



The Order of Worship December 25, 2016
11:00 A.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY

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.

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

PRELUDE Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ Dieterich Buxtehude
Praise Be to Thee, Jesus Christ

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP *excerpted from Psalm 98*

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

People: His right and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

Leader: The Lord has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

People: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

People: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Leader: Make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

People: He will judge the world with righteousness, and the people with equity.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 49 (blue hymnal) Once in Royal David's City Irby

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O God, you have graciously sent the gift of your Son along with gifts of the Holy Spirit to all your children. Yet we confess that we have been hesitant and neglectful in claiming these gifts. Fearful of change and sacrifice, we have often kept our talents and skills packed away or buried. We have not embraced new or uncertain gifts because of dread of failure. Move us, by your Spirit, to pick up our presents that you so freely give and spend them joyfully as wise stewards of your world.

*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

Refrain from Hymn No. 116 (red hymnal) Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PROPHECY Isaiah 52:7-10

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.

GOSPEL John 1:1-14

SERMON "A Wondrous Gift Is Given" Rev. John Linton Muntz

"He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own..." – Titus 2:14

*HYMN If I Could Visit Bethlehem Simmons

(See insert)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) Hebrews 1:1-3

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ... The Lord's Prayer

During the Prayers of the People there will be a time of silence. You are invited to use this time for personal reflection, confession, thanksgiving, and prayer.

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 In dulci jubilo Marcel Dupré

In Quiet Joy

*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

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

*HYMN NO. 51 (blue hymnal) See Amid the Winter's Snow Humility

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 586 (blue hymnal) Amen

Danish melody

*POSTLUDE Fröhlich soll mein Herze springen Johann Gottfried Walther

My Heart Shall Rejoice

Today's prayers were written by Pastor Emeritus Fritz Schilling and used previously at Westminster Church.

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Debbie Babelay and William Milam
CARE TEAM COORDINATORS FOR DECEMBER 26-31: Lana Daverman and Susan McKeehan

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AND HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

PLEASE place your bulletin into a blue recycling bin located at the Narthex door if you do not care to take it home.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES: Sophie Manrod and Will Manrod

GREETERS: Peter and Janet Tortorelli

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Nursery Staff

SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel

USHERS: John Salsbery, John and Kathy Shilling, Jay Schmid, Brenda Seip

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: We will have one worship service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 1. Our regular schedule resumes January 8th, with worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be open Monday, December 26 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and Friday, December 30 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Regular office hours resume on Tuesday, January 3.

FINAL 2016 CONTRIBUTIONS as well as any 2017 prepaid offerings need to be in the church office by December 30. All offerings received by December 30 will be included in your 2016 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel.

VISIT FROM ONE OF THE PC(USA) CO-MODERATORS: Westminster will welcome the Rev. Jan Edmiston January 28th and 29th. We will host an informal town hall/potluck supper Saturday evening, and she will preach at both services Sunday morning. She will meet with students at UKirk at the University of Tennessee at lunch on Monday.

Rev. Edmiston attended Andover-Newton Theological School in Newton-Centre, Massachusetts and was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. She currently serves as Associate Executive Presbyter for Ministry at the Presbytery of Chicago, and was elected Co-Moderator (with the Rev. Denise Anderson) of the 222nd General Assembly in Portland in June of 2016.

Throughout her parish ministry years, she served as moderator of the social justice committee (Albany Presbytery) and personnel committee (National Capital Presbytery), as well as taking leadership roles in the areas of church revitalization, new church development, and presbytery council in both presbyteries.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips, Pastor

Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate

Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster

Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries

Angela Grobe, Director of Children’s Ministries

Mary Boyd, Education Coordinator

Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Sandra Williams, Administrative Assistant

Rev. Friedrich Schilling, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

Debbie Bendy, *Abbey* Editor

God Came to Us

God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road,
to listen to our story and help us to realize that we are not walking in circles,
but moving toward the house of peace and joy.

This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort
and consolation. We are not alone on our journey.

The God of love who gave us life sent us his only Son
to be with us at all times and in all places,
so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles
but always can trust that he walks with us.

The challenge is to let God be who he wants to be.
A part of us clings to our aloneness and does not allow God
to touch us where we are most in pain.

Often we hide from him precisely those places in ourselves
where we feel guilty, ashamed, confused and lost.

Thus we do not give him a chance to be with us where we feel most alone.

Henri J. M. Nouwen

THE SESSION

Class of 2017

Phil Barnette

Bitsy Ingram

William Milam

Bryan Powell

Brenda Seip

Youth Elder: Tolson Bell

Clerk of Session: Georgann Byerley

Class of 2018

Leigh Dunlap

JP Mackay

Linda Van Beke

Wes Williams

Michael Yates

Class of 2019

Debbie Babelay

Daniel Collins

Terry Crow

Cindy Pearman

Jay Schmid

TRUSTEES

Larry Ridley

Paul Jordan

Alice Mercer