



The Order of Worship

**December 4, 2016
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

Welcome to Westminster Church! We are a family of Christians gathered from many traditions and neighborhoods, worshiping here with the goal of connecting faith and life. If you are a visitor, we pray you will feel welcome and blessed by our worship. We invite you to consider making Westminster your church home. Please let us have your contact information so we may be in touch.

Children are welcome in worship here. A nursery is available during the entire service. Any who are baptized are invited to receive the elements of the Lord's Supper.

When the prelude begins let us quietly prepare for the worship of almighty God.

PRELUDE Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, Verse 1 Johann Heinrich Buttstedt
Come, Thou Savior of the Nations
Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn Johann Michael Bach
Lord Christ, the Only Son of God

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

(9:00) The Bendy Family
(11:00) Rachel, Bryan, Bobby and Lucy Powell

INTROIT (11:00) Here in This Place (Gather Us In) Marty Haugen

Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away—here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Marty Haugen

Westminster Choristers

JP Mackay, Guitar

CALL TO WORSHIP

referencing Isaiah 11, Matthew 3:1-12

Leader: In the lonely places
The wilderness
Where we stand forlorn
Windswept and alone
Your voice calls out

People: Prepare a way for the Lord

Leader: In the dark places
The shadows
Where we hide our fears
Embrace our tears
Your voice calls out

People: Prepare a way for the Lord

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

***HYMN NO. 13** (blue hymnal) Prepare the Way *Bereden väg för Herran*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Gracious God, make this Advent season a time of holy growth. Forgive us when we assume that our faith can survive without the nourishment of study and reflection and prayer. Forgive us when we stifle our capacity for wonder. Forgive us when we forget that the Christ comes as the bearer of peace and as one who challenges all powers that rule unjustly. Forgive us when we cannot find peace in our lives because of the pace of our lives. Strengthen and enlighten us this Advent season. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

***KYRIE ELEISON** Healey Willan

(Congregation singing—music is found on the inside cover of the red hymnal)

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

(First part: women; second: men; third: all)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE** Gloria Patri No. 579 (blue hymnal) Henry W. Greatorex

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 11:1-10

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00) Ellen Anderson

Children age 4 through 2nd grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children's Worship.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

“Dream on, Dream on, Dream until your dreams come true”

“Dream On” - Aerosmith

***HYMN** We Pray for Peace

Greensleeves

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison)

Romans 8:1,28,38,39

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; and we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THE OFFERING

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle.

Though many of us contribute electronically or by a check in the mail, your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(9:00) Here in This Place (Gather Us In) Marty Haugen
(The text is found at the Introit.)

(11:00) Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Gustav Holst
Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our Lord to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood, He will give to all the faithful His own Self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, Alleluya, Lord most High. Amen.

trans. Gerard Moultrie

Meredith Mackay, Soprano

John Hankins, Baritone

***AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology No. 591 (blue hymnal) *Tallis' Canon*

(Sung to the tune of Hymn No. 542 (blue hymnal))

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (responsive)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

(Prayer continues)... and so we sing to your glory.

MEN’S COVENANT BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP: On Thursday, December 8th at 7:30 a.m., the men of Westminster will gather in the McKinnon Room for our next meeting and lesson. The lesson, entitled “Healing Our Nation's Divide: Where Do I Begin?”, will be presented by Buz Johnson. Breakfast will be provided courtesy of Tim Crais. No reservation is necessary and all men are welcome. Bring a friend.

FISH DELIVERY is Thursday, December 8th. The number of families we can help is limited by the number of delivery volunteers we have, and you are needed! If you are able to help make deliveries, please contact Nancy Cundall.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING is Saturday, December 17 from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at West Town Mall. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Schilling Gallery.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available on the table in the narthex. Please help yourself.

2017 FLOWER DEDICATIONS: Please sign up on the Schilling Gallery bulletin board for your 2017 flower dedications. We ask for a \$65.00 donation to the Flower Guild, payable on the date of your dedication. A reminder card will be mailed to you in advance of your chosen Sunday.

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY CENTER HOLIDAY STORE is a program through which recipients of VMC services earn gift items for their loved ones with points accrued through community service. Individuals redeem their points to purchase items they select at the Holiday Store. We have the opportunity to help stock the VMC Holiday Store with items such as: basketballs and footballs, dolls, infant toys, craft sets for children and adults, cosmetic sets, hair care sets, fragrance sets for men and women, tool kits, small kitchen appliances, or other similar things that would be nice gifts. Donations are being collected in the large decorated box in the Schilling Gallery.

December Events

Sunday, December 11

Worship at 11:00 a.m. only
6:00 p.m. - “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”

Wednesday, December 14

5:30 p.m. - Advent Craft Night, Jazz Concert and Potluck Dinner

Sunday, December 18

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. - Worship
10:00 a.m. - Christmas Breakfast

Saturday, December 24

5:00 and 11:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 25

Worship at 11:00 a.m. only

DONATIONS are being accepted for the Advent floral decorations. There is no set amount for each dedication. A list of donations will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins as well as the *Abbey*. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the office.

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I would like to contribute to the Flower Guild for Advent:

\$ _____

In memory of/honor of (circle one):

Given by:
