



1st Sunday of Advent December 1st, 2019

Prelude

Hymn: #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come
Waiting (Cason)
All (Verse 1); Women (Verse 2); Men (Verse 3)

***Centering Hymn: #89**
For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits
My Soul in Stillness Waits

Opening Sentences

Prayer of the Day

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: Every journey faces the unknown. And anxiety can sometimes overwhelm us. There is too much to do; our lists are long; our calendars are filled up; we worry that something will go wrong, or we won't end up in the right place or take the right route. Getting lost is a real possibility on a journey. And yet, we claim hope for the journey because we follow the one who will travel with us and sustain us on the way.

All: Isaiah says that there is one who is to come who will be the fulfillment of all our hope. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on this one, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. We place our hope in this one.

Leader: We light the candle of hope to give us strength for the journey. Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, so that God may teach us the way of hope.

All: Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reflection

Hymn for Illumination: #288 *Spirit of the Living God
Living God

A Time for Hope

Communion

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: O God, we give you thanks and praise this day for the gift of your light...Make us ready to receive the Christ Child and incredible message of joy his birth brings...

Hymn: #95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Prepare the Way

Leader: We thank you this day for so many things... We come before you, O God, and know that you are our Creator and Redeemer and Sustainer and so we sing to you...

Hymn: #95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Prepare the Way
Leader: We hold up before you the needs of our neighbors... For the concerns we carry in our hearts today...

Hymn: #95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Prepare the Way
Leader: As you have made this day, Creator God...

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Feasting Together

Hymn: #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come* Waiting (Cason)
Prayer after Communion

Commendation of our Spirits into the night

Leader: Be our light in the darkness, O Lord... give our wearied bodies holy rest in you, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

All: I will lie down in peace and take my rest, for in God alone I remain unafraid.

Hymn: #87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People
Genevan 42

Collect Prayer

Charge and Benediction

Peace of Christ

Leader: In anticipation of the Christ child's arrival, we remember the hope that his birth proclaimed. May Christ's peace be with you now.

All: And also with you.

Offering

In gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we are invited to share our resources to support ministries of justice and mercy to benefit neighbor and stranger. Please place your gifts and pledges in the basket near the door as you exit.

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* This sign is an invitation, to all who are able, to stand as they offer God thanks and praise.

Leading in Worship

Associate Pastor: Rev. Abbey Walker

Director of Worship and Music: Josh Phelps

Music Associate: Anne Dawson

Piano: Steve Thompson

AT A GLANCE

North Campus

14501 N Rockwell Ave, Oklahoma
City, Oklahoma 73142
(405) 509-9368
facebook.com/wpcnorth

Sunday Schedule

- 5 PM - Worship

Central Campus

4400 North Shartel Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118
(405) 524-2224
facebook.com/wpcokc

Central Campus Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8 AM - 5 PM

Online www.wpcokc.org

Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 AM - Chapel Worship
- 9:30 AM - Christian Education
- 10:30 AM - Sanctuary Worship

Service Broadcast

Sundays -

- 5 AM on KOKH
(check local listings)
- 11 AM on KOCO
(check local listings)
- online via our LiveStream at:
<http://www.wpcokc.com/live-streaming>

*I would like to speak with a pastor
or ministry leader...*

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A NOTE FROM REV. DR. PAUL J. KIRBAS

Dear Congregation,

Happy New Year! You may think I am ahead of the calendar, but I'm following an alternative calendar. It is called the "liturgical calendar". According to that alternative calendar, this is the first Sunday of Advent, and thus, the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. So yes, happy New Year is in order!

In fact, the liturgical calendar is an alternative one in even deeper ways. In secular time, we have plunged into the Christmas season. In fact, we have been here for many weeks now. But on the liturgical calendar, the Christmas season has not arrived yet. Advent is a purposeful time of waiting, in which we prepare our homes, our families, and our own spirits for the gift of God's love incarnated in the baby of Bethlehem. So here at Westminster, we hope to participate in this alternative season. I hope you will join us as we experience the season that is upon us, the season of Advent.

With the arrival of this season, we do have some new opportunities for you. I will begin a new Pastor's Class, in which we will consider the idea of the Incarnation for the modern age. What does it really mean that Jesus was God incarnate, and how should we consider that idea in our contemporary world? I hope you will join us for this new Pastor's Class, beginning today.

And now, let us turn our attention to the first Sunday in Advent, as we light the candle of hope. What does hope mean for us, and what does it mean in the Bible? As we discover the real meaning of hope, we will see how the coming of the Christ child is that hope. On this first Sunday of the new liturgical year, let us worship God!

In God's Grace,



Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas
Pastor/Head of Staff

CONGREGATIONAL OFFERINGS

December 4th / 6 PM Grief Panel

The congregation and many community members are experiencing their first holiday season after a major loss. This panel is intended to provide them and their families a safe place to learn about grief and ask questions. Please join us at our North Campus on December 4th at 6 PM for a panel discussion. The panel will feature moms from the SIL group who have bravely agreed to share their stories and answer questions about life after loss. This panel discussion will be an informative and powerful evening. If you or someone you love is grieving this holiday season, I pray this will be helpful to you.

December 13th Beer & Cheer

Have you ever wanted to know more about beer—it's origins and roots? If so, come and learn how the history of beer and the history of religion have intersected as we prepare for the holidays with a little light-hearted fun!

December 15 / Central Campus Christmas At Westminster & Brunch

Save the date of December 15 for a brunch that immediately follows the Sunday service of Lessons and Carols. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 children, or \$35 family max (two adults and at least two children) The brunch will include a special "Countdown To Christmas" with crafts, activities, festive music, a hot cocoa station and pictures with Santa.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24th



FAMILY SERVICE

3 PM / Central Campus Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

5 PM / North Campus

CANDLE LIGHT WORSHIP

8 PM / Central Campus Sanctuary