

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day

December 16, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Almighty God, you sent your Son into the world where the wheat must be winnowed from chaff and wickedness clings even to what is good. Let the fire of your Spirit purge us of greed and deceit, so that, purified, we may find our peace in you and you may delight in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pre-Worship Music: **On This Day Earth Shall Ring** Personent Hodie
Westminster Handbell Choir God Rest Ye Merry
arr. Michael Helman

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** Picardy
Westminster Handbell Choir arr. Julie Turner

Lighting the Christ Candles

Call to Worship:

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. A time when, "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11:6

People: **A time when, "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing."** Isaiah 35:1

Leader: Praise the Lord!

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

*Hymn: **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** #119

*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God of forgiveness and mercy, hear our prayer as we confess our shortcomings and guilt. With moments so critical, we let time "just go by." With deliverance so near, we linger in the darkness. With Christ as our armor, we fear the unknown foe. With the night having passed, we still hesitate to greet the new day. O God, lead us forth, that the moment may be met. Dispel the shadows, so that your will may be clear. Clothed with light and new life in Christ, let us go forth as those who are awake.

Time for Personal Confession

Response: **Lord, Have Mercy** #551

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

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

People: **No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.** Jeremiah 31:33-34

Leader: 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: **Good King Wenceslas** arr. Kevin McChesney
Westminster Handbell Choir

*Doxology: **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.** #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayer for Illumination:

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Psalter: **Psalms 137:1-6**

Leader: By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

People: **There on the poplars we hung our harps,**

Leader: For there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

People: **How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?**

Leader: If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill.

People: **May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.**

Scripture Reading: **Romans 5:1-11**

Anthem:

Gaudete

Piae Cantiones

Soloists: Bobbie Ann Anderson
Kelley McAdams
Brittnee Simone
Emily Boyland
Johnny Brown
Nikolaas Van Kley

arr. R. Lakey

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: **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** #123

Scripture Reading: **Isaiah 35:1-10**

Sermon: **Reason for Courage**

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: 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: **Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun** #265

*Benediction

*Choral Response: **People, Look East** #105

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Nacogdoches, Texas



December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent

¹The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. ³Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." ⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. ⁸And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

~ Isaiah 35:1-10

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.

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Ushers: Chris Kline Lois Hejl
Terri Moehring Al Hejl

Shepherd: Nancy Niehaus

Liturgist: WPC Youth

Reader: Clarice Miller

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

3:00 pm Caroling
5:30 pm Dinner and Santa Visit
6:30 pm Session Meeting

Monday, December 17

9:00 am Prayer Group

Wednesday, December 19

7:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 20

January newsletter deadline
12:15 pm Mid Day Noel

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Worship Service

Monday, December 24

Church office closed

5:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Tuesday, December 25

Church office closed

Merry Christmas!

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.

THE SESSION

Class of 2018

Bobbie Ann Anderson
Sue Atkins
Deborah Dalton
Kristi Hachtel
Michele Peck

Class of 2019

Bruce McNellie
Robin Moore
Ray Taylor
Patricia Thompson
Betsy Tucker

Class of 2020

Ken Deppisch
Bennie Kitchens
Terry Kline
Terri Moehring
Barbara Stump

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 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
Youth Leader	Johnny Brown

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