

The Order of Worship December 8, 2024  
9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

SECOND 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 Sleepers Wake, A Voice is Calling Johann Sebastian Bach  
Linda Judge-McRae

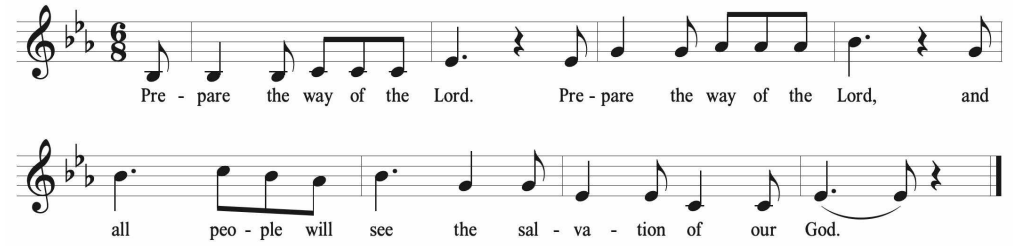
One: In this weary world,  
**All: we sing of joy.**  
 One: In this fragile world,  
**All: we lift each other up.**  
 One: In this beautiful world,  
**All: we look for God.**  
 One: In this tender world,  
**All: we hold onto hope.**  
 One: This is the invitation of faith.  
 So in this time of worship,  
 may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.  
**All: With hope in our hearts, Amen!**

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

\*HYMN NO. 106 Prepare the Way, O Zion BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**  
**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)\*\***  
 One: In the lonely places  
 The wilderness  
 Where we stand forlorn  
 Windswept and alone  
 Your voice calls out  
**All: Prepare a way for the Lord**  
 One: In the gloom  
 The shadows  
 Where we hide our fears  
 Your voice calls out  
**All: Prepare a way for the Lord**  
 One: As the rising sun comes to us each dawn  
**All: Shine upon those who live in darkness**  
 One: That all might know the joy of your salvation  
**All: The forgiveness of sins**  
 One: And your great mercy  
**All: For the desert places in which we walk**  
**The streets we roam**  
**The paths we cross**  
**Guide our feet**  
**Take us to places**  
**Where you would go**  
**Give us words that you would use**  
**That in this Advent season**  
**Of promise and preparation**  
**We might point the way with John the Baptist**  
**To the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**

**\*RESPONSE**  
**O come, Desire of nations, bind**  
**all peoples in one heart and mind;**  
**bid envy, strife and discord cease;**  
**fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**  
**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 th response for the Time with Children.*



TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)** Ellen Anderson  
*Children age 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to go downstairs for Children's Church.*  
**LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE** 9:00 Herzog Family  
11:00 Brewington Family  
Malachi 3:1-4  
**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 3:1-6  
**SERMON** "Filling in the Valleys" Rev. Dr. Richard Coble  
**\*HYMN NO. 94** Now the Heavens Start to Whisper JEFFERSON

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)\*\***  
**We believe in a with-us God:**  
**a God who walks with us in the valley,**  
**dances with us on the mountaintop,**  
**sings with us through the night**  
**and rejoices in the morning.**  
**We believe that this with-us God**  
**wired us for relationship,**  
**saying to creation on the very first week,**  
**"Humans should not be alone."**  
**Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be,**  
**we strive to live like the Trinity—**  
**connected, united, and centered.**  
**We believe in the power of community.**  
**We commit to learning each other's names.**  
**We choose to journey with each other.**  
**And we remember that no one can go through life alone.**  
**Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.**

**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) Once He Came in Blessing arr. Wilbur Held  
 (11:00) O Heavenly Word Richard Shephard  
Text 7th Ct. Latin, Trans. John Mason Neale

O heavenly Word, eternal Light, Begotten of the Father's might;  
 Who, in these latter days, was born, For blessing to a world forlorn.  
 Our hearts enlighten from above, And kindle with thine own true love;  
 That we, who hear thy truth today, All wrong desires may cast away.  
 O let us not, for evil past, Be driven from thy face at last;  
 But with the saints for evermore, Behold Thee, love Thee, and adore.  
 To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, ever One;  
 Praise, honor, might and glory be, From age to age eternally. Amen.  
Chancel Choir

**\*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. 87** Comfort, Comfort Now My People GENEVAN 42  
**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**  
**\*POSTLUDE** Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel* Adolphus Hailstork

\*Please stand in Body or Spirit  
\*\*Call to Worship, Advent Candle Liturgy, and Affirmation of Worship adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Prayer of Confession adapted from John Birch, faithandworship.com.

**NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY**

**PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK:** Allie Brewington and Stephen Fortney

**CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER:** CARE TEAM **SERVING TODAY**

**ACOLYTES:** (11:00) Olivia Gibbons and Sirah Smith  
**GREETERS:** (11:00) Rob and Susan McKeehan  
**LITURGIST:** Linda Judge-McRae  
**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** (11:00) Chancel Choir  
**SHEPHERD’S TEAM:** John Salsbery  
**SENIOR USHER:** Bill Wiesehuegel  
**USHERS:** (9:00) David Woodall and Suzanne Graham  
(11:00) Barbara Froula, Brenda Seip, Michael Yates, Penny Tschantz, Jay Schmid

**MUSICAL NOTE** Today’s postlude was composed by Adolphus Hailstork, an American composer and educator who studied at Howard University, the Manhattan School of Music, and Michigan State. In addition to writing for organ, he has composed works for chorus, voice, chamber ensembles, and bands. His orchestral works have been performed by significant American orchestras such as the Chicago and Detroit Symphonies. Hailstork’s Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel* is a rhythmic and energetic setting of the well-known tune. The dissonances at the end of the setting perhaps represent the human struggle against sin and the final major chord seems to symbolize the reconciliation of God and humanity through the salvation of Christ.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
**During 11:00 Hour** - Nursery available for children 0-3 years old  
Children’s Church for children preschool through 5<sup>rd</sup> 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)** - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - WAMS room.  
**Confirmation Class** - 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.  
**SHOW (Senior Highs of Westminster)** - 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades - SHOW room.

**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!

**MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST** will meet on Thursday, December 12th, at 8:30am in the McKinnon Room. Our speaker will be Tim Crais , who will present a program entitled "Sagrada Familia - Spanish Architectural Marvel." Our breakfast will be prepared by Rob McKeehan. Come join us and bring a friend or new member.

**CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST** Please mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Breakfast- Sunday, December 15 at 10:00am. Our big potluck breakfast will be served in the Schilling Gallery between worship services. It's always a delicious and fun time! We need your help! Please sign up using the QR code to bring a dish. We always need extra casseroles and meats.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** The Children and Youth of Westminster present “The Donkey’s Christmas Song” and “How the Grinch-es Stole Christmas” on December 15 at 6:00pm in the Lisa Kaufman Hall.

**FISH WITH US** Are you Longing For Joy in these days before Christmas? Westminster has the invitation to help our neighbors at the FISH Distribution Warehouse once again! On Saturday, December 21, we will be assembling and handing out food to neighbors who need it. Since it is the holiday time, we will be giving out many more items, including special Christmas treats, and extra items like nice Christmas dinners. We meet there at 9 a.m., and work until noon or 1 p.m. (We're usually done by noon, but you may leave at any time.) The address for this FISH pantry is 122 W. Scott Ave. Dress warmly, some of the stations are outside. EVERYONE is welcome (including families.) Let Barbara know if you're interested or if you have any questions. Come share the joy, joy, joy!

**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 1**  
9:00am - Sanctuary Worship  
10:00am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Sanctuary Worship  
12:15pm - Youth Drama Practice  
5:00pm - Angel Tree Shopping  
**Monday, December 9**  
11:00am - WPC yoga (LL Hearth Room)  
7:00pm - Brass Choir  
**Tuesday, December 10**  
10:00am - Staff Meeting  
7:00pm - Handbells  
**Wednesday, December 11**  
4:30pm - Companions  
5:00pm - Treble Choir  
6:30pm - Sectionals - Lisa Kaufman Hall  
7:00pm - Chancel Choir  
**Thursday, December 12**  
8:30am - Men’s Fellowship Breakfast  
9:30am - Men’s Book Group  
1:00pm - FISH  
**Saturday, December 14**  
9:00am - Drama dress rehearsal

**THE SESSION**

<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
Ed Babelay	Bill Farnham	George Barber
Wendy Collins	Lee Ingram	Mary Boyd
Janet Drumm	Lucy Johnson	Allie Brewington
Stephen Fortney	Kathryn Oakes	Emily Gustafson
Barbara Froula	Richard Ward	Ken Hughes
Youth Elder: Lucy Gilbert		Clerk of Session: Bitsy Ingram

**TRUSTEES**

Alice Mercer	John Smartt	Larry Tragesser
--------------	-------------	-----------------

**Advent 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

**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.

**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.

**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.

☞-----

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



*You are invited...*

## A Presbytery Christmas Carol Sing-in and Concert!

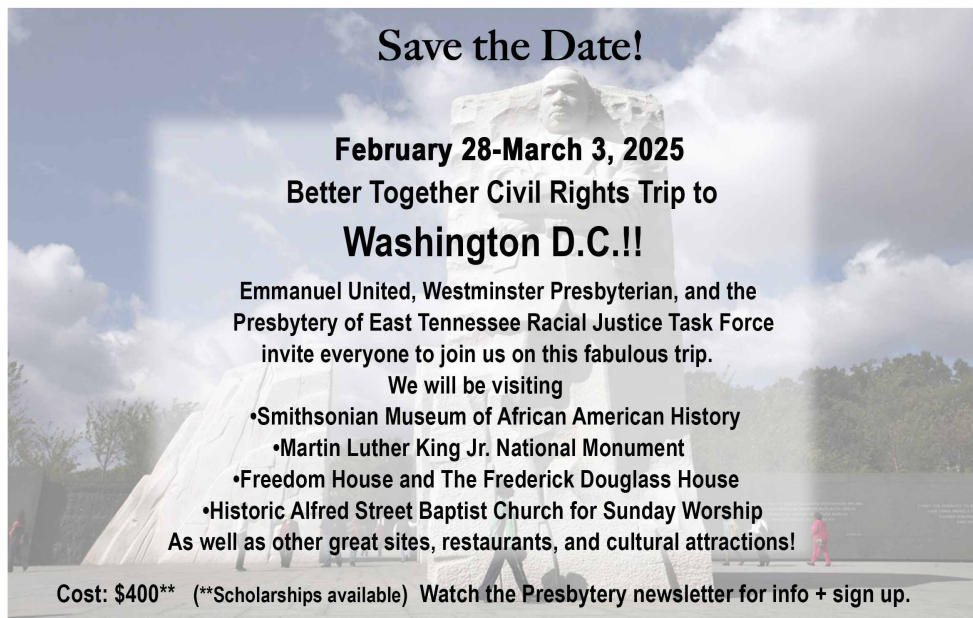
Join with friends from 4th Presbyterian, Shiloh, First Presbyterian, Emmanuel United, Westminster, Highland, and the PET Social Justice Task Force for a festive, beautiful, musical party!!

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
4-5:30 p.m.**

At First Presbyterian Knoxville, 620 State St.

\*\*Contact Barbara Adamcik if your church has a group or individual that would like to perform!!  
Barbara@wpcknox.org

*Awesome Musical Groups\*\**  
*Christmas Goodies*  
*Sing all your favorite Carols!*  
*Shop @ the 1st Presbyterian Mission Market!!*



## Save the Date!

**February 28-March 3, 2025**  
**Better Together Civil Rights Trip to Washington D.C.!!**

Emmanuel United, Westminster Presbyterian, and the Presbytery of East Tennessee Racial Justice Task Force invite everyone to join us on this fabulous trip.

We will be visiting

- Smithsonian Museum of African American History
- Martin Luther King Jr. National Monument
- Freedom House and The Frederick Douglass House
- Historic Alfred Street Baptist Church for Sunday Worship

As well as other great sites, restaurants, and cultural attractions!

**Cost: \$400\*\*** (\*\*Scholarships available) Watch the Presbytery newsletter for info + sign up.