



The Order of Worship December 28, 2014
11:00 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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.

Children are welcome in worship here. A nursery is available during the entire service.

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

PRELUDE In dulci júbilo, BWV 608 J. S. Bach
In Quiet Joy
(from the Orgelbüchlein)

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP excerpted from Psalm 148

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him from the heights!

People: Praise him all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Leader: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

People: Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Leader: Kings of the earth and all people, princes and all rulers of the earth!

People: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

People: Praise the Lord!

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

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

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

*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 Hymn No. 116 (red hymnal) Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

PROPHECY

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

JP Mackay

Children age 4 through 2nd grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children’s Worship.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

CASSIDY JEANNE MACKAY Daughter of Meredith Harrison and JP Mackay

Words and Prayer of Institution

Presentation of the child

Angela Shilling, Ruling Elder

Promises of Faith

Anointing

*HYMN We Pledge to One Another

Thaxted

TO EXPERIENCE GOD’S WORD AND RESPOND ...

GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

“Hope In Desert Times”

Rev. John Linton Muntz

“...for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.” – Luke 2:30-31

*HYMN If I Could Visit Bethlehem

Simmons

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because we are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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.

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 Were You There On Christmas Night? Natalie Sleeth

Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night

When the world was full of holy light?

Were you there to behold, when the wonder foretold came to earth?

Did you see, did you see how they hailed Him King

With the gifts so rare that they chose to bring?

Did you see how they bowed as they praised Him aloud at His birth?

Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight?

Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through the night?

Did you know, did you know it was God’s own Son,

The salvation of the world begun?

Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth?

Natalie Sleeth

Ibbie Muntz, Soprano

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

Tallis’ Canon

(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. 51 (blue hymnal) See Amid the Winter’s Snow

Humility

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn No. 603 (blue hymnal) Song of Simeon

Land of Rest

This is the Savior of the world, The Gentiles’ promised light, God’s glory

dwelling in our midst, The joy of Israel.

*POSTLUDE Toccata (from O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright)

Walter L. Pelz

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Vicki Mayfield and Hap McSween

CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR JANUARY: Shirley Wittman

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AND HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

PLEASE place your bulletin into a blue recycling bin located at the Narthex door if you do not care to take it home.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES: Lane Palmer and Sophie Manrod

GREETERS: Elizabeth Ridley and Sue Caradine

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Mark and Angela Grobe, Rhys Whipple and Ian Salsbery

SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel

USHERS: Kristi and Andrew Gordon, Gordon and Robin Greeson, Emily Wright

Children are always welcome in our worship services! A nursery for newborns up to 5 years of age is provided in the Children's education wing by trained, caring staff each week as a part of our ministry to children and their families. Please ask a greeter or usher for assistance.

OUR THANKS to Ibbie Muntz for her enrichment of our worship this morning, and to Eileen Rudd for serving as the organist while Peter and Anne Van Eenam are away.

2015 FLOWER DEDICATIONS: Please sign up on the Schilling Gallery bulletin board for your 2015 flower dedications. We ask for a \$60.00 donation to the Flower Guild, payable on the date of your dedication. A reminder card will be mailed to you in advance of your chosen Sunday.

WE WILL HAVE ONE WORSHIP SERVICE next Sunday, January 4th at 11:00 a.m. Our regular schedule resumes January 11th, with worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be open Monday, December 29 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and Wednesday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. We will be closed Tuesday, December 30 and Thursday and Friday, January 1 and 2. Regular office hours resume on Monday, January 5.

WEDNESDAYS WITH WESTMINSTER starts back up on January 7. John Hankins will tell us about his time with the Metropolitan Opera. On January 14, representatives from Remote Area Medical will join us to tell us about the work of that organization. Dinner begins at 5:45, followed by the program at 6:30. Childcare is available.

Adult Sunday School

January 11, 10:00 a.m.

Faith and Life will meet in the Prayer Room. Larry Ridley and Elizabeth Ridley will begin a study of Phillip Yancey's book, *Vanishing Grace*.

Current Topics will begin the new year with a DVD study of *Justice for the Poor*, based on the book by Jim Wallis. The class will be led by Rev. John Muntz in the Fellowship Hall.

Table Talk, facilitated by Amanda Collins and Barbara McNew, will continue the Animate DVD and discussion series with "Animate Practices." This group meets in the Library.

Bible Study will meet in the McKinnon Room. This class is moderated by Ellen Anderson and Scott Brunger.

BLT: Bible/Lunch/Tuesdays

BLT will resume on **January 13**. Bring a lunch at noon, and join in as we continue our study of the Gospel of Mark.

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Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate

Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster

Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries

Angela Grobe, Director of Children's Ministries

Mary Boyd, Education Coordinator

Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Sandra Williams, Administrative Assistant

Rev. Friedrich Schilling, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

Debbie Bendy, *Abbey* Editor