



The Order of Worship

December 18, 2022
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

“As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you. That is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message. Christ is standing at the door; he lives in the form of a human being among us.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God Is in the Manger

PRELUDE

(9:00) Partitas II and X Georg Böhm
(from the chorale partita on *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele*)
O My Soul, Be Glad and Joyful

(11:00) Of the Father’s Love Begotten *Divinum mysterium*
arr. David W. Music

Members of the Handbell Choir

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES (9:00) Jordan and Virginia Knight
(11:00) The Kringen Family

Reader 1: Our path through Advent has been lit by candles of hope, peace, and joy. We remember the words of the psalmist: Happy are those whose hope is in the LORD their God, who keeps faith forever; who brings justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

Reader 2: Today we light the candle of love. “God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.”

All: In the gift of Jesus, we received God’s own love, poured out for us and for all the world.

Reader 1: Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Reader 2: No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and God’s love is made perfect in us.

All: God of love, in the birth of Jesus, we see your love poured out for the world. We taste the fruit of your love in his life, death and resurrection. Shape our lives, Holy One, that we might carry your love into the world in all we say and do. We pray in the name of Love itself, our peace, our hope, our joy, Jesus Christ. Amen.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 107 (*Glory to God* hymnal) Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
Rejoice, Rejoice

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Lord of love, We confess we sometimes find your love daunting. You called Joseph to honor his love for Mary, even when custom called him to break his engagement. We confess custom has a hold on us, too, and challenging expectations for love's sake makes us nervous. You call us to love our neighbour, but we resist your call if our neighbours annoy us. You call us to love our enemies, too, but that seems impossible in these contentious times. Forgive us for loving only in the safest situations. Dare us to love as Jesus loved so he will be born again in us.

*KYRIE ELEISON Healey Willan

Women

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Men

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

All

on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*RESPONSE Gloria Patri No. 581 (*Glory to God* hymnal) Henry W. Greatorex

TO EXPERIENCE GOD’S WORD AND RESPOND ...

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)

Allie Brewington

Children age 4 through 4th grade are invited to downstairs for Children’s Sunday School after the TWC.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

SERMON

“The Supporting Role”

Rev. Dr. Anne McKee

*HYMN NO. 104 (*Glory to God* hymnal) O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Valet will ich dir geben

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 online 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) Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Divinum mysterium

(11:00) A Babe Is Born

William Mathias

A babe is born all of a may, To bring salvation unto us. To him we sing both night and day. *Veni Creator Spiritus.* [Come, Holy Spirit, Creator.]

At Bethlehem, that blessed place, The child of bliss now born he was; And him to serve God give us grace, *O lux beata Trinitas.* [O Light, Thou Trinity most blest!]

There came three kings out of the East, To worship the King that is so free, With gold and myrrh and frankincense, *A solis ortus cardine.* [From lands that see the sun arise.]

The angels came down with one cry, A fair song that night sung they In worship of that child: *Gloria tibi Domine.* [Glory be to Thee, O Lord.]

Noel!

Anonymous, 15th century

*AT THE PRESENTATION Doxology

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

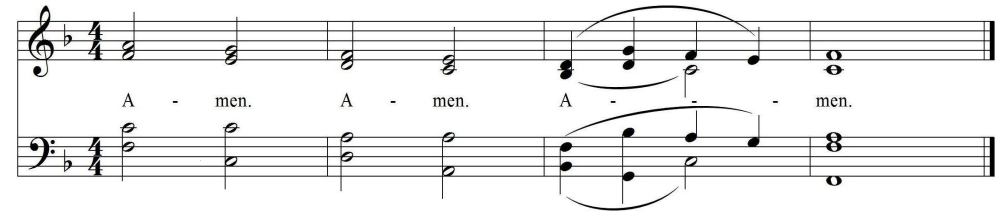
TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

*HYMN NO. 110 (*Glory to God* hymnal) Love Has Come

Bring a Torch

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (9:00) Amen Danish melody



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (11:00) From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Vom Himmel hoch

From heaven above to earth I come To bear good news to every home; Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing.

Martin Luther

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE Partita XI Georg Böhm (from the chorale partita on Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele)

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK:

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

SERVING TODAY

- ACOLYTES: (11:00)
- GREETERS: (11:00)
- LITURGIST: Barbara Adamcik
- MINISTRY OF MUSIC: (9:00) Members of the Handbell Choir (11:00) Chancel Choir and members of the Handbell Choir

SHEPHERD'S TEAM:

SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel

USHERS:

- (9:00)
- (11:00)

WILLIAM MATHIAS (1934-1992) began composing at an early age and went on to receive degrees from the University College of Wales, the Royal Academy of Music, and the University of Wales. From 1970 to 1988 he was Professor and Head of the Music Department at the University College of North Wales, Bangor. In 1972 he founded the North Wales Music Festival at St. Asaph Cathedral and remained its artistic director until his death. One music critic wrote of his work: "Continuously and captivatingly enjoyable."

STAFF POSITION OPENING: Westminster is looking for someone with office skills and a compassionate presence to work 20 hours a week as our Administrative Assistant, beginning when Melissa Everett steps down from her staff position in January. If you know someone who might be interested, please check the most recent Abbey for a full announcement, or contact Renee or Anne with inquiries.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: We have received 153 pledges out of 254 households so far for a total of \$ 766,885.00. To compare - last year's final tally of contributions was 167 pledges out of 273 households for a total of \$835,161. Extra pledge cards, as well as Time and Talent forms, are available in the church office if you need them.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: The Christmas Joy Offering opens doors of opportunity for the leaders who are shaped and supported through our gifts - doors that lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our gifts open doors that lead to relief for church workers and their families when emergency needs arise.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 am
Adult Bible Study: Led by Scott Brunger, this class meets in the McKinnon Room. The class chooses a book of the Bible to unpack in depth.
Feasting on the Word: This is a lectionary-based curriculum. The class, led by a rotating team of knowledgeable teachers, studies the scriptures that are used in worship. This class meets in the Fellowship Hall.
The Wired Word: Take a look at current events with a theological eye. The class, which meets in the library, is facilitated by a rotating team.

CHILDREN'S OFFERINGS AT WESTMINSTER
During 9:00 Worship:
-Nursery available for children 0-5 years old
During 10:00 Hour:
-Nursery available for children 0-5 years old
-Fellowship time for kids 1st-4th grade
During 11:00 Hour:
-Nursery available for children 0-3 years old
-Primary Sunday school for children 4 y.o.-Kindergarten
-Intermediate Sunday school for children 1st-4th grade
(Children will be walked to Sunday school classes following the Time with the Children during the 11:00 worship service)

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ADVENT FLORAL DONATIONS are being accepted. 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.

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

Given by:

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Where Faith and Life Connect

6500 Northshore Drive, Knoxville TN 37919
Telephone (865) 584-3957 Fax (865) 584-8840
E-mail westminsterpres@comcast.net
www.wpcknox.org

- Rev. Dr. Anne McKee, Transitional Minister
- Rev. Gradye Parsons, Parish Associate
- Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus
- Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster
- Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries, CLP
- Allie Brewington, Director of Children's Ministries
- Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
- Melissa Everett, Administrative Assistant

- Sarah Rackley, Youth Assistant
 - Debbie Bendy, Abbey Editor
 - Arthur Collins, Worship Tech
- OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Abbey Deadline

- 9:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:00 Christmas Breakfast
- 11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:15 PNC Meeting - Library
- 5:00 pm- Youth Progressive Christmas Party

Monday, December 19

7:00 pm - Congregational Zoom

Tuesday, December 20

6:00 pm - Choristers

Wednesday, December 21

6:30 pm- Companions Group - Prayer Room
7:45 - Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 22

4:30 - Brass Choir
5:00 Play Dress Rehearsal
7:00 pm - Handbell Choir



Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve
10:00 am Advent Decorating
5:00 and 8:00 pm - Christmas Eve
Worship Service

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day
11:00 am Worship