

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day

January 22, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candles

Call to Worship:

Leader: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.

People: Your work is full of honor and majesty, and your righteousness endures forever.

Leader: The works of your hands are faithful and just; all your precepts are trustworthy.

People: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice it have good understanding. Psalm 111

All: Let us worship God!

*Hymn: *O Lord, You Are My God and King* #270

*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with prejudice, warfare, and greed. God, our Father, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Time for Personal Confession

Response: *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us* Dvořák

Lord, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;

Christ, have mercy; Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us, upon us.

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.

Psalm 130:3-4

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the Gospel, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Gloria Patri *Glory Be to the Father* #581
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
 Amen, amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; #606
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayer for Illumination:

Eternal God, whose word silences the shouts of the mighty, quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may receive grace to show Christ's love in lives given to your service. Amen.

Psalter: Psalm 71:1-2, 6, 17-18, 22-24
 (Tune: *Azmon* #610; *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*)
 Congregation is invited to sing the responses

Leader: In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me.

People: In You, O Lord, I put my trust, preserve from fear and shame The righteous servant in distress who calls upon Your name.

Leader: From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you. Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.

People: For from the moment of my birth, through my allotted days, I shall not waver in my trust, or cease to sing Your praise.

Leader: Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up. You will increase my honor and comfort me once more. I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, my God; My tongue will tell of your righteous acts all day long,

People: O God, be never far from me, Your favor I implore; I'll hope in You all time to come, and praise You evermore.

Scripture Reading: Luke 13:1-9

Anthem: *Down to the River to Pray* Lloyd Larson

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown; good Lord, show me the way.

O sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down... down to the river to pray.

O brothers, let's go down, etc.

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

O sinners, let's go down, etc.

Time for Young Disciples

(Preschool children may return to their pew or gather at the piano door where today's shepherd will lead them in a time of special activities.)

*Hymn: *How Firm a Foundation* #463

Scripture: First Peter 2:11-25

Sermon: That's Not Fair

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed

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.

*Hymn: *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* #687

*Benediction

*Choral Response: *He Came Down* #137

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

TODAY'S FLOWERS

The flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God by Larry and Diana Walker in loving memory of Leon Walker and Clarence Tiede.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Nacogdoches, Texas



January 22, 2017
Third Sunday after Epiphany

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Ushers: Chris Kline Al Hejl
 Kirk O'Keefe Lois Hejl

Shepherd: Judy Taylor

Liturgist: Johnny Brown

Reader: Jacob Garcia

ASSOCIATE PASTOR DISCUSSION

On January 29, following our Annual Congregation Meeting, our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) will host a sandwich lunch in Westminster Hall. During lunch, our APNC will lead a series of discussions around our tables. We will discuss the following statements and questions, and it is hoped that each member of our congregation and extended congregation will give thought to these statements and questions before we meet:

1. Give a description of Westminster's programs and accomplishments.
2. What is the congregation's vision for ministry, and how is the vision lived out?
3. As we move into the future, what are your goals for Westminster Presbyterian Church?
4. Describe the gifts, skills, and experiences your congregation possesses to fulfill its mission.
5. How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of the church and the Nacogdoches Community?
6. How will an Associate Pastor help Westminster to reach its vision and mission goals?
7. What specific tasks, assignments, and programs will the Associate have responsibility?
8. Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to Westminster.

Our APNC is seeking input from all our members and extended family to guide them in their work. If you cannot be here on January 29, you can submit your answers in writing.

Please keep our APNC in your prayers and pray for the person who we do not yet know, but who is well known to the Lord and may be called by our congregation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 22

12:00 noon Children's Choir Practice
5:30 pm Youth
6:00 pm Session Meeting

Monday, January 23

5:15 pm Soul Sisters

Tuesday, January 24

5:30 pm Handbell Practice
5:30 pm Prayer Group

Wednesday, January 25

7:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, January 26

9:30 am Circle Meeting

Sunday, January 29

9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service with Congregational Meeting
12:00 noon Children's Choir Practice
12:00 noon Lunch
4:00 pm Bowling and Pizza

MINISTERS: All the Members of the Congregation

CHURCH STAFF:	Pastor	Steve Newton
	Director of Music	Deborah Dalton
	Organist	James Pitts
	Nursery Coordinator	Myra McNellie
	Presbyterian Women Moderator	Marilyn Tutwiler
	Treasurer	Sue Atkins
	Secretary	Sally Newton
	Children's Choir Director	Elise Gavin
	Handbell Choir Director	Myra McNellie
	Newsletter Editor	Sally Newton

THE INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP at Westminster Church is always open to persons who wish to join us in witness and service to Jesus Christ. If you are interested in church membership or desire more information about this congregation, please indicate on the Friendship Pad or speak to the pastor, or one of the elders following the service.

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - Noon, Monday – Friday
Church Office Phone: 936-564-0203 Fax: 936-564-0204
Website: www.westpreschurch.com
E-mail: wpc4u@suddenlinkmail.com
903 North Street; Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

“Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

“Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

“Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

“When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

First Peter 2:11-25