

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day September 17, 2017
 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

O God, your voice burns within the depths of our being, and draws us into your presence and service. Hear the cries of your people and speak a word of comfort, that we may proclaim to all the earth the glory of your name. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candles

Call to Worship:

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

People: **If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.**

Leader: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

People: **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning. For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.** Psalm 130

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: **The Lord's name be praised!**

*Hymn: *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* #620

*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

O God of love, who sent Jesus among us, hear our confession and forgive our sin. When we invoke Christ's name for selfish reasons, have mercy upon us. When our faith is convenient and does not lead to commitment, surround us with grace that we may repent. We are prone to call on you to satisfy our needs: we practice obedience without cost to our comfort. Forgive our leisurely approach to your sacrifice for us as Christ intercedes on our behalf.

Time for Personal Confession

Response: *Lord, Have Mercy* #551

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
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Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: Our assurance is this: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

People: **For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. God sent a Savior, who redeems us of all unworthiness."** Romans 8:1,3

Leader: Friends, this is the good news!

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

Lord God, into our darkness send your Light. Open our eyes that we may see you shining among us in the world today. Open our ears that we may hear you speak, and that hearing and seeing, we may rise up and follow your Way to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Psalter: **Psalm 103**

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

People: **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—**

Leader: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

People: **who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

Leader: who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

People: **The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.

People: **As far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

Leader: As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

People: **For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.**

Leader: But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

People: **to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.**

Leader: Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

People: **Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion.**

All: **Bless the LORD, O my soul.**

Scripture Reading: **Romans 14:7-12**

Anthem: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* Will L. Thompson
 Rachel Nelson, alto

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: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* #438

Scripture Reading: **Matthew 18:21-35**

Sermon: **Set the Prisoner Free**

Prayers of the People *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive* #444

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: Belhar Confession

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

We believe that God's life giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things...Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

*Hymn: *Where Charity and Love Prevail* #316

*Benediction

*Choral Response: *We Will Walk with God* #742
 Sizohamba naye

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Ushers: Al Hejl Dee Allums
 Lois Hejl James Allums
Shepherd: Margaret Sultenfuss
Liturgist: Larry Walker
Reader: Diana Walker

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 17

5:30 pm Youth

Monday, September 18

5:15 pm Soul Sisters

Tuesday, September 19

5:30 pm Handbell Practice

Wednesday, September 20

7:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, September 21

October newsletter deadline

Sunday, September 24

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Children's Choir
11:00 am Worship Service
5:30 pm Youth
6:00 pm Session Meeting

Erin Taylor will present a program on Wednesday, September 27 about her recent trip to work with the NOROC program in Romania. There will be a pot-luck supper beginning at 5:45 PM in Westminster Hall, so bring your best dishes and we will have a great time.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 22. Westminster will be hosting a benefit concert for the American Red Cross at 2:00 PM. The SFA music faculty and other members of our community will be performing.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church
(PCUSA)**

Westminster Presbyterian Church exists to declare God's love for all through Jesus Christ, to nurture and encourage spiritual growth, to maintain the integrity of divine worship, and to share the love and joy found in Christ by giving ourselves to our community and to the world.

THE SESSION

Class of 2017

Ken Deppisch
Bennie Kitchens
Chris Kline
Lisa Thompson

Class of 2018

Bobbie Ann Anderson
Clarence Bahs
Deborah Dalton
Kristi Hachtel
Michele Peck

Class of 2019

Bruce McNellie
Robin Moore
Ray Taylor
Patricia Thompson
Betsy Tucker

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.

MINISTERS: All the Members of the Congregation

CHURCH STAFF: Pastor Steve Newton
Director of Family Ministries Jennifer Marshall
Director of Music Deborah Dalton
Organist James Pitts
Nursery Coordinator Myra McNellie
Presbyterian Women Moderator Sue Atkins
Treasurer Sue Atkins
Secretary Sally Newton
Children's Choir Director Elise Gavin
Handbell Choir Director Myra McNellie
Newsletter Editor Sally Newton
Sunday School Coordinator and Youth Leader Johnny Brown

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

**Westminster
Presbyterian Church
Nacogdoches, Texas**



September 17, 2017
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

Matthew 18:21-22