



The Order of Worship December 15, 2019
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

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

PRELUDE
(9:00) Rorate caeli Jeanne Demessieux
(from *Twelve Chorale Preludes on Gregorian Chant Themes for Organ*)
(11:00) A Midnight Clear (A Christmas Nocturne) Carol
arr. Sondra K. Tucker

Handbell Choir

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE
(9:00) Ron and Juanita Campbell
(11:00) Casey Page and Ken Hughes
INTROIT (11:00) Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Polish carol
arr. Peter Van Eenam

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging Angels singing, Nowells ringing, Tidings bringing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new; Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow, Christ the Babe was born for you!
trans. Edith Reed

Boys' and Girls' Choirs
Ed Babelay, Jan Barber, Cindy Pearman,
and Cindy Serbin, Handbells

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 24
Leader: The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it.
People: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 93 (purple hymnal) Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates Truro

*CALL TO CONFESSION
*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
Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**
*RESPONSE Gloria Patri No. 581 (purple hymnal) Henry W. Greatorex

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 35:1-10
A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00) Amy Rawe

Children age 4 through 4th grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Sunday School.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON "A Conversation with Isaiah" Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

*HYMN NO. 87 (purple hymnal) Comfort, Comfort Now My People Genevan 42

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Luke 1:46-55

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) A Midnight Clear (A Christmas Nocturne) Carol
(11:00) Magnificat Scott Perkins
My soul doth magnify the Lord And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath magnified me And holy is His name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with His arm, He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat And hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He hath sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, hath holpen His servant Israel As He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, Is now, and ever shall be, World without end, Amen.

Luke 1:46-55

*AT THE PRESENTATION Doxology No. 608 (purple hymnal) Tallis' Canon
(Sung to the tune of Hymn No. 748 (purple hymnal))

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

*HYMN NO. 100 (purple hymnal)(11:00) My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout Star of the Country Down

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

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things, far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

*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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Amy Gilbert and Brian Bonnyman
CARE TEAM COORDINATORS FOR DEC 1-31: Susan McKeehan
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AND HEARING DEVICES are available from ushers.
PLEASE place your bulletin into a blue recycling bin located at the Narthex door if you do not want to take it home.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES (11:00): Gracie Kringen and Ella Chattin

GREETERS (11:00): Bob and Lana Daverman

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

(9:00) Handbell Choir

(11:00) Boys', Chancel, Girls', and Handbell Choirs

SHEPHERD'S TEAM: Hap McSween

SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel

USHERS:

(9:00) Stephanie Lynch-Wright and Kathy Huck

(11:00) Jay Schmid, Tom and Georgann Byerley, Linda Van Beke,

Ann Allison-Cote

THIS MORNING'S INTROIT began as an arrangement for the young Westminster Strings in 2001, scored for three violin parts and a muted violin descant. Due to a violin's lowest string being a G below middle C, the arrangement is all in the treble. It is also in a range suitable for young voices, so the violin lines were condensed into a piano reduction and the two verses of text added. The muted violin descant transferred to handbells, but serendipitously added a wonderful "twinkling" to the line, evoking stars. Our thanks to Ed Babelay, Jan Barber, Cindy Pearman, and Cindy Serbin for their enrichment of our worship this morning as they accompany the Boys' and Girls' Choirs.

HYMNAL DEDICATIONS are still being accepted and name plates will be placed in each hymnal soon.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE: Longest Night is a worship service offered during Advent. It acknowledges that, for many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, or sadness. This service offers a way for people to claim those feelings while still feeling surrounded by the compassionate love of God. Westminster will offer a Longest Night service on Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us in the sanctuary for this quiet service of music and contemplation.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE: We have received 172 pledges with a total of \$755,660. The asking budget is \$903,141. Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge. 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!

ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: HOPES AND FEARS: The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight' are the words which conclude the first verse of the classic Christmas carol. Join Larry Ridley for Advent Study 2019 on December 1, 8, and 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will consider the history, story and meaning of the carol, 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', including the missing verse written by the author of the carol, Phillips Brooks, travel with Rick Steves to Bethlehem, Palestine and the Church of the Nativity, and follow the tradition of a religious observance Las Posadas sin Fronteras.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG: Following the 11:00 service TODAY the entire church is invited to our Christmas carol sing-a-long and potluck! The Connect Team will supply Bar-B-Q, everyone else bring a side or dessert to share. Ibbie Muntz will lead the singing, the Westminster Brass ensemble will perform, and Mary Lou Holt is accompanying!! (There will even be some Christmas games!) We hope everyone will join us for Christmas fun.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING is being collected through December 22.

SHOW AND WAMS will meet at 3:30 at WPC to do special gift shopping for the needy. After shopping, we will head to Lake Hills Presbyterian to make care packages with our friends, Seeds of Abraham at 5:00pm.



CHRISTMAS POTLUCK BREAKFAST will be offered on Sunday, December 22 at 10:00 am. We need your help! If you are willing to bring a dish, please email Allie at allie_wpc@comcast.net and let her know what you can provide. She will send a follow up email with more details to all volunteers next week. Some ideas: Breakfast casserole, hash brown casserole, sausage balls, donuts, muffins, biscuits, fruit, bacon, deviled eggs, quiche, yogurt, etc. Homemade or store bought it's all good!

SUNDAY SCHOOL classes conclude today and will resume January 5.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY DATE CHANGES: The evening class will meet December 16 at 7:00 and the morning class will meet January 9 at 10:00.

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.

ADVENT FLOWER 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. TODAY is the last day!



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

\$ _____

In memory of/honor of (circle one):

Given by:

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6500 Northshore Drive, Knoxville TN 37919

Telephone (865) 584-3957 Fax (865) 584-8840

E-mail westminsterpres@comcast.net

www.wpcknox.org

Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips, Pastor

Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate

Rev. Gradye Parsons, 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

Daniel Lewis, Youth Assistant

Debbie Bendy, *Abbey* Editor

KIDS CORNER

Nursery (8:45-12:15): available for children 0-4 years old.

Children's Fellowship Time (10:00-10:45): for kids of all ages through 4th grade, great to get to know each other better while participating in fun and meaningful activities, games, crafts and service projects.

Time with Children (11:10): Children age 4-4th grade are encouraged to stay with families for the beginning of 11:00 am worship, they are then invited up-front for a brief children's sermon and prayer, then ushered downstairs for Sunday School.

Sunday School (11:15-12:00): Children will be split by age, pre-school through kindergarten and 1st-4th grade.

Westminster Upcoming Schedule

Thursday, December 19

7:00 pm - The Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 22

9:00 and 11:00 am Worship

10:00 am - Christmas Breakfast for everyone

Tuesday, December 24

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

Sunday, December 29

11:00 a.m. - One Worship Service

THE SESSION

Class of 2020

Scott Brunger

James Everett

Andrew Gordon

Susan McKeehan

Shawn Owens

Youth Elder: Katie Rogers

Class of 2021

Brian Bonnyman

Anne Crais

Amy Gilbert

Buz Johnson

Rachel Powell

Clerk of Session: Leigh Dunlap

Class of 2022

Bob Albiston

Janet Drumm

Colleen Manrod

Charlie Mercer

Leslie Versen

TRUSTEES

Reed Ellis

Jeff Browning

Cile Mathews