# WARD PARKWAY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH




## 1st Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

7406 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64114
www.wppresbyterian.org 816.361.2200

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

# WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## *GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE*

**PRELUDE**

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**WELCOME**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The power of dreams lies in waking up. For when we close our eyes,
**We can see a better world.**
When we close our eyes,
**We dream a better dream.**
When we open our eyes,
**We begin the work of faith.**
The power of worship is the same. When we enter this space,
**We see a better world.**
When we enter this space,
**We dream a better dream.**
But when we leave this space,
**We begin the work of faith.**
So, come in. Dream your dream.
**Find hope here.**
For in an hour,
**We begin the work of faith.**
Let it be so.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Hope**

A: I dream of sunflower fields.
B: I dream of key lime pie with a mile-high meringue.
A: I dream of the days when we could be part of a crowd.
B: I dream of snow days.
A: I dream of empty beds in jail cells.
B: I dream of a world that will let kids be kids.
A: I dream of full tables instead of empty bellies.
B: I dream of schools with enough money to teach.
A: I dream of parents with enough money to feed.
B: I dream to keep awake, because if we don't dream of better days, then we might forget that this is not what God imagined.
A: So today we light the candle of hope, for hope is the very thing that keeps dreams afloat. (Light candle.)
B: May this light be an invitation to keep awake.
**May this light invite us to be Advent people—people who dream. Amen.**

***HYMN**

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" #85 (vs. 1)

***CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

***PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

**Original Dreamer, over and over again in scripture, we hear your dream for a beautiful world. We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation. We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness. We hear your dream for community and hope. We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes. We continue to live with the curtains drawn, the covers pulled tight, eyes shut to the realities of the world. Forgive us. Kindle in us a hope that will burn through the darkest nights. Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world. With hope we pray, amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The good news is that God brings us hope and light and forgives all our shortcomings, failings, and sins. God gives us undeserved, unasked-for, unconditional grace.
**Thanks be to God! Amen**

***RESPONSE**

"Change My Heart, O God" #695

**HOLY INTERRUPTION**

*LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD*

**ANTHEM**

"Come, thou Redeemer of the Earth"

Tune: *Puer nobis* (15th century)
adapted by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
Arr. by Stuart Forster
Text: St. Ambrose (340-397)
Trans. by John M. Neale (1818-1866) and others

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**O Great Dreamer, you dreamed up the stars in the sky. You dreamed up that magic baby smell and the way cream sinks into coffee. You dreamed up the crunch of fall leaves and jazz music. You dreamed up wisteria and evergreen, and the pure magic of a six-foot-tall sunflower. And amid all that, you dreamed up a dream for your people—a dream of hope and justice, a dream for eyes wide open to both the world's suffering and the world's beauty. So today, as we read scripture, we ask that you plant that same dream in us. Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds so that we may see what you see, and dream what you dream. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 64:1-9

This is the word of God for God's people.
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

"Telling Our Stories Through Dreams"
Reverend Nancy Tuma

**MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

*RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE*

***HYMN**

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" #97

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God.
**We believe that God has dreams for humanity.**
We believe in the Holy Spirit.
**We believe that the Holy Spirit comforts us when our dreams turn to nightmares.**
We believe in Jesus.
**We believe that Jesus came into this world to wake us up and invite us to be the church in the world.**
We believe in dreams.
**We believe in the power that dreams may show us a new way.**
So, in this Advent season,
**We are those who dream and those who wake up. May it be so. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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.**

*SENDING IN GOD'S LOVE*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***HYMN**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #88
(vs. 1, 2)

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

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*To donate online to Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church, please use this QR code.*
*To donate in person, please use the offering plate by the sanctuary doors.*
*We appreciate your support!*

# Welcome!

## WELCOME TO WARD PARKWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

No matter if you have just discovered us or have been coming for a long time, we are excited you are with us today. It doesn't matter where you are on your faith journey or where you are in your life. It's okay if you are asking questions or are unsure of what you believe.

If you need help carrying your problems, we are here to walk with you and help you carry them. If you are loving all that life brings, we want to share joy with you. We love God and take Jesus' call to love our neighbor seriously.

We gather each week to sing praises to God, read scripture, and share stories. We connect the stories to our lives through sermons and prayer, finding this can bring new meaning into our life. This helps us grow and deepen our faith. After church we share conversation and time with each other. We would love to have you join us so we can get to know you and hear your story (when you want to share).

If you are curious about trying something different and getting involved in one of our many programs, missions, or membership at Ward Parkway Presbyterian, please don't hesitate to ask any of us or Pastor Nancy. She also welcomes any questions you might have.

***Church Office hours vary.***
***Visits with Pastor Nancy can be arranged.***
***Contact her by calling 816-361-2200, Option 1 or email pastor@wppresbyterian.org.***
***Contact the church office at 816-361-2200, Option 2 or office@wppresbyterian.org.***
***If you would like to receive our weekly "News from the Pews" newsletter, please send the office your email.***

## FOR OUR PRAYERS

**Church members:**

Kay & Tom Bode
Diane & Karol Good
Sarah Guthrie
Jean Horst
Mark Ihde
Diana Justus
Richard Lazarus
Jan Liepsner
Family of James Lusk
Shirley Lytle
Frank Riley
Pat & Karen Wiederaenders

**Former church members:**

Ginny & Neil Williams

**Friends and family:**

Jesse Amos - friend of Bob Liepsner
Tony Beyer and Story Haven - our new worshipping community
Mary Kay Bohnenblust - friend of Pastor Nancy
Doug Burford - former WPPC Pastor
Cleone Crossette - mother of Scott Crossette
Richard Dally - friend of Pastor Nancy
Carlin Holton & family on the death of Kay Entenza, Carlin's abuela
Ralph Ford- - friend of Joanie Caulfield
Sarah Jackson - mother of Rev. Dale Jackson, our Executive Presbyter
Caryn Kanel - sister of Cheryl Adam
Leo Kanel - child of Cheryl Adam's sister, Caryn
Shane Keith and Family - grandson of Marge Frauenfelder
Holly Eleck Michalke - friend of Cheryl Adam
Didi Lazarus - brother of Richard Lazarus
Elaina Lee and family - friends of Joanie Caulfield
Michael, and his mother, Anya - friends of Diana Justus
Hannah Naumann - kitchen manager at Cross-Lines
Cameron Smith - son of Trish Smith
Sonya Struthers - mother of Heather Mleynek
C.W. & Diane Vaughn - friends of Marge Frauenfelder
Sue Williams - friend of Cheryl Adam
Tom Woldt - friend of Pastor Nancy

## TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

***Minister:*** *Rev. Nancy Tuma*
***Director of Music:*** *Cheryl Adam*
***Pianist:*** *Grace Chang*
***Organist:*** *Mark Ihde*
***Choir Section Leaders:*** *Robin Deimerly, Carlin Holton*
***Guest Section Leader:*** *Laci Olberding, soprano*
***Liturgist:***
***AV Team:*** *Steve and Hans Guthrie, Lynne & Scott Crossette, Stephen Ferris, John Park*
***Nursery Attendant:*** *Trish Smith*