshipers for the Christmas Eve service, all pews will be open for seating and all worshipers will be required to wear masks.*



Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

1250 W Exchange • Akron, Ohio • [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org) • 330-836-2226

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

# WELCOME



To Westminster Presbyterian  
Christmas Jazz Vespers Service  
December 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Follow us also on

**You Tube**  
LIVESTREAM

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

Gathering Music

Christmas Time is Here  
The Christmas Song  
I'll be Home for Christmas

\*Call to Worship

Steve Harp

Leader: May the Word of God awaken new hope in our lives.  
**People: Let us watch for the bright and morning Star that fills the dawn with heavenly music.**  
Leader: May the Lord of love summon us to dance in the joy of God’s coming kingdom.  
**People: Let us look for God’s Light that opens our eyes to new visions.**  
Leader: May the Composer of the universe inspire us to participate in the choirs of creation.  
**People: Let us worship the One about whose birth the angels sing.**

Congregational Carol #9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
VENI EMMANUEL

Announcements and Welcome

The Reverend Tom Ulrich

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

James, Mallory, Gabrielle, Samuel and William Gray

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God’s unending love and faithfulness.  
**Jesus Christ is the brightest revelation of God’s love. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**  
Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
**but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**  
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory,  
**the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Moment of Meditation

Steve Harp

Musical Meditation

Away in the Manger     Arr. Theron Brown

Psalm Reading

Psalm 80:1-7     Kate Clark

Congregational Carol #23

Angels We Have Heard on High     GLORIA

Poetry Reading

The First Christmas     by Marian Swinger

Prayer for Illumination

Steve Harp

God of mystery and music, Lord of holiness and harmony, in the middle of our busy time of the year, quiet our hearts and minds so that our ears may be tuned to hear the message You impart to us. Speak to us through the lyrics of Your love revealed in Scripture, so that in hearing what You say to us, Your rhythms of renewal and Your cadence of grace would resonate in the depths of our souls, and we would be prepared to embrace Your Word, the Word who became flesh and lived among us, for we ask it in the name of the One to whom the choirs of angels sing, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Congregational Carol #53

What Child Is This     GREENSLEEVES

Scripture

Luke 1:39-55     The Reverend Tom Ulrich

Musical Meditation

O Holy Night

Sermon

The First Christmas Carol     The Reverend Tom Ulrich

Congregational Carol #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain  
(Congregation sings on refrain)  
*REFRAIN    Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

\*Charge and Benediction

Throughout this season, may you be filled with Advent’s music of hope, peace, joy, and love; and may God inspire you to sing a new song, to participate in the dance of life, and to share the melodies of God’s grace