

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day

December 3, 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Voluntary

Lighting the Christ Candles

Call to Worship:

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. For we are preparing ourselves for the days

People: **when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.** Isaiah 24

Soloist: ***Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*** #85
verse 1

Leader: Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is near. Romans 13:11

People: **Let us worship God.**

*Hymn: ***O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*** #104

*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God of the future, you are coming to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

Time for Personal Confession

Response: ***Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us***

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

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 #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, we pray for the same Holy Spirit which inspired Scripture to be written to open our hearts and minds to understand what you would reveal to us today. And knowing your word, may we have the courage to obey, for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Psalter: **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!

People: **Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

People: **O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

Leader: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

People: **You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

People: **But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

Leader: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

People: **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Scripture Reading: **Isaiah 64:1-9**

Anthem: ***E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*** Paul Manz

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: ***My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*** #100
verses 1 and 5

Scripture: **Mark 13:24-37**

Sermon: ***Keep Awake*** Steve Newton

*Affirmation of Faith: **Nicene Creed** hymnbook page 34

*Hymn: ***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*** #377

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

RESPONSE: ***The First Song of Isaiah*** #71

**Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
And he will be my Savior.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

RESPONSE: ***Holy, Holy, Holy*** #595

**Holy, holy, holy, My heart, my heart adores You!
My heart knows how to say to you: You are holy, Lord!**

RESPONSE: ***Christ Has Died, Christ Is Risen*** #553

**Christ has died; Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD TOGETHER AND SHARING THE CUP

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: **and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: **and forget not all God's benefits.**

All: **God of majesty and light, you hold the whole world in your hand. So we give you our great praise that in Jesus Christ all people may see your glory. We thank you for revealing Jesus to be your Son, and for claiming our lives in baptism to be his glad disciples. By your Spirit, may peace descend upon us that we may follow him with grateful hearts. Take us and all we have to be useful in your service, God of all nations, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

*Hymn: ***Christ, We Do All Adore Thee*** Dubois

**Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee forever;
Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee forever;
For on the holy cross hast Thou the world from sin redeemed.
Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee forever.**

(Interlude)

Christ, we do all adore Thee.

*Benediction

*Please stand if you are able

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

<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>
Ken Deppisch	Bobbie Ann Anderson	Bruce McNellie
Bennie Kitchens	Clarence Bahs	Robin Moore
Chris Kline	Deborah Dalton	Ray Taylor
Lisa Thompson	Kristi Hachtel	Patricia Thompson
	Michele Peck	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

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

Nacogdoches, Texas



First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2017

"But in those days, following that distress, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."

"At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words never pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

Mark 13:24-37

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Ushers: Gary Perdue Jane Brister
Lynnae Perdue Fred Niehaus

Shepherd: Betsy Tucker

Liturgist: Aaron Perdue

Reader: Lynnae Perdue

Preparing Communion: Clarence and Barbara Bahs

Serving Communion: Sue Atkins Charles Gavin
Gary Atkins Sharon Templeman
James Allums

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 3

12:00 noon Communion Reception hosted by Nominating Committee
12:00 noon WUF lunch, cookie bake, and gift exchange
5:00 pm Youth
6:00 pm Session Meeting

Monday, December 4

5:15 pm Soul Sisters

Tuesday, December 5

5:30 pm Handbell Practice
7:00 pm Theology on Tap

Wednesday, December 6

7:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 7

12:15 pm Mid Day Noel

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Children's Choir
11:00 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Ordination and Installation of Jennifer Marshall

TODAY'S FLOWERS

The garlands and wreaths were placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God by Peggy Wright in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Wright, Elizabeth Wright Rinker, Steele and Geneva Wright, Joe and Helen Wright, Tom Wright, Dick Wright, and Ray Rinker.