



The Order of Worship

December 15, 2024
9:00 & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

Welcome to Westminster Church! We are a family of Christians gathered from many traditions and neighborhoods, worshipping 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 Chimings of Great Joy Dan R. Edwards
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP** Megan Milam

One: "Teacher," the crowd asked, "What should we do?"

All: If you have two shirts, give one away.

Hold onto hope.

Live like we belong to one another.

Speak the truth.

Look for God.

Do the good that is yours to do.

One: It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

All: Let us worship our present and active God.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

***HYMN NO. 134** (*Glory to God* hymnal) Joy to the World Antioch

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

Liberating God,

There are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling.

There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference.

I ask myself,

What could these two hands do?

What could this one voice say?

Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt.

Remind me that I am not called to fix everything.

I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do.

With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray.

Amen.

***RESPONSE**

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer

our spirits by thine advent here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

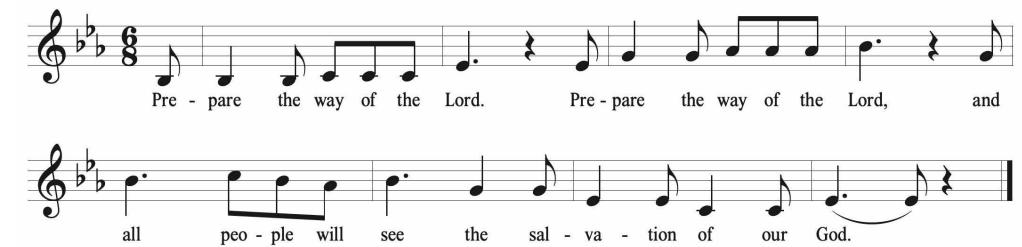
Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

Children are invited to the front during the singing of the response for the Time with Children.



TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00) Rev. Dr. Richard Coble

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

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE (9:00) Tyler Family

(11:00) Fox/Kendziorski Family

Zephaniah 3:14-20

ANTHEM (11:00) In The Bleak Mid-Winter arr. Matthew Prins

Handbell Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:7-18

SERMON "To Be a Snake or to Have a Snake?" Richard Coble

***HYMN NO. 105** (*Glory to God* hymnal) People Look East Besançon

(9:00 stanzas 1 & 5 only)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*

One: John the Baptist's followers once asked him, "What shall we do?"

Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer?

All: In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say:
Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world.
Instead, hold fast to hope.
Roll up your sleeves.
Feed the hungry.
Tend the garden.
If you have two coats, give one away.
Do the good that is yours to do.
In doing so, you will see God.
For this we believe: small acts of love can make a difference.
Amen.

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

(9:00) In The Bleak Mid-Winter arr. Matthew Prins

Handbell Choir

(11:00) Joys Seven English Traditional Carol arr. Stephen Cleobury

The first good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of one

To see her own son Jesus Christ When he was first her son:

When he was first her son, good man

Refrain: And blessed may he be Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of two

To see her own son Jesus Christ To make the lame to go: *Refrain.*

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of three

To see her own son Jesus Christ To make the blind to see: *Refrain.*

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of four

To see her own son Jesus Christ To read the bible o'er: *Refrain.*

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of five

To see her own son Jesus Christ To bring the dead alive: *Refrain.*

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of six

To see her own son Jesus Christ Upon the crucifix: *Refrain.*

The last good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of seven

To see her own son Jesus Christ To wear the Crown of Heaven: *Refrain.*

***AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology *Old Hundredth*

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**

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.

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.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

***HYMN NO. 80** (*Glory to God* hymnal) You Shall Go Out with Joy *The Trees of the Field*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** Voluntary on *Joy to the World* Pamela Decker

*Please stand in Body or Spirit

**Prayers and liturgy this morning are adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Mary Boyd and George Barber
CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER: CARE Team
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS/ HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES: (11:00) Jason Birdwell and Brooklyn Fox

GREETERS: (11:00) Alice and Charlie Mercer

LITURGIST: Megan Milam

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: (9:00) Handbells; (11:00) Chancel Choir and Meredith MacKay

SHEPHERD’S TEAM: Jay Schmid

SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel

USHERS: (9:00) Bonny and Doug Naugher

(11:00) Tim and Joyce Ryan, Ron Alexander, Jaclyn Beeler, Janet Drumm

MUSIC NOTE The composer of today’s postlude, Pamela Decker, is professor of organ and theory at the University of Arizona. She earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Stanford University and was awarded a Fulbright grant in 1980 to study organ and composition in Lübeck, Germany. Her compositions have been performed in 19 countries by musicians from all over the world.

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, Becky and Cathy Cagle (Gloria Borum’s dear friends), Rob Elliot (Brenda Seip's brother).

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES 10:00am
Confirmation Class - 7th & 8th Grades in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION DECEMBER CALENDAR

ADULT OFFERINGS

Because of the Christmas breakfast, the Adult Sunday School classes will not meet today. The Feasting on the Word and the Wired Word Adult Sunday School classes will resume on January 5. The Bible class will meet on December 22.

CHILDREN'S OFFERINGS - today during 11:00am 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 DRAMA Don't miss the Children and Youth Christmas production **TODAY** at 6:00 pm. This group of 40+ children is presenting The Donkey's Christmas Song and How the Grinch-es Stole Christmas. This fantastic group of actors, stage crew, and High School directors have been working hard to present this special story. It will warm your heart at least 3 sizes!!!

GRACE FILLED CHRISTMAS There are a lot of activities and celebrations at Christmas in the church and in our homes. Families gather, children come home from college and traditions are relived. But it is hard to not be mindful of the parts of our families that aren’t here anymore or friends that have moved away. Come for a time to reflect and remember. Too busy with Christmas? Come for a time to reflect. Once again our friends at the Church of the Ascension have invited us to join them on December 18 at 5:30pm in their chapel for a service entitled “A Grace Filled Christmas.” It is a time when all people, regardless of where they are in life, can experience the holiness of the season in a quiet, contemplative manner. If you park in the lot nearest Northshore on their campus you can enter into the chapel doors.

KNOXVILLE YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA The Knoxville Youth Jazz Orchestra will gift us with a concert on Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00pm in the Lisa Kaufman Hall. You won't want to miss it! They are so good!

FISH WITH US Saturday, December 21- 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Fish Distribution Warehouse. We will be assembling and handing out food to neighbors who need it. We meet there at 9:00am, and work until noon or 1:00pm. (We're usually done by noon, but you may leave at any time.) The address for this FISH pantry is 122 W. Scott Ave. If you would like to leave from church, please let the office know, otherwise the plan is to meet there. Everyone is welcome to help - adults, families, children and YOUTH!! We'll be giving out extra goodies in time for Christmas! (Please let Barbara know if you are planning to help.)

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG AND PASTA LUNCH 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!

Advent and Christmas Opportunities SAVE-the Date
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 Hall, 6:00pm
December 22 - Service of Lessons and Carols, 11:00am (one worship service)
December 22 - Carol Sing Along (Lunch provided by Connections Team) LKH, Noon
December 24 - Christmas Eve Services, 5:00 & 8:00pm
December 29 - 10:00am service

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING The Christmas Joy Offering opens doors of opportunity for the leaders who are shaped and supported through our gifts - doors that lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our gifts open doors that lead to relief for church workers and their families when emergency needs arise. You will find offertory envelopes in the Narthex.

HELPING HANDS We are now up and running and have already helped some folks who needed a little assistance. Driving someone to the doctor, moving a heavy piece of furniture, helping someone with a computer issue, and other simple tasks are included in the list of jobs that are offered. If you would like to be a part of this program and have a certain skill, or two, that can help someone, please fill out a form on the nametag table in the narthex and return to offering plate, or contact Renee or Joanna and have your name added to the Helping Hands roster. Remember, jobs requiring a license, such as electrical or plumbing work, are not on the list of approved tasks and should be done by the appropriate professional. So, if you are someone who needs assistance, don't fret! Help is on the way! If you can lend that helping hand, sign up today and be a part of this exciting ministry!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where Faith and Life Connect"

6500 Northshore Drive, Knoxville TN 37919

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

E-mail westminsterpres@comcast.net

www.wpcknox.org

Rev. Dr. Richard Coble, Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Gradye Parsons, Parish Associate

Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus

Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries, CLP

Dr. Edie Johnson, Music Director/Organist

Allie Brewington, Interim Director of Children's Ministries

Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Joanna Warren, Administrative Assistant

Linda Judge McRae, Parish Nurse

Debbie Bendy, Abbey Editor

Sawyer Warren, Worship Tech

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 15

9:00am - Sanctuary Worship

10:00am - Christmas Breakfast

11:00am - Sanctuary Worship

3:00pm - Play Warm up

5:00pm - *Abbey* deadline

6:00pm - Christmas Play

Monday, December 16

6:00pm - Brass Choir

Tuesday, December 17

10:00am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 18

4:30pm - Companions

5:00pm - Treble Choir

5:30pm - Grace Filled Christmas at Ascension

6:00pm - Knoxville Youth Jazz Concert

7:00pm - Chancel Choir

Saturday, December 21

9:00am - Youth Service Day at FISH

THE SESSION

Class of 2025

Ed Babelay
Wendy Collins
Janet Drumm
Stephen Fortney
Barbara Froula
Youth Elder: Lucy Gilbert

Class of 2026

Bill Farnham
Lee Ingram
Lucy Johnson
Kathryn Oakes
Richard Ward

Class of 2027

George Barber
Mary Boyd
Allie Brewington
Emily Gustafson
Ken Hughes

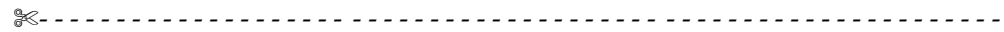
Clerk of Session: Bitsy Ingram

TRUSTEES

Alice Mercer

John Smartt

Larry Tragesser



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:
