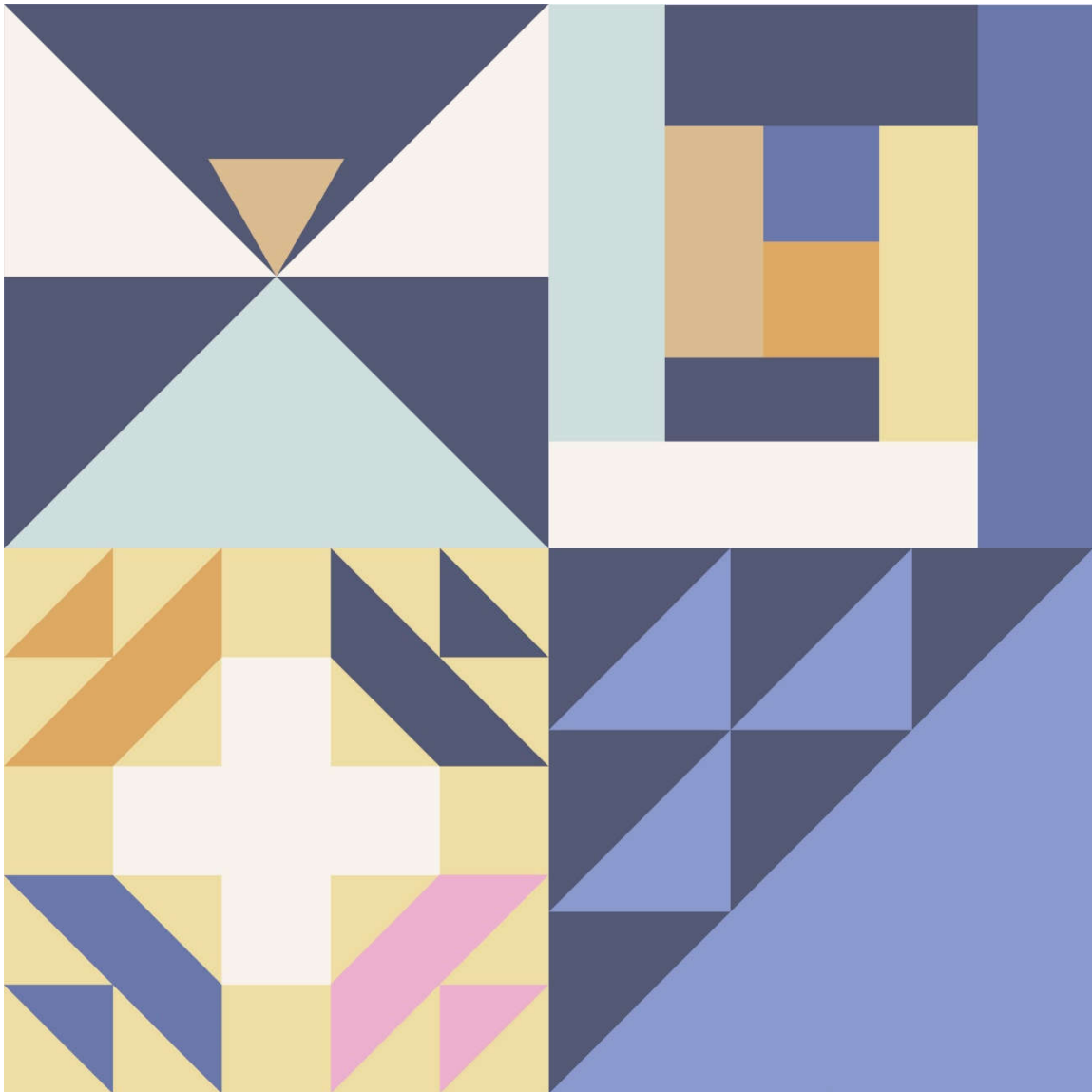


WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)



A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

10:30 AM

LARGE PRINT

OUR MISSION

Westover Hills Presbyterian Church exists to worship & learn, welcome & celebrate, advocate & serve with people open to a faith shaped by practice to be a congregation recognized as a safe place and a resource for action, acceptance, and joy.

Adopted May 2024

WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

**Those who are able are invited to stand. Bold text indicates unison readings.*

WELCOME & INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP The Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Lewis Family

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with tenderness.

Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve.

Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope.

Let us begin with love.

Yes, let us begin with love.

Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone.

May the truth in these lights help us begin again.

SUNG RESPONSE

“Awake! Awake”

Purple #107 vs. 4

CALL TO WORSHIP

Whitney Bordelon, Liturgist

In this weary world,
we sing of joy.

In this fragile world,
we lift each other up.

In this beautiful world,
we look for God.

In this tender world,
we hold onto hope.

This is the invitation of faith.

So in this time of worship,

may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

With hope in our hearts, amen!

+GATHERING HYMN “*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*” Purple #97

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

You paint pictures of what could be,

but we declare those visions impossible.

You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,

but we spout skepticism and uncertainty.

You dream of a more just day,

but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon.

Forgive us for losing sight of hope.

Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.

Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.

Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams,

and to not be afraid of either.

With gratitude we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 6/8 time, key of B-flat. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some beamed eighth notes. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with quarter notes and some beamed eighth notes.

voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. It features similar rhythmic patterns and note values, maintaining the harmonic structure established in the first system.

born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -

The third system continues the piece. The melody and bass line follow the same general pattern, with the lyrics continuing across the system.

lasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The fourth and final system concludes the piece. It features a final cadence with a double bar line. The melody ends on a sustained note, and the bass line provides a final accompaniment.

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION "Thy Word"

Purple #458

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

"Hope Is Worth the Risk"

Dr. Lowry

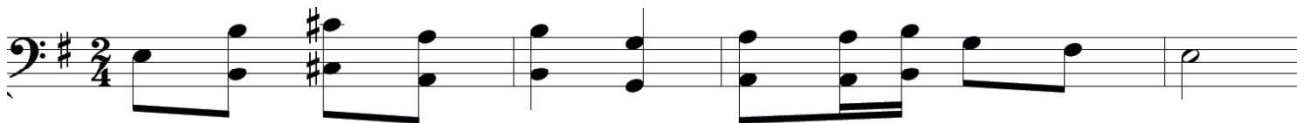
WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Hope Is Worth the Risk"



Col - lege stu - dents ga - ther pro - test - ing for peace
Young girls in I - ran to pro - test the re - gime
In Tai - wan the drea - mers flood the streets with blooms
Li - ber - i - an wo - men scarred by ci - vil war
Eth - nic mu - sic rings out from the Bal - tic Sea
Age to age and coast to coast peo - ple have stood



Stand - ing firm in spite of vio - lence being un - leashed
Take off their hi - jabs to let their hair be seen
Sun - flo - wers and li - lies li - ber - ty's per - fume
Keep the peace talks go - ing by barr - ing the doors
As the peo - ple sing their right to li - ber - ty
Risk - ing some - thing big in hope of some - thing good



Em-pires will fight with force or po-li - tics Still the Spi-rit whis-pers, "Hope is worth the risk"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope,
a God who fills our nights with stars,
who follows winter with spring,
who dwells with and among us.**

**We believe that this God has dreams for creation,
dreams of justice like a mighty stream
and swords that will be beaten into plowshares.**

Therefore, we push cynicism aside.

We risk vulnerability.

We hold onto hope,

and we declare:

**“My soul magnifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY & ANTHEM

WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 today our daily bread. And forgive our debts as we
forgive our debtors.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

+CLOSING HYMN

"People Look East"

Purple #105

+CHARGE AND BENEDECTION

+POSTLUDE

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Join Us on the Journey!

DEC. 22 – DEC. 28, 2024

Welcome!

We are so glad to be worshiping with you today. If this is your first visit, welcome! If you have been with us before, welcome back! Whether you are a life-long Presbyterian, a brand-new Christian, or someone who is just trying to make sense of this world we share, we hope you will feel at home at Westover Hills Presbyterian.

Christmas Eve Worship

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will be held in the sanctuary on Tuesday, December 24 at 5:30pm.

A hand holding a lit candle against a dark background. The candle is lit, and the flame is visible. The background is dark, and the hand is in the foreground, holding the candle. The text is overlaid on the image.

*Christmas Eve
at Westover Hills*

Lessons & Carols
Tuesday, Dec. 24th
5:30pm

Westover Hills Presbyterian Church
6400 Richard B. Hardie Dr. Little Rock
westoverhills.org

A New Look for Sunday School Premiering January 5th

We'll have 3 options for Sunday School in the month of January. 1) 20 Minute Talks: Quick introductions to interesting topics. Kind of like TED Talks but more Westover and less Aspen! Have a suggestion? Let us know! 2) Fun and Games: Busy week? Busy life?! Take a little time to have a cup of coffee and play a game of checkers. A rested spirit is a health spirit! 3) Pastoral Care & Prayer Center: Need a little quiet space? Write a note to one of our friends at home or spend a little time in prayer.

COFFEE HOUR

Not your usual Sunday School



Come see what it is all about!

IT WILL BE...AN ΕΡΪΡΗΑΠΥ!

Next Sunday, Dec. 29: Lessons and Laughter

Next Sunday, December 29th join us in the sanctuary for a service of Lessons and Laughter at 10:30am

Holiday Schedule Changes

Midweek Manna will not meet December 25 or January 1.

The church office will be closed December 25 to January 3. Robert is available by phone or text over the holiday.

Thank you for the Food for El Zocalo

Thank each of you who donated money or canned good for El Zocalo. We had a tremendous response from the congregation, and the participants of El Zocalo were blessed with good food for Christmas. Thank you for your continued support.

Westover Hills 2nd Wednesday Workgroup at Ferncliff

Each fall through spring, Westover Hills serves in mission at Ferncliff checking Gifts of the Heart disaster kits for accuracy and packing them ready for shipment to survivors in need of assistance. More than ever, extra hands are needed for this task. Our December work date is Wednesday, December 11th from 9am-12noon. No experience is necessary & everyone is welcome. We always have great conversation and a lot of laughter. If you need a ride, please contact Kay Stephens, (501) 765-1661, rayandkaystephens@att.net.

Prayer and Meditation

There are two important traditions at Westover Hills that join our voices in prayer every week. The first is *Prayer on the 9's*. Every day you are able, join us in taking a minute to pause at 9am and 9pm to offer a short prayer for the church, the world, or someone you know who needs comfort. Every Sunday in the bulletin and every Wednesday in the Careline e-newsletter, we share the list of pastoral care concerns known to the church. Members and friends are invited to pray for those people and world issues named on the list. Prayers of comfort, for healing, and for peace are always appropriate ways to remember our friends and neighbors. This week we remember:

Liz Gath, recovering from surgery for colon cancer 12/6;

Jim, Susan, and Robert Mauney following the death of Jim's sister Rosemary Steely on Thanksgiving day;

Max Snowden, undergoing treatment for cancer;

Sam Highsmith, in hospice care at Presbyterian Village;

Beth Highsmith, in memory care in Alabama near her daughter;

Mary Henry's niece, Kellie Earls, has been in intensive care for an infected gallbladder;

Isatu Lebbie continuing to recover from a stroke;

Ellen Dreyfuss, Nancy's friend, just had emergency brain surgery;

Rene Thompson, friend of Joyce Smith, dealing with cancer treatments;

Stacy Harter dealing with cancer;

Lila Quinn (daughter-in-law of Bob and Alicia Quinn) surgery to remove cancer and recovery;

Beth DuVall (Ann Patterson's cousin);

Monroe Flucas, Jr., Julie Gaffney, Martin Gaffney, Richard Gaffney, Eunice Holdcroft as they deal with health issues (friends of Judi King);

Jane Estes - dealing with multiple health issues;

Our members and friends at Presbyterian Village;

the residents and staff at Women and Children First;

the clients and staff of Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services;

Robin Appleton, kidney tumor (sister-in-law of Rosemary & Paul McGinnis);

Jennifer Garlington (Shirley's niece) dealing with breast cancer;
The WHPC Staff: Robert, Tammy, David, Ulysses, and Shawn

Bold indicates new additions or updates.

To include a person or group on the Prayer List, please contact the church office at office.westoverhills@gmail.com and Robert at robertwilliamlowry@gmail.com

Deacon's Ministry

Deacons for December are Shirley Garlington and Marcey Berry

Westover Hills Presbyterian Church

6400 Richard B. Hardie Drive
Little Rock, AR 72207
501-663-6383

