



# Westminster Presbyterian Church

December 1, 2024  
First Sunday of Advent  
Advent Hope

*Good News to the Shepherds*  
by Sadao Watanabe, 1979

PRELUDE "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

PREPARATION MUSIC "Waiting For Baby Jesus" arr. Kristen Allred

INTROIT "Come and Find the Quiet Center" #2128 (*Sing the Faith*)

***Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
Find the room for hope to enter, find the space where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see  
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.***

***Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,  
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.***

***In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.***

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

SCRIPTURE Lamentations 3: 20-22

We say, with the writer of Lamentations:

**My soul ... is bowed down within me,  
But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.  
God's mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning."**

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE... a moment of quiet reflection

## PRAYER

Light of the world, we struggle to find hope for our own lives and for our world. We long to hear good news. We wonder if our efforts matter. But you stay with us through times of despair. You show us signs of hope, and ask us to be attentive, and to trust in you. Help us to see the light of your hope this Advent, we pray. Amen.

## \*HYMN

### "Canticle of the Turning"

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

*Refrain:*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.*

*Refrain*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.*

*Refrain*

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
'Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.*

*Refrain*

## PRAYER

(adapted from a prayer written by Kathy Coffey, re-worship.blogspot.com)

God, who in love sent Jesus, to love and redeem your world and all its people, we are grateful that you see our fears and our brokenness, and you love us anyway. **Guide us through this season with quiet, glad anticipation. Help us to pay attention to the poor and needy, and to the lonely among us. Give us a spirit of reflection, patience with each other, and hearts brimming with thanks. Make us receptive to your word and spirit in these days, we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 31:31-34, 38-40

ANTHEM

"Bring Us Hope"

Ruth Elaine Schram

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

SERMON

"Days Are Coming..."

Pastor Jerry

HYMN "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" verses 1-2 #5 (Hymnal)  
*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth. Our full homage to demand.*  
*King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.*

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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.**

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

#### 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

#### SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC "Come Emmanuel" arr. James Koerts

PRAYER OF PRAISE Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
**And bless God's holy name.**  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
**And forget not all God's benefits.**

\*HYMN "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" verses 3-4 #5 (Hymnal)  
*Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.*  
*At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high.*

#### \*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" verse 1 #20 (Hymnal)  
*Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height, see that glory-beaming star.  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray aught of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.*

POSTLUDE "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. Mark Hayes

