

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS ...

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

PRELUDE Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (I) Johann Gottfried Walther
Sleepers, Awake, for Night Is Flying

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT Before the Paling of the Stars John Boda
Before the paling of the stars, Before the winter morn, Before the earliest cockcrow Jesus
Christ was born.

Jesus on His mother's breast, In the stable cold, Spotless Lamb of God was He, Shepherd of
the fold.

Let us kneel with Mary maid, With Joseph, bent and hoary, With saint and angel, ox and ass,
To hail the King of glory.

Christina Rossetti

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

(9:00) John, Beth and Isabella Chang

(11:00) Lisa and Norman Hammitt, Ryan Hammitt

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 24 Deborah Phillips, Liturgist

Leader: The earth is the LORD'S and all that is in it,

People: The world, and those who live in it.

Leader: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? Who shall stand in God's holy place?

People: Those who have pure hearts and do not lift up their souls to what is false.

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

People: that the King of glory may come in.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

***HYMN NO. 8** (blue hymnal) Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates Truro

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Gracious God, we come before you this Advent season stressed and worried. Much of our
disquiet is a reflection of the world around us, but most is a reflection of our hearts. We do not
like the word "sin," but nothing better describes who and what we are before You. 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 break the yoke that burdens us, to bestow peace
upon us, to bring light to our darkness and to fill the earth with joy. 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** Refrain from "Angels We Have Heard on High" Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; I Thessalonians 5:16-24

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00) Deborah Phillips

Children age 4 through 2nd grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children's
Worship. A nursery is available during the entire service for infants through age 3.

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:6-8,19-28

SERMON "Can I Get a Witness?" Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

***HYMN NO. 2** (blue hymnal) Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus *Hyfrydol*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison) from *A Declaration of Faith, PC(U.S.A.)*

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom. Like
Christ we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful.
No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We
are in the world, but not of the world.

Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and
achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom. Christ
calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us, to take up
our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to
hope for what we have not seen. Amen.

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.

If you would like to receive our newsletter or more information about the church, include your address, phone number and email address. 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) Oikan Ayns Bethlehem Traditional Manx carol
arr. Vijay Singh

Now ought we to this festive time to keep with pure hearts in mem'ry of Lord Jesus Christ, Oikan ayns Bethlehem [The Birth in Bethlehem].

He left the courts of God, the Father, taking on our human form. Born of the pure one, Mary, mild. Oikan ayns Bethlehem.

Then the angels of heav'n rejoiced, and came to us with the news, telling of the Savior born today. Oikan ayns Bethlehem. Hallelujah!

Great glory to our Lord on high who rules in eternal bliss. The mind of God made clear to us. Oikan ayns Bethlehem.

(11:00) The Holly and the Ivy Traditional
arr. Benjamin Britten

The holly and the ivy Are trees that's both well known; Of all the trees that grows in woods, The holly bears the crown.

The rising of the sun, The running of the deer, The playing of the merry harp, Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom As white as any flower; And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To be our sweet Saviour. (Refrain)

The holly bears a colour As green as any tree; And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To set poor sinners free. (Refrain)

The holly bears a berry As red as any blood, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To do poor sinners good. (Refrain)

The holly bears a prickle As sharp as any thorn; And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ At Christmas day in the morn. (Refrain)

The holly bears a bark As bitter as any gall, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ For to redeem us all. (Refrain)

The holly and the ivy Are Trees that's both well known, Of all the trees that grows in woods, The holly bears the crown. (Refrain)

Traditional
Tallis' Canon

***AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology No. 591 (blue hymnal)
(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 ...

***HYMN NO. 602** (blue hymnal) (11:00) Song of Zechariah *Merle's Tune*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** People, Look East French folk melody

***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

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP here today.

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Pam Potocik and Tim Ryan

CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR THIS WEEK: Linda Rutherford

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES (11:00): Clara Oakes and Leah Milam

GREETERS (11:00): Bill and Lisa Oros

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP:

(9:00) Childcare through age 5

(11:00) Lisa and Norman Hammitt, Ryan Hammitt and Daniel Clark

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

(9:00) Westminster Choristers

(11:00) Chancel Choir and Westminster Choristers

SENIOR USHER: Bonny Naugher

USHERS:

(9:00) John Styron and Genet Weber

(11:00) Larry DeLonge, Joe Ben Turner, Andrew Gordon, Kristi Gordon, Bob Daverman

THIS MORNING’S MUSIC sung by the Westminster Choristers is by American composers. John Boda (1922-2002) received his musical education at the Eastman School of Music and was a professor of music theory, composition, and piano at Florida State University between 1947 and 2001. In the late 1940s he served as assistant conductor to George Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra. Vijay Singh (not the golfer!) is Professor of Music at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, and is an active performer, composer, teacher, conductor, and clinician.

MEMBERS OF THE WESTMINSTER BRASS CHOIR will play Christmas carols this evening from 5:15 to 5:45 in the Schilling Gallery as a “prelude” to *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Come early to the youth drama and enjoy some cheery music for brass!

WAMS AND SHOW EVENTS:

Sunday, December 11	6:00 p.m.	<i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i>
Saturday, December 17	10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m	Salvation Army Bell Ringing at West Hills Sam’s Club (We’re putting together an instrumental ensemble!)
Sunday, December 18	3:00-7:00 p.m.	Caroling and Christmas Party
Thursday, December 22	6:00 p.m.	End of School Celebration
Saturday, December 24	5:00 p.m.	Assisting with Christmas Eve Worship

STEPHEN MINISTERS meet for Supervision tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

THE ABBEY DEADLINE is Wednesday. Please send your articles to unitedprinters@comcast.net.

ADULT ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL

From Longing to Receiving

McKinnon Room

Writer Patricia Tull leads participants through the Old Testament and the Gospel lectionary texts, tracing important Advent themes of longing for God’s help, anticipating God’s presence among us, recognizing God’s work among us and receiving God’s new gifts to us.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of Friday, **152** of our 238 potential giving units have pledged **\$587,269.50**.

Thank you for supporting our stewardship campaign!

THE FLOWER DEDICATION CHART FOR 2012 is posted in the Schilling Gallery. Please stop by and sign up for your flower dedications for next year. The cost is \$60, payable on the date of your dedication. If you’re interested in joining the Flower Guild, please contact the church office for details.

Christmas Craft Night and Pot Luck Dinner

Wednesday, December 14

5:45 p.m.

Come and get into the Christmas spirit with a night of fun, fellowship and dinner. We have crafts and ornaments ready for adults and children to make as gifts, or to hang on your tree! Chicken tenders and bread will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. This event is for all ages, and everyone is invited. Bring along a friend or neighbor to share the fun!

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be collected Sunday, December 18. Fifty percent of this offering supports racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, helping students develop their gifts and find their calling. The other fifty percent of the offering helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Please see today’s bulletin insert for more information.



Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 18

10:00 a.m.

Westminster's annual Christmas Brunch will be held during the Sunday School hour on December 18th. The meal is provided by volunteers from each of our Ministry Teams. Join us in this WPC Christmas tradition as we celebrate the season together.

Blankets for Brunch

As we look for ways to celebrate God's love in sending Jesus Christ, our hearts open to the needs around us. Head Start/Community Action reports that they have a number of families who don't have enough blankets to keep their children warm at night. If you are able, would you bring a blanket or two (new or gently used) to our Christmas brunch on December 18th? Make it a "Blanket for Brunch" and warm the heart and body of a child in need.

THE FOLLOWING EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS are available in the office. Please see Ginny Baker if you are interested in purchasing any of these:

Organic Decaf Coffee - Ground	Organic Decaf Coffee-Whole Bean
Organic English Breakfast Tea	Organic Chai Tea
Organic Rooibos Tea	Hot Cocoa Mix

FOYER GROUPS shuffle during the month of December. These groups of adults meet for dinner once a month. This is a great way to make new friends or renew old friendships at Westminster. New groups will begin meeting in January. Please call Sue Murrian if you would like to join a group, drop out for a while, or if you have questions or requests.

Mark Your Calendar for These December Events

Sunday, December 11	6:00 p.m.	Children's Play - <i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i>
Wednesday, December 14	5:45 p.m.	Christmas Craft Night and Potluck Dinner
Sunday, December 18	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Brunch
	3:45 p.m.	Christmas Caroling
Saturday, December 24	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
	11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday, December 25	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship

A Charlie Brown Christmas
presented by WPC children and youth
Sunday, December 11 – 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



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* edition of December 21st. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the office. **The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 18.**



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

\$ _____

In memory/honor (circle one) of:

Given by:
