

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day

December 18, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head*

Appalachian Carol  
Arr. Cathy Mokolbust

*Rejoice, a Savior Comes  
Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming  
O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Arr. Bill Ingram

Westminster Handbell Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude:

*Noel Nouvelet*  
Dee Allums, cello

French Carol  
Arr. A. Hadar

Lighting the Christ Candles

Call to Worship:

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

People: **For the Lord will show you a sign. Look, a virgin is with child, and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, God with us.**

Isaiah 7:14

Leader: And the angel said, "Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people,

People: **"For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"**

Luke 2:10-11

\*Hymn: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

#133

\*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**You shower gifts on your people, O God, and forgive their faults. We keep accounts and settle old scores. You make peace, sending Christ as a sign of reconciliation and hope. We make war and call it peacekeeping. You give us a source of confidence as your Spirit is sent into our midst. We cause others to be restless in our anxiety and self-concern. Have mercy on us, forgive, and free us, that we may be renewed to serve your people with good will.**

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: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

People: **But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."**

Leader: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

People: **"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."**

Luke 2:8-14

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the Gospel!

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

\*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: *Canticle of the Turning* Rory Cooney  
Based on the Magnificat, Luke 1:46-58

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

\*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 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.**

Unison Reading:

Isaiah 9:2-7

**The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.**

**For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.**

**Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.**

**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.**

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.**

**The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.**

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:39-52

Anthem: *Who Would Send a Baby?* Mary Kay Beall  
Westminster Children's Choir

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.)

Anthem: *Away in a Manger* arr. Gilbert Martin  
Josie Peck, treble soloist

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25  
Sermon: God's Sense of Humor

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: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* #143

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response: *My Heart Shall Sing*

#100

Postlude

\*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.**

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

Nacogdoches, Texas



### ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Ushers: Chris Kline Sue Atkins  
Kirk O'Keefe Gary Atkins  
Shepherd: Laura Morales  
Liturgist: Carrie Moody  
Reader: Clarice Miller

### THE SESSION

<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>
Sue Atkins	Ken Deppisch	Bobbie Ann Anderson
Claire Bray	Chris Kline	Clarence Bahs
Ray Taylor	Bennie Kitchens	Deborah Dalton
Patricia Thompson	Lisa Thompson	Kristi Hachtel
Mark Turner	Jean Williams	Michele Peck

**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.**

### WESTMINSTER HANDBELL CHOIR

Dee Allums	John Moore
Ron Anderson	Robin Moore
Becky Helmer	George Patterson
Shellene Kestner	Lynnae Perdue
Terry Kline	Vance Rogers
Alix Markworth	Lisa Thompson
Mary Markworth	Nancy Yarbrough
Bruce McNellie	

Myra McNellie, director

MINISTERS: All the Members of the Congregation

CHURCH STAFF: Pastor Steve Newton  
Director of Music Deborah Dalton  
Organist James Pitts  
Director of Christian Education Jean Williams  
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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Wednesday, December 21

7:30 pm Choir Practice

#### Saturday, December 24

5:00 and 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Services

#### Sunday, December 25

*Merry Christmas!*

11:00 am Worship Service

Church Office Hours: 8:00 am - Noon, Monday - Friday

Church Office Phone: 936-564-0203 Fax: 936-564-0204

Website: [www.westpreschurch.com](http://www.westpreschurch.com)

E-mail: [wpc4u@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:wpc4u@suddenlinkmail.com)

903 North Street; Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

### TODAY'S FLOWERS

The garlands and wreaths were placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God 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.

## December 18, 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.  
Matthew 1:18-25