



“Where Faith and Life Connect”

The Order of Worship

December 31, 2017
11:00 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER 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. 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 Das alte Jahr vergangen ist, BWV 614 J. S. Bach
The Old Year Has Passed Away
(from the *Orgelbüchlein*)

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: What a year this has been!

People: So many things have happened; things to celebrate, things to mourn.

Leader: In all of this our Lord has been with us, guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing.

People: Thanks be to God for God’s continual presence with us.

Leader: Now we are on the threshold to a new tomorrow, a new year. We don’t know what it will hold for us.

People: In all of what is to come, our Lord will be with us; guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing.

ALL: Praise the Lord!

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 51 (blue hymnal) What Child Is This Greensleeves

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Lord, you have asked us to feed and give drink to those who hunger, to clothe those who are naked, to welcome the stranger, to visit those who are sick and imprisoned. When we look back on this year we might be able to say we did some of those things. We remember the enthusiasm with which we started out this waning year, ready to do your work and witness to your love. But you know how things got in our way. We allowed ourselves to be swallowed up by worries and fear. We often placed comfort of self before service to others. Now we are on the brink of this new year. We cannot change what we did not do, but we can make a covenant with you to be a reflection of you in our words, thoughts and deeds. Please continue to inspire us to do what you would have us do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

*KYRIE ELEISON NO. 574 (blue hymnal) arr. David N. Johnson
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE Gloria Patri No. 576 (blue hymnal) Jacques Berthier

TO EXPERIENCE GOD’S WORD AND RESPOND ...

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 61:10-62:3

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Allie Brewington

Children age 3 through 2nd grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children’s Worship.

EPISTLE Galatians 4:4-7

SERMON “Look at God!” Eric Adamcik

*HYMN (See insert) Soon and Very Soon African American gospel hymn

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

We believe that Christ calls us to the hard work of community, both in our homes and in our surroundings. Through being in community, we enrich our neighbors and ourselves, and create something new that is stronger than what we did there before. So we are called to be creators of community in Christ's name, for our humanity and for others. As Christ followers in a long chain of Christ followers, let us take this moment to relax and be in community and recognize humanity in this congregation, and stay in this moment to be enriched through Jesus' presence. Let us trust in ourselves to listen to and hear each other, to minister to others as Christ ministered and still ministers to us.

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. 58 (blue hymnal) While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
Winchester Old

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 586 (blue hymnal) Amen
Danish melody
Marcel Dupré

*POSTLUDE In dir ist Freude
In Thee Is Joy

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Shawn Owens and JP Mackay
CARE TEAM COORDINATORS FOR THIS WEEK: Bill and Bonnie Rogers
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: Will and Sophie Manrod

GREETERS: Don and Sue Byerly

SENIOR USHER: Tom Byerley

USHERS: Elizabeth Ridley, Larry Ridley, Scott Rutherford, John Salsbery, and Jay Schmid

SAFETY TEAM: Bill Wiesehuegel

THE PRELUDE this morning is based on a chorale for the first day of the new year. Robert Clark and John David Peterson, in their commentary for their edition of the *Orgelbüchlein*, suggest “the text of this chorale is a prayer of thanksgiving for Christ’s protection in the old year and a petition for continuing mercy and guidance offered on the first day of the new year.” Though, on the surface, one might assume that the chromatic lines symbolize mostly (or only) grief or sadness at the passing of the last year (chromaticism being an expressive device commonly used in music of this period to evoke or depict these emotions), they go on to add that “the theme of the text is one of prayer, not grief; in fact, one could make a convincing argument that the upward-moving chromatic lines were used consciously to suggest an attitude of supplication rather than sadness.”

THE MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CLASS meets Thursday, January 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the SHOW room.

WE RETURN TO OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE next Sunday, January 7 with worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School

Classes will resume on January 7.

All Sunday school classes begin at 10:00 a.m. each week.

Bible Study - Adult Bible study meets in the library and is led by Scott Brunger. The class will be studying in the New Testament.

The Wired Word - Led by a rotating group of teachers, this class takes a look at how scripture addresses current topics. All you need is a smart phone or tablet. The class meets in the Prayer Room.

Feasting on the Word - This lectionary-based study provides some background for the scriptures read during worship each week. Also led by a teaching team, this class meets in the McKinnon Room.

Faith and Life - Larry Ridley will begin a series entitled "The Gifts of Empathy" using video and discussion. He'll meet you in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT is Tuesday, January 9th. The Property ministry team will provide our refreshments.

WEDNESDAYS WITH WESTMINSTER will resume on January 10 and will run through February 7. Dr. Phillips will continue his lectures on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Nazi Germany. Barbara Adamcik will teach another "bucket list" class - topic to be announced soon! These Wednesday evening gatherings begin with dinner at 5:45 with classes following at 6:30. All are welcome, and you don't need to RSVP. Childcare is available.

KIDS CLUB will meet January 7, after the 11:00 service to make time capsules!

MLK Parade - January 15

The WPC youth would like to invite you to our next event. Come march with us in the Knoxville Martin Luther King Parade. This amazing experience allows us to literally march down MLK boulevard, marching for peace and unity with a rainbow of friends. We will meet at the parking lot of 1st Presbyterian Church (downtown- 620 State St.) at 9 a.m. There will be a shuttle to drop off at Tabernacle Baptist (parade start) and pick up at the Greater Warner Tabernacle (parade end.) All are invited to go to lunch afterwards! Come be the change you wish to see...

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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
Allie Brewington, Director of Children's Ministries
Mary Boyd, Education Coordinator
Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
Melissa Everett, Administrative Assistant
Debbie Bendy, *Abbey* Editor

THE SESSION

Class of 2018

Leigh Dunlap
JP Mackay
Linda Van Beke
Wes Williams
Michael Yates
Youth Elder: Clara Oakes
Clerk of Session: Georgann Byerley

Class of 2019

Debbie Babelay
Daniel Collins
Terry Crow
Cindy Pearman
Jay Schmid

Class of 2020

Scott Brunger
James Everett
Andrew Gordon
Susan McKeehan
Shawn Owens

TRUSTEES

Paul Jorden

Alice Mercer

Reed Ellis