



The Order of Worship

**December 1, 2024
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRELUDE Variation on *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Anton Heiller

CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dan Berry

One: God says,
All: "Do not be afraid."
 One: God says,
All: "I have called you by name."
 One: God says,
All: "I will be with you."
 One: God says,
All: "You are precious and honored in my sight."
 One: At the beginning of this season,
All: at the start of this week,
 One: at the top of this hour,
**All: may we wrap ourselves in these words.
 May we begin again.**
 One: Let us worship our Holy God!

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

AN ADVENT PROCESSIONAL

Donald Pearson

Come thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin birth: Let ev'ry age adoring fall such birth befits the God of all. *Refrain.*

Begotten of no human will, But of the Spirit thou art still. The Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to all displayed. *Refrain.*

The virgin womb that burden gained With virgin honour all unstained; The banners there of virtue glow; God in his temple dwells below. *Refrain.*

Forth from his chamber goeth he, That royal home of purity, A giant in two-fold substance one, Rejoicing now his course to run. *Refrain.*

From God the Father he proceeds, To God the Father back he speeds: His course he runs to death and hell, Returning on God's throne to dwell. *Refrain.*

O equal to thy Father, Thou! Gird on thy fleshly mantle now; The weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate. *Refrain.*

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright And darkness breathe a newer light, Where endless faith shall shine serene, And twilight never intervene. *Refrain.*

All laud, eternal Son, to thee Whose advent sets thy people free, Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore. *Refrain.*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)*

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live as though there were no justice. We fear as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love in this season of preparation. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

***RESPONSE**

**O Come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
 That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***RESPONSE** Prepare the Way of the Lord (*sing twice*)

Jacques Berthier

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)

Ellen Anderson

Children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to go downstairs for Children's Church.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

9:00 Fortney Family

11:00 Huning Family

Jeremiah 33:14-16

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 21:25-36

SERMON

"The Weary World Rejoices"

Rev. Dr. Richard Coble

***HYMN NO. 82** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

THE OFFERING

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle. Your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Keep Your Lamps

André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, The time is drawing nigh.
 Children, don't get weary, 'Til your work is done.
 Christian, journey soon be over, The time is drawing nigh.
 Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, The time is drawing nigh.

***AT THE PRESENTATION**

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**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Responsive)

One: The Lord be with you.
Many: And also with you.
 One: Lift up your hearts.
Many: We lift them to the Lord.
 One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
 One: Creator God... forever sing to the glory of your name.

Many:

O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, O God of time and space. All
Ho - san - na in the high - est heav'n, crea - a - tion sings your praise. And

earth and sea and sky a - bove bear wit - ness to your grace.
bles - sed is the one who comes and bears your name al - ways.

One: Jesus came as teacher... we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Many:

Sing Christ has died and Christ has ris'n, sing Christ will come a - gain! Sing

Christ has died and Christ has ris'n, sing Christ will come a - gain!

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION and 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF BREAD

Congregation will come forward to receive the elements.

All pre-cut bread is gluten free.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

David Hogan

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

***HYMN NO. 102** Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Please stand in Body or Spirit

**Selections from the Prayers and Liturgies today are adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are)

Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org and *Feasting on the Word: Advent*

Companion, eds. David Bartlett, Barbara Brown Taylor, and Kimberly Bracken Long.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Wendy Collins and Bill Farnham

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES: (11:00) Jason Birdwell and Jewel Jennings

GREETERS: (11:00) Renee Wiesehuegel and Joyce Ryan

LITURGIST: Dan Berry

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: (9:00) Octet Ensemble; Percussionist - Bob Adamcik

(11:00) Chancel Choir; Percussionist - Bob Adamcik

SHEPHERD'S TEAM: William Gibbons

SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel

USHERS: (9:00) Ken Hughes and Casey Page

(11:00) Mark Potocik, John Salsbery, Brenda Seip, Kathy Shilling, Jaclyn Beeler

MUSICAL NOTE This morning, our worship celebrates the beginning of the new church year and our preparation for the Christmas Season. We begin the services with *An Advent Processional* written by American composer Donald Pearson, that involves congregation, choir, percussion, and handbells. The choir will sing the spiritual *Keep Your Lamps*, accompanied by congas, and we will all join in a setting of *Holy, Holy, Holy* to a familiar American hymn tune, *Morning Song* (My Soul Gives Glory To My God). The communion anthem is a setting of a text by Charles Wesley by American composer David Hogan. The services are bookended by a prelude and postlude based on the closing hymn, *Savior of the Nations, Come*. These two works were composed by German composers, Anton Heiller and Johann Sebastian Bach.

PRAYER LIST (Please keep the following names in your prayers this week)
Juanita Campbell, Sonja Jones, Judy and Joseph Moon, Lalla Phillips, Kitty Rasa, Doris Solomon, Vicki Chapman, Jonah McCollum, Karen and her son Brian, Anne Hector (Mary Jo Mann's niece), Janice Jennings, Salma Alami, Melinda Foster, Becky and Cathy Cagle (Gloria Borum's dear friends).

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study: Chooses a book of the Bible to unpack (McKinnon Hall)

Feasting on the Word: Studies scriptures used in Worship (Lisa Kaufman Hall)

The Wired Word: Discusses current events with a theological eye (Library)

CHILDREN'S OFFERINGS

During 10:00 Hour - Sunday School for children thru 5th grade

During 11:00 Hour - Nursery available for children 0-3 years old

Children's Church for children preschool through 5rd grade

Children will be walked to Children's Church classes following the Time with Children during the 11:00 worship service.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES 10:00am

WAMS (Westminster's Awesome Middle Schoolers) - 6th Grade - WAMS room.

Confirmation Class - 7th & 8th Grades in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

SHOW (Senior Highs of Westminster) - 9th-12th Grades - SHOW room.

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP from WPC will meet at the Buckingham Clubhouse, 7303 Manderly Way TODAY from 5:30-7:30 pm. All members and friends who live in the 37909 zip code are invited to attend. Bring an appetizer to share and drinks will be provided. RSVP to Gail Bruner (865)363-6222 or Anne Crais (865)360-9008.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT NIGHT Please mark your calendars for Christmas Craft Night on Tuesday, December 3 from 5:00-7:00pm! This beloved church tradition is a great way to kick off the season for everyone 1-101. A potluck dinner will begin at 5 in the McKinnon Room, then everyone is welcome to work on crafts in the Schilling Gallery. Stop by anytime before we clean up crafts up at 7:00pm.

WPC KIDS & FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY All families of kids 0-5th grade (and older siblings too!) are invited to a potluck holiday party! Join us Friday 12/6 at 6:00pm at the home of Amanda Fox and Luke Kendziorski (318 Elmwood Dr Knoxville, TN 37918). Please bring a side or snack to share and whatever you like to drink. We are looking forward to a night of fellowship and fun! Please RSVP to Amanda at (904)861-4752.

JUSTICE KNOX Join us Monday, December 9, from 6-8:30pm, at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church for Justice Knox's Research to Action Kick-Off. Help transform listening session findings into realistic action plans with deliverable solutions for housing/homelessness, transportation, and economic instability issues!

Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long and Pasta Lunch

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Noon in the Lisa Kaufman Hall

You are invited to attend a festive event hosted by the WPC Connect Team on Sunday, December 22, 2024, at noon. Please join us for a catered pasta lunch from Olive Garden with all the trimmings, followed by a carol sing. Watch for the serving line in the Schilling Gallery immediately after the 11:00 am service. Our gift to you during this holiday season will bring joy to the whole family. We hope you'll come!

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 1

9:00am - Sanctuary Worship

10:00am - Sunday School

10:00am to 1:00pm - Alternative Christmas Bazaar

11:00am - Sanctuary Worship

12:15pm - Youth Drama Practice

3:30pm - Brass Choir

5:00pm - *Abbey* Deadline

5:30pm - West Hills NG

Monday, December 2

11:00am - WPC yoga (LL Hearth Room)

Tuesday, December 3

10:00am - Staff Meeting

5:00pm - Christmas Craft Night

Wednesday, December 4

4:30pm - Companions

5:00pm - Treble Choir

6:30pm - Sectionals - Lisa Kaufman Hall

7:00pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 5

10:00am - Art Group

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

4:45pm - Handbells (UT Hospice Center)

Friday, December 6

6:00pm - Crafting / Wine & the Word Family Christmas Party

Advent Opportunities SAVE-the Date

December 1 - Alternative Christmas Bazaar

December 3 - Christmas Craft Night, 5pm

December 6 - Crafting Theology & The Wine and the Word Christmas Party, 6:00pm

December 15 - Christmas Youth Drama, 6:00pm

December 18 - Grace Filled Christmas at Ascension with WPC, 6:00pm

December 18 - Knox Youth Jazz Concert - Lisa Kaufman H, 6:00pm

December 22 - Service of Lessons and Carols, 11:00am

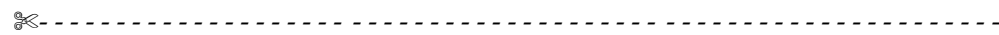
December 22 - Carol Sing Along (Lunch provided by Connections Team) LKH, Noon

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services, 5:00 & 8:00pm

MEN’S BOOK CLUB: On December 12, we will discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. All are welcome. We will meet in the Lisa Kaufman Hall following the Men's Fellowship Breakfast at about 9:30am.

Phil Barnette will lead our discussion. The book consists of interrelated essays concerning the lives of plants, Kimmerer's Potawatomi heritage and her efforts to learn the Anishinaabe language, Indigenous land stewardship practices, and the promises and limitations of the natural sciences to restore ecological balance in a contemporary world beset by climate change and catastrophic biodiversity loss. These issues are explored through the lens of Kimmerer's personal experience and family history as well as the perspectives of plants and other nonhuman species. The book encourages a relationship of reciprocity with the natural world, one that is focused on giving back to the land rather than merely extracting its resources.

VMC HOLIDAY DRIVE: Please join us in collecting needed items as we strive to brighten the holiday season for those that VMC directly serves to either achieve or sustain their housing. Since VMC's mission is to end and prevent homelessness in Knoxville, *Under the Tree* serves those who are either working to achieve housing through VMC's housing case management programs, the Resource Center and Rapid Rehousing, or those who have achieved their goal of housing at VMC's Permanent Supportive Housing developments, Minvilla Manor and Caswell Manor. Collections through December 11 will be taken in the church office. The ornaments hanging on the Christmas tree in the church office list the gifts needed.



ADVENT FLORAL DONATIONS are being accepted. 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. I would like to contribute to the Flower Guild for Advent:

\$ _____

In memory of/honor of (circle one):

Given by:
