

Epiphany of the Lord



January 9, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Follow us also on



or on our church website at 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

We Three Kings

Adult Handbell Ensemble

*Call to Worship

Kate Huisinga

Let us sing with gladness,

For the love of God has come to dwell on earth.

Let us shout with joy,

For the grace of God is at work in our lives.

Let us praise God, the giver of all blessings,

For he is the One who brings peace among us.

Let us give thanks, let our hearts rejoice,

For the One who brings God's love is alive with us.

*Hymn #63

As with Gladness, Men of Old

DIX

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Isaiah proclaimed: Darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you. Let us acknowledge the darkness in our lives, repent of our sin, and receive the light of God's mercy.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, Light of the world, we confess that we have not resisted the darkness of sin. You deliver the poor and the helpless, but we have ignored their cry. You take pity on the weak and the destitute, but our hearts are hard in the face of their need. You heal the wounded and save the oppressed but we have placed our trust in the callous violence of war. Forgive us, we pray. Awaken in us sincere repentance that we may shine with the light of your saving grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Beloved of God, thrill and rejoice in God's goodness. In the name of
Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

*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

The magi brought gifts to Christ at his nativity and offered their lives in
worship. With thankful hearts, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to
God.

Offertory Anthem The Morning Star Francis F. Hagen

*Morning Star, in darkest night, strikes the earth with joyful light;
Jesulein, Come be mine, fill my heart with light divine.
Thine own sparkling splendor bright, far excels the sun's great light;
Thou alone, Jesulein, art a thousand suns sublime.
Thy luxurious radiant beams, follow we eternally;
Fairest star, near and far, honor thee as Christ the Lord.
Now, O come, my soul's true light, come be mine, dispel my night,
Jesulein, Come be mine, fill my heart with light divine.*

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.**

Time with Young Disciples

Stephanie Blaha

*Following the Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to
remain with their families, participate in the children's K-6 choir
rehearsal in room 207 or 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, 12-14

Old Testament

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with
justice.

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

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

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

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

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

For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy
From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood
in his sight.

The Second Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “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.” ’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.’ 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. 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

Presents and Presence

The Reverend Cathy Ulrich

SERVE

Pre-made Communion packets are available for you. Please see the ushers for assistance. In keeping with social distancing protocols, the congregation will not be coming forward to receive the elements. Instead, you are encouraged to receive the elements in your pew at the appropriate time.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

John 6:35

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister offers thanksgiving for the work of God in creation.

We give thanks that in the creation of the world, you laid the earth’s foundation and set its cornerstone in place. By the power of your Spirit you made the universe; by the might of your Word you gave us life. We give thanks that in the new creation, when you gave your Son to raise us up again, since we and all our human race had fallen, you claimed us for your own people, that we might proclaim the glorious deeds of him who has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. By the life of your Spirit you fill the hearts of the faithful, by the light of your Word

you give us strength and love. Therefore, with your people of all places and times and with the whole company of heaven we proclaim your greatness and sing your praise.

Together let us sing:

Hymn #138

(verse 1)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

The minister offers thanksgiving for the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Alpha and Omega, show forth among us the presence of your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit, to sanctify us and your whole church through this sacrament. Grant that all who share the bread of life and cup of salvation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, may be one in him and may remain faithful in love and hope. And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

Christ is the bread of life: **When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your life, ministry, death, and resurrection, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

In one voice, let us offer the words of 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.

Words of Institution

“The bread of life.” “The cup of salvation.”

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Communion Hymn #517 We Come as Guests Invited
WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

Prayer following Communion

O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace, that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills, and our works, a continual thank-offering to you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn #67 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning
MORNING STAR

*Charge and Benediction

Go out into the world in peace,
Have courage,
Hold on to what is good,
Return no one evil for evil,
Support the weak and help the suffering,
Honor all people,
Love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the peace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you and abide with you and those whom you love. Amen.

Voluntary In dir ist Freude “In Thee Is Gladness” Harald Rohlig



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Script Deadline is on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

Family Skating Event All are welcome to enjoy activities at Lock 3 such as ice skating and Polar Putt-Putt. The event is rescheduled on Sunday, January 23, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Youth Bowling Event will be Saturday, January 15 at 1:00 pm. Meet at Riviera Lanes in Fairlawn. Hope to see you then. Please RSVP!

The WPC Men's Lunch Group will not meet in January.



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 9—16, 2022

Sunday, 1/9

- 8:30 am Nursery Opens
- 8:45 am Adult Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room
- 9:30 am Youth Choir in Youth Room - Sunday School - Parenting Group
- 10:30 am Worship Service with Communion in Sanctuary & YouTube Livestream - The Reverend Cathy Ulrich Preaching - Children's Choir in the Choir Room
- 11:40 am Outreach Meeting in Room 106

Monday, 1/10

- 7:00 pm Book Discussion at El Rancho

Tuesday, 1/11

- 2:30 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal in Chancel
- 7:00 pm Properties Committee Meeting in WHH

Wednesday, 1/12

- 7:00 pm Discipleship Zoom Meeting

Thursday, 1/13

- 9:30 am WPC Staff Meeting in the Library
- 7:00 pm Adult Education Zoom Meeting

Saturday, 1/15

- 8:00 am Food for Life in the kitchen
- 1:00 pm Youth Bowling at Riviera Lanes

Sunday, 1/16

- 8:30 am Nursery Opens
- 8:45 am Adult Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room
- 9:30 am Sunday School - Parenting Group
- 10:30 am Worship Service & YouTube Livestream
The Reverend Dr. Sandy Selby Preaching
Children's Choir in the Choir Room
- 11:30 am Worship Committee Meeting in Room 106

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 wpcoffice1250@gmail.com				
	Margo Works	Margo Works	Margo Works	
Director of Children, Family, and Youth wpcchildren1250@gmail.com				
	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	
Music Director/Organist wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com				
WPC Church Finance wpcfinance1250@gmail.com				
Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	
Daytime Custodian wpcbuilding@gmail.com				

Other Staff:

Val Stewart, Director of Children's Choir wpcchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com

Laurel Labbe, Youth Music llabbe@roadrunner.com

Traci Range, Director of Childcare wpcchildcare1250@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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