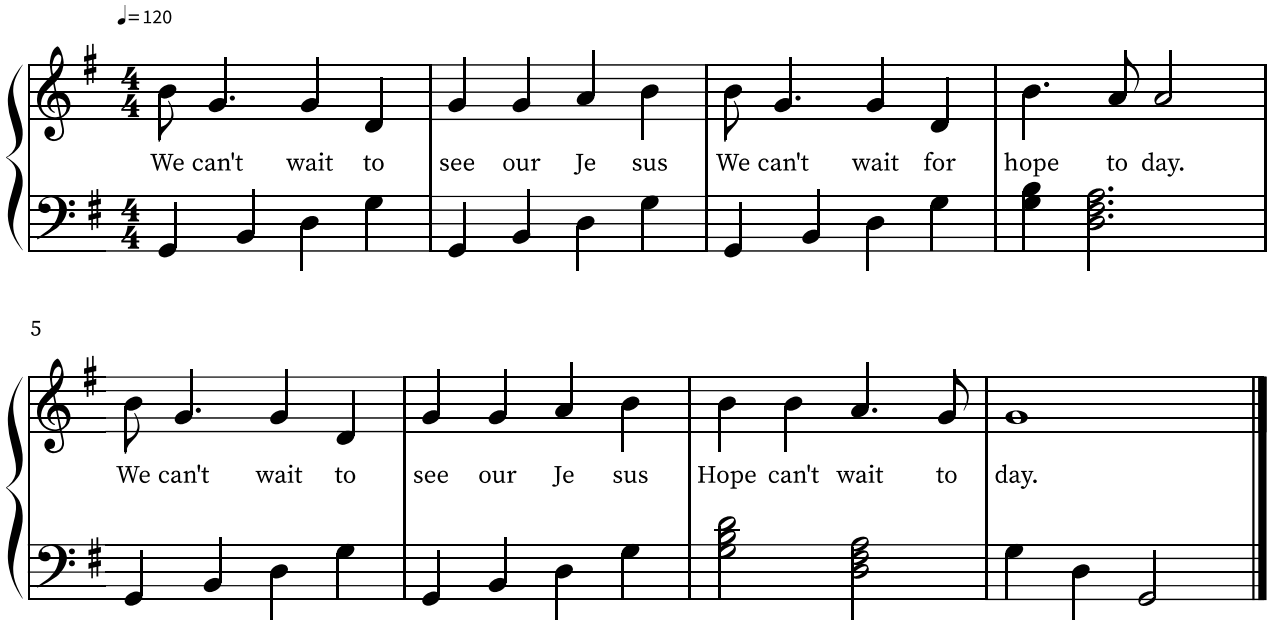
Westminster
Presbyterian Church
353 E. Pine St., Wooster, OH. 44691
330-263-2398 / wpcwooster.org

December 4, 2022
Second Sunday in Advent

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Let us open our hearts and minds to the rhythm of the gathering music as it centers us in God's presence for worship.

Gathering Song **"We Can't Wait"** **Pam Funai**



2. Peace
3. Joy
4. Love

Candle Lighting Litany **Dorothy Iams and Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

What are you afraid of?
Hear the answers of different generations from our community:

Not being enough.
Not having someone to take care of me, someone who knows my stories.
Snakes.
Making the wrong decision.
The future of my grandchildren.
Something bad happening to someone I love.
Not having the gumption to do what God calls me to do.

What gives us peace when we are afraid?
Today we light the candle of peace because we so desperately need God's peace in the midst of all we fear.

May this light be a reminder that Christ is coming. God was with generations before, God is with us today, and God will be with us tomorrow. Even now, God is on the way. Amen.

Gathering Hymn No. 104** **"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"** ***Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

Call to Confession **Dorothy Iams**

Fear can be a good thing. It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway. It can alert us to possible accidents. It can motivate us to do our best.

However, fear can also be harmful.
For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to make sinful choices in our lives—choices such as building walls or tearing others down.

Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. As we confess, we come before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, "Do not be afraid." Let us pray together our prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession **Dorothy Iams**

Patient God,
you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love.
You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives.
You know just how often we tuck your words, "Do not be afraid" on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view.

Forgive us for giving fear the microphone.
Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear,
to recenter us in love. With hope we pray, amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 90 **"Wait for the Lord" (sung multiple times)** ***Taize, Berthier***

Assurance of Forgiveness **Dorothy Iams**

Family of faith,
even when we forget God's words,
God does not forget us.
Even when we lose our way,
God does not lose us.

Even when we fall short or make mistakes, God forgives and holds onto us.
We are known, forgiven, and loved. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Offering **"Prepare the Way, O Zion"** ***setting by R. J. Powell***
14th century Swedish folk tune – Susan Shaw, Flute

We offer our gifts of money, talents, time, and energy—the gifts of our lives in gratitude for God's relentless love and grace for all. These gifts represent our commitment to heed God's call and join God in God's mission of healing and transforming our world.

Prayer of Illumination **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading **Luke 1:26-38** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**
(New Revised Standard Version)

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.

Sermon **God Meets Us in Our Fear** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 536** **"Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen"** ***Surge Ecclesia

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving **Rev. Dr. Eniko Ferenczy**

This liturgy uses the names for the Trinity found in the First Nation Version of the gospels. It is a reminder that "generation to generation" includes more than our mostly White, European experience; that no one owns the Christmas story.

God, the Creator, in the same way you spoke all there is into existence, you wove a tapestry of redemption plan. We trace the story from our walks with you in the Garden, to the moment we realized you heard our cries in our

oppression, to manna in our wilderness wanderings, and into the gift of a land filled with Promise. Present with us in times of both exile and blessing, we trust in your faithful love.

Creator Sets Free, Chosen One, you left the glory of heaven to walk in our humanity with us. Teaching the truth, welcoming the outcast, eating with sinners, loving all — you made us part of your story. In your grace, you welcome us siblings. Bathed in your love, you call us by your name.

Spirit of the Creator, you are the bearer of righteousness, peace, and joy within us. When we wander away, you remind us that there is nowhere we can flee from your presence. When we create walls to keep others out, you remind us that there is a place for everyone in God's family tree. With your Spirit of wisdom and truth, we are part of God's continuing story of redemption.
Holy Spirit rain down your love and grace upon us. As we gather at your Table, offering the cup and loaf, bring us into full communion as the Body of Christ. Make us one with our Risen Lord as we celebrate this sacrament in his presence.

In the way that you are one — Creator, Creator Sets Free, and Spirit of the Creator — we join our voices together praying the words you gave to us, each using those we find most familiar, saying:

Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kin-dom come,
Your will be done, on earth as is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

Closing Hymn No. 87** **"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"** ***Genevan

***Benediction** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation,
we have been claimed and loved.
From generation to generation, God has been by our side.
From generation to generation, we are not alone.

The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name,
loves you, and calls you forth, saying,
"Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."
May it be so. Amen.

Postlude **"People Look East"** ***setting by R. J. Powell***
"Besancon," trad. French Carol – Susan Shaw, Flute

*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*The words for worship were *Adapted from a liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."* The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving is written by Rev. Michelle Henrichs.
*Music: Organ - Tom Shaw
Flute – Susan Shaw

The service continues with fellowship.



To continue to assure the safety of all, the offering plate is located on a table in the back of the sanctuary. If you are moved to support our ministry, we invite you to place your gifts in the plate.

You may also give online through our website by clicking on the "GIVE NOW" button at the bottom of the home page.

GIVE NOW

Your generosity helps us to fulfill our calling to engage in God's transformative mission in our community.

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday in Advent
- Choir Rehearsal – 9 am – The Meeting Place
- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10:30 am – The Meeting Place

Wednesday, December 7
- Advent Dinner Conversations continue - 6 pm - in homes

Thursday, December 8
- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place
- Vegan supper for students – 6 pm – Mackey Hall

Sunday, December 11, Third Sunday in Advent
- Choir Rehearsal – 9 am – The Meeting Place
- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10:30 am – The Meeting Place

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Minister of Music Rev. Dr. Thomas Shaw
Office Administrator Rev. Dr. Jim Henery
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola
Custodian Kara Akers

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

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Westminster Presbyterian Church strives to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless of ethnicity, creed, age, cultural background, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

TEXT: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. Catherine Winkworth and others, 1863, alt.
MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1614; harm. William Henry Monk, 1861

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
7.6.7.6.D

90 Wait for the Lord

(Psalm 27)

Refrain



PSALM 27

Refrain

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?
the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 **When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,**
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army should encamp against me,
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

and though war should rise up against me,
yet will I put my trust in the LORD.

4 One thing have I asked of the LORD;
one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

to behold the fair beauty of the LORD,
to seek God in the temple. *Refrain*

5 For on the day of trouble the LORD shall shelter me in safety;
the LORD shall hide me in the secrecy of the holy place
and set me high upon a rock.

6 **Even now the LORD lifts up my head**
above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in the holy place an oblation
with sounds of great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the LORD. *Refrain*

The refrain for this psalm, drawn from Psalm 27:14, comes from the ecumenical Community of Taizé in France and is most effective when sung in parts. With repeated singing, it can also be used by itself as a contemplative prayer and is especially appropriate in Advent.

TEXT Ref. Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
Responsive Reading © 1993 the Order of St. Benedict (admin. The Liturgical Press)

LORD'S SUPPER

536 Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The second line of the first stanza shows that this hymn is meant for use in the context of the Lord's Supper, but the last stanza further clarifies its special purpose as a sending hymn celebrating the values guiding the work of the church in the world: service, courage, mercy.

TEXT: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1997
MUSIC: Timothy J. Strand, 1997
SURGE ECCLESIA
8.7.8.7.8.7

Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien (admin. Augsburg Fortress)
Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1–5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

TEXT: Johannes Olearius, 1671; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

GENEVAN 42
8.7.8.7.7.7.8.8