



The Order of Worship

“Where Faith and Life Connect”
December 23, 2018
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

What keeps the wild hope of Christmas alive year after year in a world notorious for dashing all hopes is the haunting dream that the child who was born that day may yet be born again even in us and our own snowbound, snow-blind longing for him.

Frederick Buechner
“Emmanuel”
Secrets in the Dark

PRELUDE

- | | |
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| (9:00) Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599 | J. S. Bach |
| <i>Come, Thou Savior of the Nations</i>
(from the <i>Orgelbüchlein</i>) | |
| (11:00) O Little Town of Bethlehem | <i>St. Louis</i>
arr. Sammy Nestico |
| The First Noel | <i>The First Noel</i>
arr. Nestico |
| Silent Night | <i>Stille nacht</i>
arr. Nestico |
| Joy to the World | <i>Antioch</i>
arr. Nestico |

Brass Choir

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

- (9:00) The Rector Family
 (11:00) The Hahn Family

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Leader: Come once more, with eager longing, to receive the promises of God.
People: Out of the desert places of our lives, we gather with joy and gladness.
 Leader: Come, believers and seekers and skeptics, to hear the story of God’s greatest gift.
People: We celebrate the transforming love of God for all creation, through the one called Emmanuel, God with us.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 29 (blue hymnal) Go, Tell It on the Mountain *Go Tell It*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious God, we come before you this Advent season stressed and anxious. Much of our disquiet is a reflection of the world around us, but most is a reflection of our hearts. You know the imperfections of our lives in what we do and what we fail to do. Yet, you still come to us. With grace and forgiveness you come...to lift the burden of guilt, to bestow peace and a sense of calm, to bring light to our darkness and to fill the earth with Christmas presence. Emmanuel, God with us, be with us as we confess our sin and our need of salvation. 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

Luke 1:46-55

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)

Allie Brewington

Children age 4 through 4th grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children’s Worship.

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:4-7

SERMON

“How Can I Keep From Singing?” *Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips*
Deborah Phillips

Verse 1: My life flows on in endless song; above earth’s lamentations, I hear the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation. Above the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

Verse 2: What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living. What though the shadows gather round? A new son Christ is given. No storm can shake my in-most calm, while to that Rock I’m clinging. Since Love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Verse 3: When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ringing; when friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing? In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging. When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

Verse 4: I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it. And day by day, this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing. All things are mine, since I am Christ’s-how can I keep from singing?

*HYMN NO. 53 (blue hymnal) What Child Is This *Greensleeves*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) *adapted, Romans 12:9-21*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 ANTHEM

(9:00) Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BuxWV 211 *Dieterich Buxtehude*

(11:00) Balulalaw *Peter Aston*

O my dear heart, young Jesus sweet, Prepare a cradle in my spreit, And I shall rock thee in my heart, And nevermore from thee depart. But I shall praise thee evermore With sangis sweet unto thy gloir, The knees of my heart shall I bow And sing that richt Balulalaw.

James, John, and Robert Wedderburn

*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 ...

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

*POSTLUDE Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr

Andreas Armsdorff

All Glory Be to God on High

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Rachel Powell and Andrew Gordon
CARE TEAM COORDINATORS FOR DECEMBER 16-31: 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 (11:00): Bobby and Frank Manrod

GREETERS (11:00): Mary Lou Crow and Kaye Davis

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: (11:00) Brass and Chancel Choirs

SHEPHERD’S TEAM: Larry Ridley

SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel

USHERS:

(9:00) Bob and Lucinda Albiston

(11:00) Mary Lou Crow, Jerry and Scott Carley, Tom and Georgann Byerley

SAMMY NESTICO is an American composer and arranger of big band music best known for his arrangements for the Count Basie orchestra. As a trombonist, he played in the big bands of Tommy Dorsey and Woody Herman, among others. This morning’s arrangements feature the warmth and richness of the low brass, fresh harmonies, and lyrical trumpet lines. Our thanks to Barbara Adamcik for sharing these arrangements with the Brass Choir.

FINAL 2018 CONTRIBUTIONS as well as any 2019 prepaid offerings need to be in the church office by December 31. All offerings received by December 31 will be included in your 2018 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel. The church office will be closed December 25-28 but will be open on December 24 and 31 from 9:00 to 1:00 pm.

COLLEGE MONTREAT: Montreat is presenting a College Montreat Conference once again this year. The College Montreat will be from January 2-5, 2019. This year, the theme of the conference is Compassionate Community. One of the keynote speakers is the well-known interfaith teacher and activist, Eboo Patel! The conference preacher is Aisha Brooks-Lytle (who inspired us at Montreat last summer.) The cost for college-aged participants is \$100. There are scholarships for anyone who needs them. If you are interested in attending, contact Barbara Adamcik. Thanks to Sandra and Gary Rowcliffe for chaperoning this great event!!

CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK AND SING-A-LONG is TODAY. Connect Team is providing Bar-B-Q and everyone else is invited to bring a salad, veggie, dessert, or bread. We will enjoy singing carols together, and hearing special holiday music played by our WPC Brass Choir! The event will begin at noon (after the 11:00 service.) We hope you can “raise your voice” with us!!!

KIDS CORNER

Nursery- Our nursery is available for children 0-5 years old during the 9:00 service, and children 0-3 years old during the 11:00 service.

Children’s Worship (10:00 and 11:00)- All children 4th grade and younger meet downstairs for an opportunity to spend time together completing crafts, service projects, and seasonal activities.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE: We have received 169 pledges with a total of \$696,168. Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge. For the 2018 Budget year, we have 187 pledges for a total of \$807,226. As you can see - we have a ways to go to meet next year’s budget. Everyone’s pledges and time and talents combined will help Westminster Presbyterian Church continue it’s present ministry as well as discover new paths to spread the love of our wonderful Lord and Savior! You are needed and appreciated!

2019 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.

Worship Schedule

Monday, December 24

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

Sunday, December 30

11:00 a.m. - One Worship Service

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: Jesus was sent to lead his people, pointing to God through love and justice, peace and compassion, forgiveness and humility. We can never match God’s perfect gift in Jesus, but through the Christmas Joy Offering, we can testify to who we have known God to be. Our gifts reflect our generous God. Our gifts support leaders in our church and world – past, present and future. “Every generous act of giving is from above.” James 1:17

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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 2019

Debbie Babelay

Daniel Collins

Vicki Mayfield

Cindy Pearman

Jay Schmid

Youth Elder: Maggie Gordon

Clerk of Session: Leigh Dunlap

Class of 2020

Scott Brunger

James Everett

Andrew Gordon

Susan McKeehan

Shawn Owens

Class of 2021

Brian Bonnyman

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Amy Gilbert

Buz Johnson

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