



TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 28 (blue hymnal) Good Christian Friends, Rejoice *In dulci jubilo*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us? Who are we that you should love us so? The eyes of our hearts are not open to see you in our midst. Our ears do not hear what you have to say to us. Our minds are a jumble of fears, worries and to-do lists. Our hearts are heavy with unfulfilled longing. We do not deserve your gifts of grace, compassion, hope, peace, joy and healing. And yet – you pour out these gifts on us again and again. Forgive us, Holy God of Love, and save us from ourselves. Prepare us for the celebration of Christ’s birth. Prepare us to welcome our Savior. 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

Micah 5:2-5

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)

Carolyn Greenwood

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

Ward Walker Birdwell

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38,46-55

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

“When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me speaking words of wisdom, let it be”

“Let It Be” – The Beatles

*HYMN NO. 53 (blue hymnal) What Child Is This *Greensleeves*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

adapted, Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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) Angels Singing, Noels Ringing

W żłobie leży and *Rocking*

(11:00) O magnum mysterium

Morten Lauridsen

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum; ut animalia viderent Dominum natum Jacentem in praesepio Beata Virgo, Beata cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum.

O great mystery and admirable sacrament, that the animals have seen the birth of the Lord, lying in a manger. O Blessed Virgin, whose womb has been seen worthy to carry our Lord Jesus Christ.

Responsory for Matins on Christmas Day

*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. 34 (blue hymnal) (11:00) In Bethlehem, a Babe Was Born

Discovery

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice!

Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

*POSTLUDE Partita XI

Georg Böhm

(from the chorale partita on *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele*)

O My Soul, Be Glad and Joyful

*Indicates standing.

Our thanks to Natalie Boyd for our bulletin art today. Natalie is the four-year-old daughter of Andrew and LeAnna Boyd and granddaughter of Jim and Mary Boyd.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Angela Shilling and Bryan Powell
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): Tim and Anne Crais

The Order of Worship

December 20, 2015

9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS ...

Welcome to Westminster Church! We are a family of Christians gathered from many traditions and neighborhoods, worshiping 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

(9:00) Desseins éternels

Olivier Messiaen

Eternal Purposes

(from *La Nativité du Seigneur*)

“God, in his love, has predestined us to adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, in accordance with His pleasure and will, to the praise of the glory of His grace.”

The Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians 1:5-6

(11:00) Angels Singing, Noels Ringing

W żłobie leży and *Rocking*

arr. Judy Phillips

Handbell Choir

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

(9:00) The Bonnyman Family

(11:00) The Bell Family

CALL TO WORSHIP Adapted from Luke 1:76-79 William Milam, liturgist (11:00)

Leader: Let us prepare the way for the Child who shall be called the prophet of the Most High, who shall bring salvation to the people by the forgiveness of sins.

People: **He shall give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and guide our feet into the way of peace.**

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP:

(9:00) Childcare through age 5

(11:00) Angela Shilling and Sam Smith, Chloe Smith and Jake Phillips

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

(9:00) Handbell Choir

(11:00) Chancel and Handbell Choirs

SENIOR USHER: Sue Caradine

USHERS:

(9:00) Suzanne Graham, Kathy Huck, Bob and Lucinda Albiston

(11:00) Betty and Leonard McKeehan, Lalla Phillips, Scott and Ashley Porter, Bill Rudd

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.

THE BIRTH CANDLE is lit today in honor of Ashley Douglas Naugher, son of Josh and Johanna Naugher of Seattle, Washington. Ashley was born December 9th. Proud grandparents are Bonny and Doug Naugher.

SHOW AND WAMS meet at 5:00 this evening for our Elf Party. We’ll start with dinner, followed by our annual Gift Swap and the movie, “Elf.” Bring an inexpensive gift and join in the fun!

MORTEN LAURIDSEN is Distinguished Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music. His works include seven vocal cycles and a series of sacred motets. He was awarded the 2007 National Medal of Arts by the President in a White House ceremony “for his composition of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power, and spiritual depth.” Of this morning’s motet he writes, “For centuries, composers have been inspired by the beautiful *O magnum mysterium* text depicting the birth of the new-born King amongst the lowly animals and shepherds. This affirmation of God’s grace to the meek and the adoration of the Blessed Virgin are celebrated in my setting through a quiet song of profound inner joy.”

Love Our Neighbors: Faith Overcomes Fear

People of all faiths are invited to come together to pray for peace, to meet, greet and socialize with each other as neighbors. As Christians, Muslims, Jews and people of conscience of all beliefs we will rally together to stand against religious terrorism, oppose reactive religious bigotry and appreciate religious freedom. The program will begin with a brief offering of prayers and words from many different faiths followed by a time for dialogue with one another.

Monday, December 21

6:30 pm - a brief introduction to Islam.

7:00 pm - brief prayer vigil, food and conversation

Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
2931 Kingston Pike

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Join Barbara today after the 11:00 service for lunch at Downtown Grill and Brewery. Our treat! You can meet us there or meet Barbara in the narthex after worship. Come catch up with your friends!

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.

Charles Dickens’ A CHRISTMAS CAROL will be presented at Westminster this evening at 7:30 pm. The production is a one man stage version by the acclaimed actor Mark Cabus. The veteran actor plays 36 characters in his faithful adaptation of the classic tale of transformation and redemption.

THE ABBEY DEADLINE is today. Please send your announcements and articles to unitedprinters@comcast.net.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24

5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

(Nursery care available at 5:00 p.m.)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: We will have one worship service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 27 and on Sunday, January 3. Our regular schedule resumes January 10th, 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 28 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. We will be closed Tuesday, December 29, Wednesday, December 30 and Friday, January 1. Regular office hours resume on Monday, January 4.

FINAL 2015 CONTRIBUTIONS as well as any 2016 prepaid offerings need to be in the church office by December 31. All offerings received by December 31 will be included in your 2015 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel.

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 FOR ADVENT FLORAL DECORATIONS: Today is the deadline for dedications for our 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*.

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

Given by:

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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

THE SESSION

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Jerry Faerber
Vicki Mayfield
Scott Porter
Elizabeth Ridley
Angela Shilling
Youth Elder: Ethan Partelow
Clerk of Session: Georgann Byerley

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Phil Barnette
Bitsy Ingram
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