



“Where Faith and Life Connect”

The Order of Worship

January 25, 2015
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

THE CHURCH GATHERS ...

Holy God, in the stillness of this sanctuary and the quiet of this set-aside time, we turn to you... As a community, but also on our own... Each of us, reaching for you... Call to us by name, O Lord. Whisper to us. Shout to us. Grab our attention, so that we might turn to you, and listen clearly for what you desire for us to hear...in this time of worship. Amen.

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

PRELUDE “...No darkness at all...” Ned Rorem
‘God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all...’
—Walt Whitman, recalling fifty years later how Elias Hicks thus quoted Christ.
(from *A Quaker Reader*)

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT
(9:00) Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord Lawrence Curry
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Psalm 100:1-2

(11:00) When Jesus Left His Father’s Throne Robert J. Powell
When Jesus left His Father’s throne, He chose a humble birth; Like us,
unhonored and unknown, He came to dwell on earth.

Like Him, may we be found below, In wisdom’s path of peace; Like Him, in
grace and knowledge grow, As years and strength increase.

Safe from the world’s alluring harms, Beneath His watchful eye, Thus in the
circle of His arms May we forever lie.

James Montgomery

Boys’ and Girls’ Choirs

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 63

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you; my soul thirsts for you as in a dry
and weary land where there is no water.

**People: So we gather together in the sanctuary, beholding your power and
glory.**

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you!

**People: For you have been my support, O Lord, and in the shadow of your
wings I sing for joy!**

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

***HYMN NO. 229** (blue hymnal) From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Lasst uns erfreuen

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Gracious God, we confess that it is difficult to hear your voice among the
many voices clamoring for our attention, time, and commitments. Forgive us
of the many ways that we try to put narrow boundaries around your ever-
expanding love and mercy. Forgive us when we fail to understand Christ’s call
to repentance as a daily invitation to be the people you would have us
become. We ask forgiveness for our mistakes, healing in our brokenness, and
strength for our continuing journey toward your just and loving kingdom.

Amen.

***KYRIE ELEISON NO. 574** (blue hymnal)

arr. David N. Johnson

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE** Gloria Patri No. 576 (blue hymnal)

Jacques Berthier

TO EXPERIENCE GOD’S WORD AND RESPOND ...

ANTHEM (11:00) Gaudete

from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

arr. Robert Batastini

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger; There he lay, the undefiled,
To the world a stranger. Gaudete, Christus est natus ex Maria virgine.
Rejoice, Christ is born of the Virgin Mary.

Such a babe in such a place, Can he be the Savior? Ask the saved of all the
race Who have found his favor. (Refrain)

Angels sang about his birth, Wise men sought and found him; Heaven’s star
shown brightly forth, Glory all around him. (Refrain)

Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing; All the plains
were lit that night All the hills were ringing. (Refrain)

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger; He is still the undefiled, But
no more a stranger. (Refrain)

Son of God, of humble birth, Beautiful the story; Praise his name in all the
earth, Hail the King of glory! (Refrain)

Joseph Cook; the refrain, a Renaissance carol

Westminster Choristers

Ed Babelay, Jan Barber, Cindy Pearman, and Cindy Serbin, Handbells

Renee Wiesehuegel, Finger Cymbals

Robert Adamcik, Percussion

SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 3:1-5

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)

Jean Bonnyman

Children age 4 through 2nd grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in

Children’s Worship.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:14-20

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

“How we think about God matters. It affects the credibility of religion in general
and Christianity in particular. Our concept of God can make God seem real
or unreal, just as it can also make God seem remote or near.”

— Professor and Theologian, Marcus J. Borg
b. 1942, d. January 21, 2015

***HYMN NO. 298** (blue hymnal) There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

In Babilone

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison) from *Speaking Christian*, Marcus J. Borg

**Christians have often made being Christian very complicated, especially those
forms that emphasize believing the right beliefs. When Christianity is about
“correct beliefs,” it does become complex.**

But ultimately, the central message of Christianity is simple. It is about loving
God and loving what God loves. That means loving God as disclosed in the
Bible and most decisively revealed in Jesus. Jesus is the incarnation, the
embodiment, of what can be seen of God’s character and passion in a life
lived among us. His passion was the kingdom of God – what life would be
like on a transformed earth. The world is God’s passion.

Christianity is a magnificent tradition. Like all religious and human
traditions, it has its shadow side. But at its best, it is about truth, goodness,
and beauty. And it addresses the two great human yearnings – our longing for
personal transformation and our desire that the world be a better place. The
Christian message reduced to its essentials is: love God (as known in Jesus)
and change the world.

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

(9:00) When Jesus Left His Father’s Throne

Robert J. Powell

(The text is found at the Introit.)

(11:00) Salvation Is Created

Pavel Tschesnokoff

Salvation is created in midst of the earth, O God, O our God. Alleluia.

Psalm 74:12

Chancel Choir

***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. 322** (red hymnal) (11:00) Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult *Galilee*

***CHARGE AND BEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE** Fahr nur hin, du schnöde Welt *Danish melody*
Johann Gottfried Walther
Away, Thou Vile World

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Lily Seidner and Bryan Powell

CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR JANUARY: Shirley Wittman

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AND HEARING DEVICES are available from 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 (11:00): Sophie Manrod and Abby Hatmaker

GREETERS (11:00): Cindy Spangler and Laura Stockdale

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

(9:00) Childcare through age 5

(11:00) Irene Seidner, Lily Seidner and Ellie Tidwell

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

(9:00) Boys' and Girls' Choirs

(11:00) Boys', Chancel, and Girls' Choirs and Westminster Choristers

SENIOR USHER: Hap McSween

USHERS:

(9:00) Connie Graham and Suzanne Graham

(11:00) John Salsbery, Scott Rutherford, Larry Ridley, Elizabeth Ridley
Jay Schmid

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.

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given by Tom and Georgann Byerley in honor of the wedding of Judy and Tony Stansberry, who were married at Westminster yesterday.

A STATED SESSION MEETING is today at 12:15 p.m. in the McKinnon Room.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING has been called by Session for Sunday, February 8, 2015, at the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the terms of call of our pastor and to elect the at-large members from the congregation for the 2015 Nominating Committee. Hap McSween is the 2015 Nominating Committee chair, and Vicki Mayfield is the vice-chair. Nominees for the committee are Tim Crais, Gail Clark and Andrew Gordon.

OUR THANKS to the members of the Four-in-Hand Ringers and Bob Adamcik for their enrichment of our worship this morning as they accompany the Westminster Choristers.

THE VOGELGESANG, heard this morning during the postlude, is a centuries-old accessory that adds charm to the instrument in the same manner gargoyles do for a cathedral. The "bird's song" is achieved by submersing the top of a small principal pipe in a reservoir of water, whereby the bubbles created by a small auxiliary wind line into the water cause the pipe's speech and pitch to warble.

THE CONGREGATION IS CORDIALLY INVITED to an organ recital by Matthew Dirst of the University of Houston **this Friday night, January 30, at 8:00 in the sanctuary.** This performance is the first of this season's *Musica Organi* recital series. An outstanding keyboardist and musicologist, he will perform Johann Sebastian Bach's monumental *The Art of Fugue*. Opportunities to hear this extraordinary work performed live are very rare, so I hope you'll come join us that evening. A nursery will be provided.

KIDS' CLUB for children ages 5 through 5th grade meets today at noon in the Fellowship Hall. After lunch, we will be making pillows for patients at Children's Hospital.

SHOW AND WAMS meet for dinner this evening at 5:00, followed by reports of progress on our Peace and Kindness Challenge.

BLT: Bible/Lunch/Tuesdays

BLT continues this week with a discussion of Chapters 12 and 13 in the Gospel of Mark and pages 73-90 in the study guide. Bring a lunch and join us at noon as we continue our study.

WEDNESDAYS WITH WESTMINSTER: This week, our own Environmental Team will bring us up to date on their activities and some exciting developments. On February 4, a group of Westminster's golden members will share some stories about our congregation's beginnings. Dinner is served at 5:45 each Wednesday, followed by a presentation at 6:30. We finish up by 7:30. Childcare is always available.

HENDERSON SETTLEMENT REGISTRATION: A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Schilling Gallery for those who are interested in being a part of the work camp trip to Henderson Settlement, Kentucky, scheduled for May 31st - June 6th. You can sign up through February 15th.

Save the Date for the All-Church Retreat

The All-Church Retreat has been scheduled for April 17-19 in Townsend. Registration will take place within the month of February. More details coming soon!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6500 Northshore Drive, Knoxville TN 37919

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

E-mail westminsterpres@comcast.net

www.wpcknox.org

Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips, Pastor

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

Adult Sunday School

Faith and Life meets in the Prayer Room. Larry Ridley and Elizabeth Ridley are leading a study of Phillip Yancey's book, *Vanishing Grace*.

Current Topics continues with our DVD study of *Justice for the Poor*, based on the book by Jim Wallis. The class is led by Rev. John Muntz in the Fellowship Hall.

Table Talk, facilitated by Amanda Collins and Barbara McNew, is continuing the "Animate Practices" discussion series. This group meets in the Library.

Bible Study meets in the McKinnon Room. We are studying the book of Exodus. Exodus tracks the nation of Israel's journey out of bondage in Egypt toward the Promised Land. Come join us for lively discussion. No weekly preparation is required - just come whenever you can!

Coffee House is a time for coffee, conversation, and fellowship in the Schilling Gallery from 10:00-11:00 each Sunday morning.

THE SESSION

Class of 2015: Ellen Anderson, Jean Bonnyman, Hap McSween, Rick Oakes, Jack Woodall, Youth Elder - Lily Seidner

Class of 2016: Jerry Faerber, Vicki Mayfield, Scott Porter, Elizabeth Ridley, Angela Shilling

Class of 2017: Phil Barnette, Bitsy Ingram, William Milam, Bryan Powell, Brenda Seip

Clerk of Session: Georgann Byerley

TRUSTEES: Leonard McKeehan, John Smartt, Larry Ridley