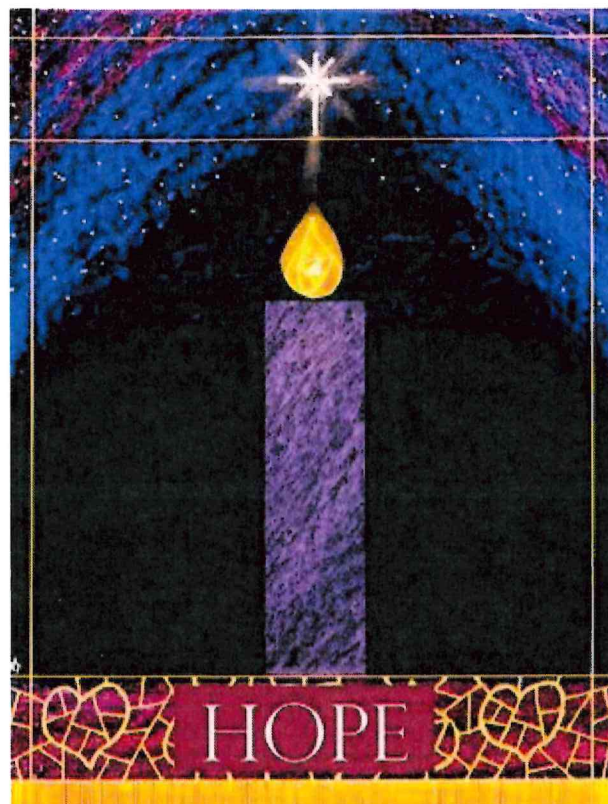


The logo features a stylized cross with a golden chalice at the top, blue and red flames at the base, and a blue vertical bar in the center.

WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF DETROIT



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Sunday, December 1, 2024

10:00AM

First Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. Gerald Near

Welcome to all – especially to our guests.

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad, located in each of the pews.

Hymns labeled GTG are in the Glory to God Hymnal (purple)

Hymns labeled AAHH are in the African American Heritage Hymnal (beige)

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

In the midst of darkness; in the midst of chaos; in the midst of lifelessness, God created all things and brought forth light from the dark, order from chaos, and life from death.

Glory be to the Father who by His almighty power and love created us and made us in the image and likeness of God.

In the midst of exile; in the midst of oppression; in the midst of the powers of this world, God was born as one of us in order to bring us home, in order to free us, in order to heal us and show us we are His and all powers, dominions, and might belong to Him.

Glory be to the Son who by His birth has brought hope, peace, joy, and love into all the world.

In the midst of history; in the midst of our own space and time; in the midst of our realm and reality, God reigns in glory and has made us to be a kingdom of priests, serving God and one another in faith, hope, and love.

Glory be to the Holy Spirit who has saved us and made us the Church, and is preparing us for life with God, forever.

Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the mysteries of your love overwhelm us. Still, Lord, we eagerly seek you in a land with no water where we thirst for the Spirit and the Truth like an empty desert. This morning, show us yourself like you showed yourself to Mary, the mother of our Lord, and prepared her and honored her to give birth to the Savior of all the world. Lord, be born through us so that all the world might know You and Your Eternal Love. **Amen.**

Gospel Praise

Jesus Is The Light Of The World

Gospel Choir

Lighting the Candle of Hope

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in days to come nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; **nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.**

We light this candle in hope for all nations, all peoples, all tribes, and all creation.

Let us pray. God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord, we stand humbly before you as your creatures. We are your beloved. We are your body. We are your hands and feet on earth. Lord, we forget this and seek love and comfort in fleeting things that can never satisfy. When these things disappoint us we forget our worth before you. You have bought us with a great price. You have freed us from fleeting desires and death forever. Lord, free us again and again. Heal us again and again. Lord Jesus, forgive us. Lord, you make all things new. Amen.

Declaration of God's Forgiveness

If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.

See, the old has gone. The new has come!

Passing of the Peace/A Time for Celebration

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!**

(Exchange signs of Christ's peace and forgiveness with others. We greet one another as neighbors in Christ. You may say "Peace be with you," or respond, "And also with you.")

***Response GTG #83** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in thee.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to live in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 64: 1-9

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Luke 21: 25-36

Message

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***Affirmation of Faith** *(Article 10.7-8, Confession of Belhar, Book of Confessions of the PC, USA)*

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers,
protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.**

This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of
saints called from the entire human family.**

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and hatred, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right.

We believe that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

We believe that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence.

Jesus Is Lord.

To the one and only God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

***Hymn GTG #102**

Savior of the Nations, Come

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION

GREETING

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 your thanks and praise.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.**

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER

Call to Offering

*If you would like to make an offering online, scan the QR code located in the
Westminster News section of today's bulletin.*

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Every Valley
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

***Doxology GTG #606** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn AAHH #188**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Benediction

Postlude

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying

arr. Ludwig Krebs

The organ postlude is offered as an instrumental prayer. You are invited to remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly, remembering those who are still worshiping.

Worship Leaders:

The Rev. Dakota Whitaker, Pastor/Head of Staff

Dalos Grobe, Chancel Choir Director/Organist

Victor Boyd, Gospel Choir Director

Claire Johnston, Liturgist

The Zama Family, Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgists

Brice Morden, CJ Chapman, Acolytes

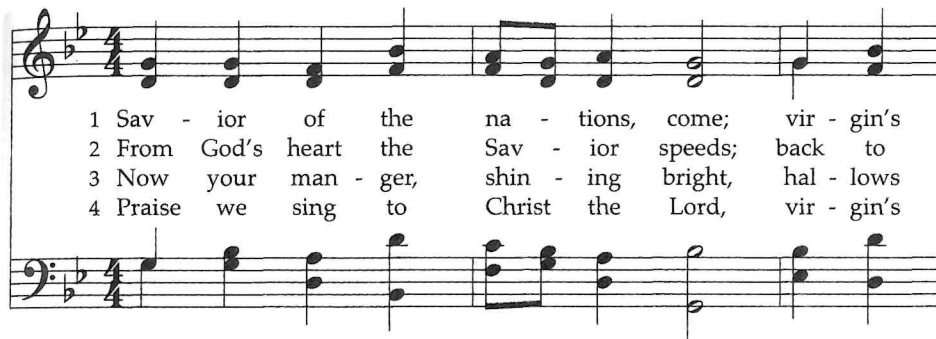
Visit our website at www.wcodetroit.org for the link to view our Sunday morning worship services on YouTube or follow us on Instagram and Facebook.



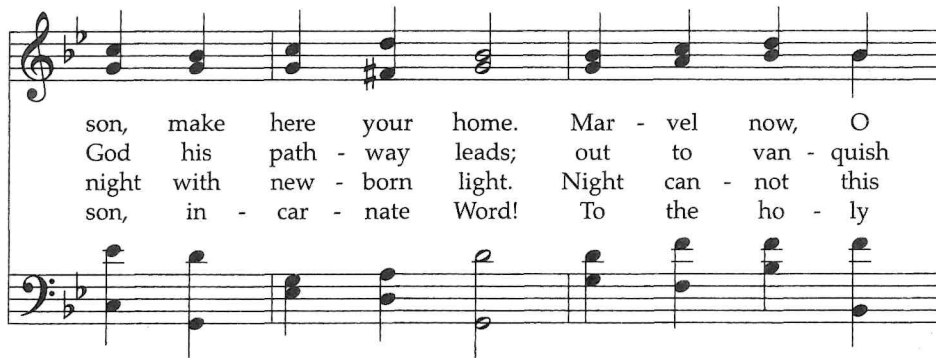
Today's Anthem

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low; and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

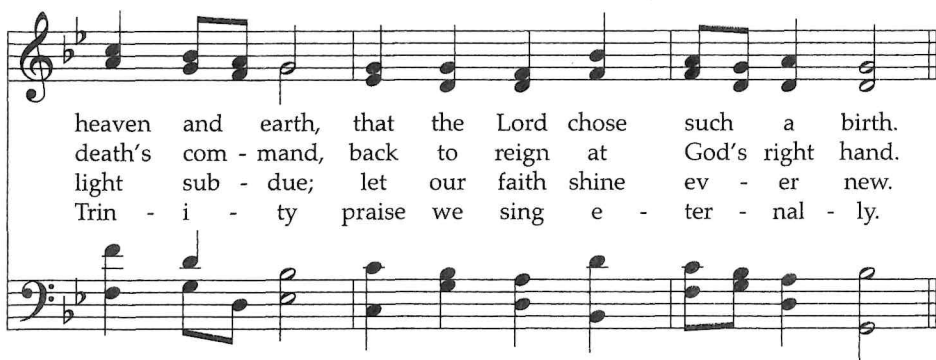
Savior of the Nations, Come 102



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's



son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
night with new - born light. Night can - not this
son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

188 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

"...the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."
Matthew 1:23

Unison

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, And
3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All
4. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That
or - der all things, far and nigh; To
peo - ples in one heart and mind; Bid
spir - its by Thine ad - vent here; Dis -

mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here Un -
us the path of knowl - edge show, And
en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill
perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And

til the Son of God ap - pear.
cause us in her ways to go.
the whole world with heav - en's peace.
death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Harmony

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!