



The Order of Worship December 27, 2015
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 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Johannes Brahms
OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION
CALL TO WORSHIP excerpted from Psalm 98

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

People: His right and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

Leader: The Lord has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

People: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

People: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Leader: Make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

People: He will judge the world with righteousness, and the people 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)

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.

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PROPHECY Isaiah 52:7-10

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Rachel Powell

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

GOSPEL John 1:1-14

SERMON "A Pregnant God" Rev. John Linton Muntz
"From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." – John 1:16

*HYMN If I Could Visit Bethlehem Simmons

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) Hebrews 1:1-3

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

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 Jesu, meine Freude J. S. Bach

Jesus, My Joy

(from the Orgelbüchlein)

*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 BEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Refrain from Hymn No. 29 (blue hymnal) Go Tell It

Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the

mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

*POSTLUDE From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Wilbur Held

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Bitsy Ingram and Jerry Faerber

CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR THIS WEEK: Linda Rutherford

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: Ibbie Muntz and Linda Van Beke

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Nursery Staff

SENIOR USHER: Sue Caradine

USHERS: Janice and Rick Rawe, LoAnn Price, Hap McSween, Joanne White

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 Eileen Rudd for serving as organist this morning while Peter Van Eenam is on vacation.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: We will have one worship service at 11:00 a.m. 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.

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

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.

THE SESSION

Class of 2016

Jerry Faerber

Vicki Mayfield

Scott Porter

Elizabeth Ridley

Angela Shilling

Youth Elder: Ethan Partelow

Clerk of Session: Georgann Byerley

Class of 2017

Phil Barnette

Bitsy Ingram

William Milam

Bryan Powell

Brenda Seip

Class of 2018

Leigh Dunlap

Steve Hoadley

J.P. Mackay

Linda Van Beke

Michael Yates

TRUSTEES

John Smartt

Larry Ridley

Paul Jorden