



Westchester Methodist

"A Friendly Family Church"

Celebrating over 200 years of Building up the Kingdom Of God by Growing Disciples and extending our Ministries

Sunday December 3rd 2023 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Rev. Beverly Hodges-Fairweather (Assistant to the Pastor)

Rev. Sonia Jermin (Ministries with Seniors & Spirituality)

Rev. Ivy Dawson (Evangelism Related Ministries)

Cora Doram - Lay Leader

Deaconess. Linda - Douglas Smith (Lay Minister Small Groups Ministries & Attendance Building)

Min. Earlwyn Benjamin (Lay Minister Prayer & Healing Ministries)

Min. Joshua Olabisi (Lay Minister Care Ministries)

Min. Jaslyn Challenger-Singleton (Family Life Ministries)

Rev. Gordon A.R. Edwards, Ph.D., Psy.D, Pastor

Pat Savage (Minister of Music) - Roland Samuels (Percussionist) – Roy Gomes (Steel Panist)

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www.westchestermethodist.com

2547 East Tremont Ave Bronx NY 10461

Prelude
Praise Team

Pat Savage

Call to Worship

L: There is an ember of hope

P: The banked fire of creation

L: The promise of God

P: To Adam, to Eve, to us.

L: It glows in every heart;

P: In every soul it seeks to burst into flame.

Opening Hymn

“Sing we the King Who is coming to Reign “

1) Sing we the King Who is coming to reign,
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain.
Life and salvation His Empire shall bring,
Joy to the nations when Jesus is King.

Chorus:

*Come let us sing, praise to our King, Jesus our King, Jesus our King, This is
our song, who to Jesus belong: Glory to Jesus, to Jesus our King*

2) Souls shall be saved from the burden of sin,
Doubt shall not darken His witness within,
Hell hath no terrors, and death hath no sting;
Love is victorious when Jesus is King.

3) Kingdom of Christ, for thy coming we pray,
Hasten, O Father, the dawn of the day
When this new song Thy creation shall sing,
Satan is vanquished, and Jesus is King.

First Sunday in Advent

Reader 1: Today is the first Sunday in Advent, a time when we get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth. Prophets spoke for God, saying that God would send a Savior

Reader 2: God's people hoped for a Savior. They waited a long time for the baby Jesus.

Reader 3: God sent Jesus into the world to bring light and hope for all people.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader 4: Today we light the first candle which reminds us of the light of hope that the prophets had as they looked forward to a Messiah who would bring peace and love to the world.

Prayer by All: Thank you, God, for Jesus who helps us when we are sad or afraid, who shows us that we can always trust you.

Advent Hymn

1) O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Opening Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed –a be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, hallowed-a be thy name*

*Done on earth as it is in heaven, hallowed-a be thy name
Give us this day our daily bread, hallowed-a be thy name*

*And—forgive all our debts, hallowed-a be thy name,
As we forgive our debtors, hallowed-a be thy name*

*Lead us not, into temptation, hallowed-a be thy name
But deliver us from evil, hallowed-a be thy name*

*Thine is the kingdom, power, and glory, hallowed-a be thy name
For-ever and ever, hallowed-a be thy name,
Amen, amen, amen, amen hallowed-a be thy name (repeat)*

Children's Moment

*I need you, you need me, we're all a part of God's body
Stand with me, agree with me, we're all a part of God's body
It is His will that every need be supplied,*

*You are important to me, I need you to survive
You are important to me, I need you to survive*

*I pray for you, you pray for me, I love you, I need you to survive
I won't harm you with words from my mouth, I love you, I need you to survive
It is His will that every need be supplied
You are important to me, I need you to survive
You are important to me, I need you to survive*

Steel Pan Ministry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY

*As you march joyfully forward with your Tithes & Offerings to participate in this generous undertaking, be reminded that EVERY SUNDAY your tithes & offerings cover our Current Expenses and Apportionment. In addition, EVERY 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays offerings are accepted in the Scholarship Bucket for the SCHOLARSHIP Ministry and EVERY 4th & 5th Sundays in the Van basket for the VAN Ministry.
~ "WE GIVE because God gave first"*

Offertory Selection

“God is Good, God is Good”

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

First Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

Sis. Iris Gibson

64:1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

64:2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

64:3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

64:4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

64:5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

64:7 There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

64:8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

64:9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 13:24-37

13:24 "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

13:25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

13:26 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.

13:27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

13:28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

13:29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

13:30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

13:32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

13:33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

13:34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on

the watch.

13:35 Therefore, keep awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,

13:36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

13:37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Ministry of Music

Chancel Choir

Sermon: *"A Strategy for Staying Awake."*

Rev. Gordon AR Edwards

Call to Discipleship

The Lord's Supper Order of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon (seated).

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving (seated)

L: The Lord be with you

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and gracious Father, you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to share our human condition, live as one of us, and express your love to all by teaching, preaching, healing, leading, guiding, dying and rising for us. We thank you for coming to be among us, for sharing with us the heart of your transforming love and acceptance, and for giving us your amazing presence through the power of your Holy Spirit. We have not been left alone, to seek after your will in darkness; but have been blessed with the light of the scriptures, the traditions and history of the church universal, our experience of your sanctifying grace, and minds capable of reasoning faith. And so, having heard your word proclaimed, and having offered our prayers as your people, now we gather at this your table to be re-united to your Son and with each other, sharing the bread of heaven and being fed with your Holy, Mysterious Real Presence.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen!

The Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body; for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Prayer of Commitment

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Opportunities for Ministry

SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Closing Hymn

“Come Christians Join to Sing “

*1) Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!
loud praise to Christ our King:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!*

*2) Come, lift your hearts on high:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky:
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend;
to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!*

3) Praise yet the Lord again:

Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain:

Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore

his goodness we'll adore,

singing forevermore:

Alleluia! Amen!

LET'S PRAY FOR

SherryAnn Brown, Charles Oruam & Family , Brother Chapman & Family , Lee Skelton, Derix Skelton, Williams Family, Rev. Jermin, Sis. Dockery and family, Lucinda Hodges –Taylor, Simoneta Drew & Family, Phyllis Watson, Gladys Thompson, Delbert Singleton, Ewart Wilson, Marie Connor & Family , Bro. Emmanuel Quainoo & family, Shirley Cheeming & family, Elizabeth Amankwah, Novlet Tennant & family, Esther Holder, The Shaw Family , The Adeniyis , Dwayne Williams, Francine Brown & family, Eldra Petrus.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Email us your birthday or Anniversary along
with photos to westchesterumcbx@gmail.com**



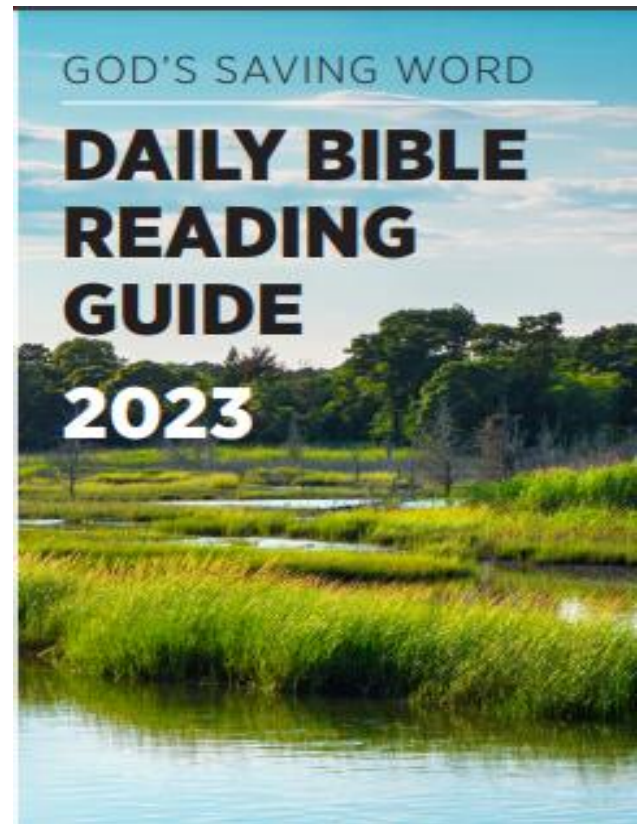
- ☐ **December 1st Mark 1:1-8**
- ☐ **December 2nd Mark 1:9-20**
- ☐ **December 3rd Mark 13:1-23**
- ☐ **December 4th Mark 13:24-37**
- ☐ **December 5th Zephaniah 1:1-18**
- ☐ **December 6th Zephaniah 2:1-15**
- ☐ **December 7th Zephaniah 3:1-20**
- ☐ **December 8th Jeremiah 33:1-13**
- ☐ **December 9th Jeremiah 33:14-26**

Second Sunday of Advent

- ☐ **December 10th Isaiah 7:1-25**
- ☐ **December 11th Isaiah 9:2-7**
- ☐ **December 12th Isaiah 12:1-6**
- ☐ **December 13th Isaiah 54:1-17**
- ☐ **December 14th Isaiah 55:1-13**
- ☐ **December 15th Isaiah 60:1-22**
- ☐ **December 16th Isaiah 61:1-11**

Third Sunday of Advent

- ☐ **December 17th Isaiah 62:1-12**
- ☐ **December 18th Isaiah 63:1-14**
- ☐ **December 19th Isaiah 65:17-25**
- ☐ **December 20th Isaiah 66:1-24**
- ☐ **December 21st Luke 1:1-25**
- ☐ **December 22nd Luke 1:26-56**
- ☐ **December 23rd Luke 1:57-80**



- ☐ **December 24th Luke 2:1-20**
- ☐ **December 25th John 1:1-18**
- ☐ **December 26th John 1:19-34**
- ☐ **December 27th John 1:35-51**
- ☐ **December 28th Luke 2:21-38**
- ☐ **December 29th Luke 2:39-52**
- ☐ **December 30th Revelation 21:1-27**
- ☐ **December 31st Revelation 22:1-21**

Bakers Corner



Shopping can be fun when you shop for two. One for you and one for someone else. That someone else can be WUMC your church.

Your help is needed! We're in the process of collecting bakers' products (flour, sugar, eggs, butter, walnuts) and so on, to have within reach and be ready for The TWICE A MONTH Bake Sale, our (NEW Standalone Fundraiser) happening every 2nd and 4th Sundays a month.

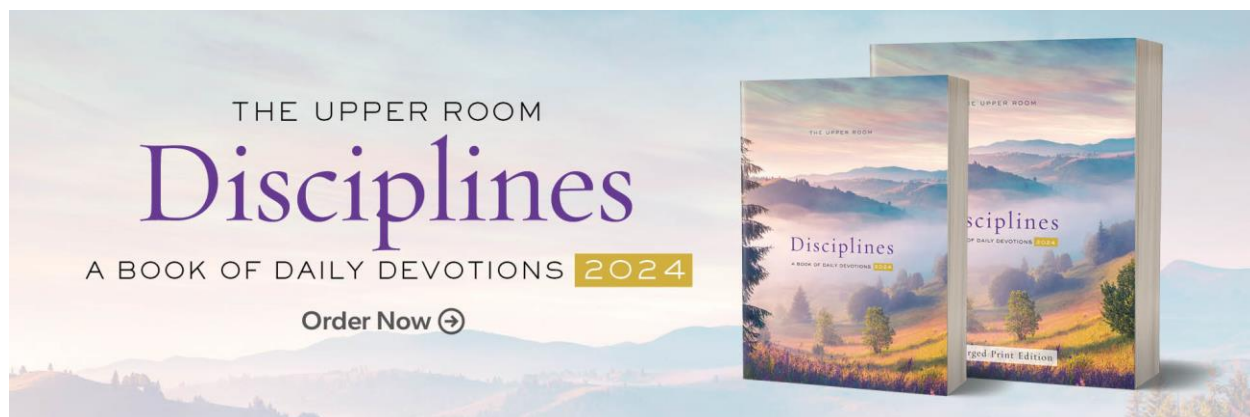
Start clipping those coupons, look for Buy 1 get 1 Free, or Buy one get the 2nd 50% off Ads. Bring your store-bought supplies to the church on the 1st Saturdays or 1st Sundays of the month. We're counting on you!!!.



There will be a Choir Sponsored Bake Sale on 12/16
during the intermission of the SteelBand Concert,

On sale:

Bread Pudding, Carrot Cake, Zucchini Bread,
Lemon Cake and Scones



Upper Room Disciplines are available for purchase (Small print (\$14) Large Print (\$17). See Ms. Dick to get your copy today.



Carnegie Hall Citywide FREE Concerts

Visit carnegiehall.org/citywide for details on upcoming events from December

8 th thru April 21,2024



Westchester United Methodist

BANG UP CHRISTMAS

CONCERT

December 16th, 2023 at 4pm

2547 East Tremont Ave. Bronx NY

Tickets: \$20

**Tickets for the concert are now
available and can be bought from any
ministry leader or see sis. Doram.**



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WEDNESDAY | **6** | **5PM - 9PM**
DEC

*Poinsettias for
the Sanctuary*

*Please make
Donations of
Poinsettias to
adorn the
worship
space.
You will be
able to take
them home
as of
December
31st 2023*

Worship Sermon Notes

Date: _____ Preacher: _____

HEARING GOD'S WORD IN THE SERMON

Since we quickly forget 90% of what we hear; it has been suggested that note-taking will double the percentage of our take-home knowledge. I encourage you to try and see.

Theme:

Scripture Passages: OT: _____ Gospel: _____

INTRODUCTION: _____

Transitional Statement:

MAIN POINTS

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

CONCLUSION:

What is the main idea?

What is God asking me to do right now?

What am I going to do about it?