



**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Gracious God, the light of your love shines in this Advent season, but in its radiance we also see the darkness around and within us. The intensity of these pre-Christmas days heightens our joys and magnifies our sorrows. Search us, O God, and remove anything that would prevent us from bearing good fruit with our lives. Where there is hatred, heal us with your love; where there is anxiety, calm us with your peace; where there is despair, strengthen us with hope and joy; where we have failed to see you in a stranger, failed to love you in our brothers and sisters, and failed to serve you in our neighbors, forgive and renew us in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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**

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

**TO EXPERIENCE GOD’S WORD AND RESPOND ...**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN** Deborah Phillips

Children age 4 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children’s Worship.

**SCRIPTURE READING** John 1:6-8, 19-28

**SERMON** “Can I get a witness!” Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

**HYMN NO. 10** (blue hymnal) On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry Winchester New

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison) from A Declaration of Faith

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God’s kingdom. Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful. No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God’s kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ...** The 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.

**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) Before the Paling of the Stars John Boda

Before the paling of the stars, Before the winter morn, Before the earliest cockcrow Jesus Christ was born.

Jesus on His mother’s breast, In the stable cold, Spotless Lamb of God was He, Shepherd of the fold.

Let us kneel with Mary maid, with Joseph, bent and hoary, With saint and angel, ox, and ass, To hail the King of glory.

Christina Rossetti

(11:00) Dadme albricias, hijos d’Eva Anonymus  
(from Villancicos de diuersos Autores, Venice, 1556)

Dadme albricias, hijos d’Eva! Di, de qué dárte las han? Qu’és nascido el nuevo Adám. ¡Oh, hí de Dios, y qué nueva! Dádmelas y haved plazer, pues esta noche es nascido el Mexías prometido, Dios y hombre, de mujer. Y su nacer nos releva del peccado y de su afán.

Sons of Eve, reward my tidings! Why should we make gifts to you? Born is He, the Adam new. Almighty God, what glad tidings! Pay my boon, and sing for joy, For tonight is born our Savior, The Messiah promised to us, Man and God, a virgin’s boy. By His birth He gives us pardon For the sin and wrong we do.

Meredith Mackay, Soprano

John Harrison, Tenor

**\*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. 29** (blue hymnal) (11:00) Go, Tell It on the Mountain Go Tell It

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**\*POSTLUDE** Partita XI Georg Böhm  
(from the chorale partita on Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele)  
O My Soul, Be Glad and Joyful

\*Indicates standing.

**NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS**

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**BULLETIN ARTWORK** is part of the Isenheim Altarpiece, The Crucifixion by Matthias Grünewald, 1510-1515.

**THIS MORNING’S PRELUDE** is a lovely and imaginative setting of the well-known chant. The melody is first heard with only open fifth chords punctuating its cadences, but we begin to hear it in canon with itself and with the texture thickened with rich harmonies that arise from contrary motion between the bassline of the accompaniment and the contour of the melody.

**The Order of Worship** December 17, 2017  
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**THE CHURCH GATHERS ...**

In these busy, stressful days, as we try to cope with many demands and busy schedules and added worry about our future, give us, O God, a few moments of quiet and peace this morning in which we might hear the soft, insistent voice in the wilderness; “Fear not. Here is your God.” Amen

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

**PRELUDE** Of the Father’s Love Begotten Divinum mysterium  
arr. David W. Music

Four-in-Hand Ringers

**OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**

(9:00) Ann and Scott Brunger

(11:00) Jeff and Jeanie Browning

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 95:1,2

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.

**TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...**

**\*HYMN NO. 110** (red hymnal) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Veni Emmanuel

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY**

**PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK:** Susan McKeehan and Dan Collins

**CARE TEAM COORDINATORS FOR DECEMBER 16-31:** All teams.

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

**SERVING TODAY**

**ACOLYTES** (11:00): Alaina and Jaelyn Venable

**GREETERS** (11:00): Scott and Ashley Porter

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:**

(9:00) Four-in-Hand Ringers and Westminster Choristers

(11:00) Chancel Choir and Four-in-Hand Ringers

**SENIOR USHER:** Tom Byerley

**USHERS:**

(9:00) Carol Beilharz and Genet Weber

(11:00) David and Shawn Owens, Kathy and John Shilling, and Linda Van Beke

**SAFETY TEAM:** Tim Crais

**BLUE PARAMENTS:** Over the last several years, more and more liturgical churches have returned to using blue as the color associated with the season of Advent. Blue was used, in fact, until the Middle Ages, when blue dye became too expensive to produce and purple was substituted. Thus, the color purple was used for both advent as well as the season of Lent. This year Westminster joins many churches in returning to the color blue for reasons both historical and theological. Blue was the color associated with the Virgin Mary, and the season of Advent finds us waiting with her for the birth of God incarnate in the baby Jesus. Further, while Lenten purple marks a time of penitence and a focus on the suffering of our Lord, the color blue reminded early Christians that Advent was a season focused on hope, expectation and the anticipation of those awaiting the birth of the Savior.

**KIDS CORNER**

**Nursery:** (9:00) 0-5 year olds during Worship Service

(10:00) 0-2 year olds during Sunday School

(11:00) 0-2 year olds during Worship Service

**Sunday School:** Pre-K (3-5 YO), K-1st grade, and 2nd-4th grades. Children meet at 10:00 in the downstairs Fellowship Hall before splitting into small groups.

**Children's Worship:** Kids age 3 through 2nd grade are invited to join us for Time With The Children before heading downstairs for Children's Worship.

**ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** will resume on January 7 at 10:00 AM.

**ABBEY DEADLINE** is this today. Send articles to unitedprinters@comcast.net.

**FOUNTAIN IN THE COURTYARD:** Just a reminder to make sure that children aren't climbing over the brick wall onto the river rocks. The grate below the river rocks cannot hold the extra weight and could cause damage to the fountain we've worked so hard to refurbish.

**KIDS CLUB** is meeting in the McKinnon Room at 12:15 today to decorate Christmas cookies.

**CHRISTMAS EVE** services will be at 11:00 AM and 11:00 PM.

**SHOW AND WAMS:** Angel Tree shopping + Christmas Party!! We'll gather at 3:00, pool our resources (\$'s), and go do some Angel Tree shopping! This year, we'll be shopping for clothing and toys for a Knoxville middle-schooler and her two younger siblings. (Gresham Middle School counselors have asked for our help, knowing what a great job we've done in the past!) After shopping, we'll return to WPC for a yummy dinner and our annual "Sneaky Santa" gift exchange! Everyone bring a wrapped or bagged present (the cost should be no more than \$10.) This event is for all youth ages 5th grade to 12th grade. We will finish up around 7. We need several parent drivers, and a couple who would be willing to work clean-up crew after dinner. Please let Barbara know if you can help.

**EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will be meeting December 18 at 7:00 PM.

**WESTMINSTER ORNAMENTS** are available in the Schilling Gallery or office to purchase for \$5 each.

**Christmas Joy Offering: Supporting Past, Present and Future Leaders**

The Christmas Joy Offering is being received throughout the Advent season. A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. Thank you for your support of this special offering.

**RICHARD BEAN JUVENILE SERVICE CENTER:** Today is the last day to drop off your gift bags with small treats for teens. These young people range in age from 14-17, and are both boys and girls. There are typically more boys than girls. They may be there for several days, weeks, or months. If you would like to participate, bring a Christmas gift bag and place on the table in the Schilling Gallery. A list of appropriate items can be found on the gift table. Please call the church office if you would like to help organize the gifts and deliver them to the center.

**MUSIC OF THE SEASON:** You're cordially invited to a program of Christmas music presented by members of the Tuesday Morning Musical Club at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 19, in the sanctuary and to a reception afterwards in the Schilling Gallery. Do plan to stay after the program for refreshments and fellowship, as members of the club are always so glad to have the opportunity to meet more members of our very hospitable church!

**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. Deadline for these donations is TODAY, December 17.



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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of/honor of (circle one):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by:

\_\_\_\_\_

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Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate

Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster

Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries

Allie Brewington, Director of Children's Ministries

Mary Boyd, Education Coordinator

Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Melissa Everett, Administrative Assistant

Debbie Bendy, *Abbey* Editor

**2018 FLOWER DEDICATIONS:** Please sign up on the Schilling Gallery bulletin board for your 2018 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. Today is the last day to participate.

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:** We have received 173 pledges for our 2018 operating year with a total of \$721,376.00 This is a great stat but we need everyone's participation to meet the Asking Budget of \$875,353. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex.

**FINAL 2017 CONTRIBUTIONS** as well as any 2018 prepaid offerings need to be in the church office by December 31. All offerings received by December 31 will be included in your 2017 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel.

**THE SESSION**

**Class of 2018:** Leigh Dunlap, JP Mackay, Linda VanBeke, Wes Williams, Michael Yates, and Youth Elder Clara Oakes

**Class of 2019:** Debbie Babelay, Daniel Collins, Vicki Mayfield, Cindy Pearman, Jay Schmid

**Class of 2020:** Scott Brunger, James Everett, Andrew Gordon, Susan McKeehan, Shawn Owens

**Youth Elder:** Clara Oakes

**Clerk of Session:** Georgann Byerley

**Trustees:** Paul Jorden, Alice Mercer, Reed Ellis