



The Order of Worship

December 13, 2015  
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

THIRD 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.

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

**OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**

(9:00) The Gordon Family  
(11:00) Gail and Vernon Bruner

**INTROIT** (11:00) 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  
Adapted, Psalm 96

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**People: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; for the Lord is coming.**

Leader: Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

**People: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; for the Lord is coming.**

Leader: Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before Him, all the earth.

**People: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; for the Lord is coming.**

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

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

\***CALL TO CONFESSION**

\***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Drawn by the lights of this season, Gracious God, our lives are illuminated by your love. Your light attracts us, but in its radiance we also see the darkness around and within us. The intensity of these pre-Christmas days heightens our joys and magnifies our sorrows. Search us, O God, and remove anything that would prevent us from bearing good fruit with our lives. Where there is hatred, heal us with your love; where there is discord, calm us with your peace; where there is despair, strengthen us with hope and joy. Forgive us and renew us in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 Hymn No. 116 (red hymnal) Angels We Have Heard on High Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

**SCRIPTURE READING** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN** (11:00) Cameron Sears  
*Children age 4 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children's Worship.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 3:7-18

**SERMON** "What's Good About The News?" Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

\***HYMN NO. 10** (blue hymnal) On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry Winchester New

\***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison) Adapted, Isaiah 12:1-6

**I will give thanks to you, O LORD. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my Might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, for the Holy One is in your midst.**

**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) Before the Paling of the Stars John Boda  
(The text is found at the Introit.)

(11:00) Of the Father's Love Begotten Divinum mysterium  
arr. James E. Clemens

Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He, Of the things that are and have been, And that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore!

By His word was all created. He commanded, and 'twas done. Earth and sky and boundless ocean, Universe of Three-in-One. All that sees the moon's soft radiance, All that breathes beneath the sun, Evermore and evermore!

This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord, Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word. Now He shines, the long expected. Let creation praise its Lord, Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing. Pow'rs, dominions fall before Him And extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth keep silent, Every voice in concert ring, Evermore and evermore!

Marcus Aurelius Prudentis

\***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. 2** (blue hymnal) (11:00) Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Hyfrydol

\***CHARGE AND BEDICTION**

\***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Veni Emmanuel  
O come, thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things, far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

\***POSTLUDE** Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr Andreas Armsdorff  
*All Glory Be to God on High*

\*Indicates standing.

*Our thanks to Jake Tidwell for the photograph used in today's bulletin art.*

**NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

**PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK:** Vicki Mayfield and Scott Porter  
**CARE TEAM COORDINATORS FOR THIS WEEK:** Sue Byerly and Judy Jorden  
**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**

**GREETERS** (11:00): Lana and Bob Daverman

**CHILDREN’S WORSHIP:**

(9:00) Childcare through age 5

(11:00) Angela and Mark Grobe, Katie Rogers

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:**

(9:00) Westminster Choristers

(11:00) Chancel Choir and Westminster Choristers

**SENIOR USHER:** Sue Caradine

**USHERS:**

(9:00) Daniel Berry and Terry Crow

(11:00) Bill Holt, Buz Johnson, Paul and Judy Jorden, Elizabeth Ridley

**THE BIRTH CANDLE** is lit today in celebration of the birth of Mason Anthony McConnell, son of Molly Roberson and Joe McConnell. Mason was born Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. His sisters are Piper and Henly.

**THIS MORNING’S MUSIC** sung by the Chancel Choir and Westminster Choristers is either arranged or composed 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. James E. Clemens, a graduate of Goshen College in northern Indiana, has written for a variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles. His arrangement of the venerable chant “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” sets the melody in interesting ways through the use of imitation between pairs of voices and short melodic fragments drawn from the melody interjected into the texture.

**PLEASE JOIN US THIS AFTERNOON AT 5:00** as the Boys’, Brass, Chancel, Girls’, and Handbell Choirs; Westminster Choristers; and readers from the congregation present *A Service of Lessons and Carols* for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Music by Arnatt, Boda, Harmon, Hassler, Lauridsen, Morley, Pachelbel, Phillips, and Rickard will be featured. A nursery will be provided.

**CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST:** Join us next Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at our annual Christmas breakfast during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. The meal is provided by volunteers from each Ministry Team. Come and enjoy this great Christmas tradition at Westminster!

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:** 169 pledges have been received in the amount of \$739,302. The asking Operating Budget for 2016 is \$809,051.50. If you haven’t turned in your pledge yet, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you!

**ADVENT ADULT EDUCATION:** Each week in Advent, you are invited to contemplate the Advent texts during the Sunday school hour using the practice of lectio divina. We’ll use a book entitled, *Conversing With God in Advent and Christmas* as a guide. We’ll read the texts for the day, hear some music, and see some artwork. Then we’ll have a quiet opportunity to write, doodle, color, pray, or simply meditate on the words we hear. If you have an art you enjoy – knitting or crocheting, for instance – you can use that. You can share your creation or thoughts with the group, or you can keep them to ponder in your heart.

**SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING** is Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at West Town Mall (Cheesecake Factory entrance). Sign-ups are on the bulletin board in the Schilling Gallery.



**Westminster Players Presents**  
**“Shazam!**  
**A Collection of Christmas Miracles”**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Potluck Dinner, Christmas Craft Night and Jazz Concert**  
**Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> - 5:45 p.m.**

We’ll provide chicken tenders, macaroni and cheese, and drinks. We ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share. After dinner we’ll make Christmas crafts, and the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra will present their Christmas Jazz Concert at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Don’t miss this fun evening!

**Christmas Joy Offering: Supporting Past, Present and Future Leaders**  
The Christmas Joy Offering is being received throughout the Advent season. A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. Thank you for your support of this special offering.

**VOLUNTEER MINISTRY CENTER HOLIDAY STORE** is a program through which recipients of VMC services earn gift items for their loved ones with points accrued through community service. Individuals redeem their points to purchase items they select at the Holiday Store. We have the opportunity to help stock the VMC Holiday Store with items such as: basketballs and footballs, dolls, infant toys, craft sets for children and adults, cosmetic sets, hair care sets, fragrance sets for men and women, tool kits, small kitchen appliances, or other similar things that would be nice gifts. Donations are being collected in the large decorated box in the Schilling Gallery.

**2016 FLOWER DEDICATIONS:** Please sign up on the Schilling Gallery bulletin board for your 2016 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.

**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*. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the office.

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I would like to contribute to the Flower Guild for Advent:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
In memory/honor (circle one) of:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Given by:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*“Where Faith and Life Connect”*

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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

**Save the Dates!**

- December 16** Potluck Dinner and Christmas Craft Night  
Knox Youth Jazz Concert
- December 19** Salvation Army Bell Ringing Day
- December 20** Christmas Breakfast  
“A Christmas Carol” solo performance by Mark Cabus, 7:30 p.m.
- December 24** Christmas Eve Services - 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

**ADVENT GIFT OPPORTUNITY**

When Knoxville area teens run afoul of the law, they are sent to the Richard L. Bean Juvenile Service Center. These young people range in age from 14-17, and are both boys and girls. They may be there for several days, weeks, or months. This Advent season, as we did last year, we would like to show God’s love to them, to let them know that someone is thinking of them and praying for them. Last year, we received thank-you notes from Mr. Bean and a number of the teens. Some said we had made it their best Christmas ever. If you would like to participate, bring a Christmas gift bag with any of the following items in it:

- Hats, scarves, gloves, harmonicas, Yo-Yos, socks, slippers, combs, brushes, small mirrors, nail polish, lipstick, hair ornaments, small games, books, pens, pencils, writing papers, chocolate, candy, etc. or other small things for a teen.

Put your bag on the gift table in the Schilling Gallery by **Sunday, December 20**. We will add a tag telling the teen that the gift comes to them from Westminster with our prayers, and we’ll deliver the gifts to the Center before Christmas. Thanks to the whole Westminster family for your giving spirit!

<b>THE SESSION</b>		
<b>Class of 2016</b>	<b>Class of 2017</b>	<b>Class of 2018</b>
Jerry Faerber	Phil Barnette	Leigh Dunlap
Vicki Mayfield	Bitsy Ingram	Steve Hoadley
Scott Porter	William Milam	J.P. Mackay
Elizabeth Ridley	Bryan Powell	Linda Van Beke
Angela Shilling	Brenda Seip	Michael Yates
Youth Elder: Ethan Partelow		
Clerk of Session: Georgann Byerley		

<b>TRUSTEES</b>		
John Smartt	Larry Ridley	Paul Jorden