

CHRISTMAS DAY

THE CHURCH GATHERS ...

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

PRELUDE Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her Johann Heuschkel
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 98

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
People: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness.
Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Leader: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
People: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with trumpets and the sound of melody,
Leader: Let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord.
People: He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 49 (blue hymnal) Once in Royal David’s City Irby

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Jesus Christ, light of the world, bearer of eternal dawn, we know well the darkness you have come to banish. Groping in the confusion of a starless night, we confess our isolation, aimlessness and fear of death. We confess the hostility we permit and the suffering we inflict. We confess our known and unknown prejudices and our failures to practice mercy. We acknowledge our desperate need of you. By your presence, dawn on our darkened day. By your steadfast love, draw us into the light of your new way.

*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. 579 (blue hymnal) Henry W. Greatorex
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.

TO EXPERIENCE GOD’S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PROPHECY Isaiah 52:7-10

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Ginny Baker
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.

GOSPEL John 1:1-14

SERMON “Not Blinded by the Light” Rev. John Linton Muntz
“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” – John 1:5

*HYMN NO. 54 (blue hymnal) From Heaven Above Vom Himmel hoch

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

As God’s people, we are called to be obedient to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who loves the whole world and who invites us to be stewards of the earth and servants of his people, to be co-workers in the new Creation. Let us be peace-makers. Let us be called children of God, speaking boldly with moral conviction to the nation and to the world, building, with God’s grace a new moral order in the world community; and acting now for world peace, an enterprise of justice, an outcome of love.

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 Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her (I) Johann Pachelbel

*AT THE PRESENTATION Doxology No. 514 (red hymnal) Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

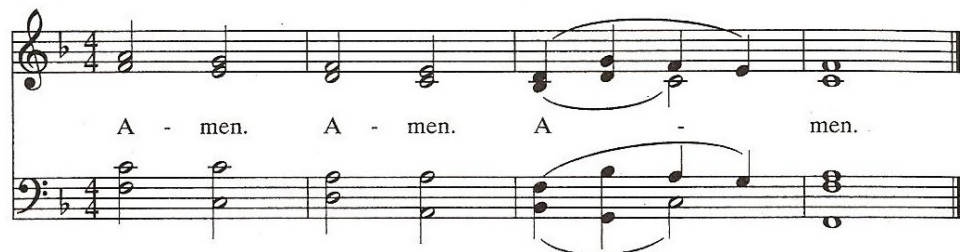
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

*HYMN NO. 256 (blue hymnal) Let the Whole Creation Cry Salzburg

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 586 (blue hymnal) Amen Danish melody



*POSTLUDE Fröhlich soll mein Herze springen Johann Gottfried Walther
My Heart Shall Rejoice

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP here today.

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Bonny Naugher and Buz Johnson

CARE TEAM COORDINATORS FOR THIS WEEK: Sue Byerly and Judy Jorden

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTE: Joseph Hutzenbiler

GREETERS: Max and Carlene Robinson

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

SENIOR USHER: Bonny Naugher

USHERS: Bob Murrian, Scott Porter, Ashley Porter, Laura Dupper, Mark Potocik

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN on December 30th. Please bring to the office your 2011 contributions and any pre-paid pledges for 2012 no later than 10:00 a.m. December 30th. We will resume our regular office hours on Tuesday, January 3rd.

WE WILL HAVE ONE WORSHIP SERVICE on Sunday, January 1 at 11:00 a.m.

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

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.

College Age/Young Adult Gathering

All college age/young adults are invited to come on Monday evening, December 26th at 6:00 p.m. to catch up with your WPC friends! Pizza, soft drinks and dessert will be provided. We'll look for you in the SHOW room!

THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMPANIONS IN CHRIST GROUP begins a new study on January 4th. If you are interested in developing a deeper prayer and meditation time in 2012, please join us. We will meet each Wednesday night from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Prayer Room to study *The Word is Very Near You* by Martin Smith.

THE DAVIDSON COLLEGE ORCHESTRA AND JAZZ ENSEMBLE will perform in our sanctuary on Saturday, January 7 at 7:00 p.m. We hope you will make plans to attend this wonderful concert. If you are interested in hosting one or more of these musicians in your home that night, please contact Carl Whipple.

MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT is Tuesday, January 10. The Christian Formation team is scheduled to bring our refreshments.

All Church Epiphany Party

Wednesdays With Westminster will kick off the new year of programs with an Epiphany Party for the whole church family on January 11, 2012. Join us for a time of fun and fellowship as we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men with their gifts for the Christ Child, and the manifestation of Jesus as the light of the world. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:45 p.m. and child care will be provided for children ages five and younger. *Come and let your light shine!*

Adult Sunday School	
Begins January 8, 2012	
Parents' Class	Library
<i>The Hurried Family: Help for the Hurried Home</i> by Dr. Tim Kimmel	
Bible Class	Prayer Room
<i>"Majoring on the Minor Prophets"</i>	
Faith Growth	McKinnon Room
NOOMA video series, featuring Pastor Rob Bell	