

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day

December 23, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ the ruler of all. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

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: Angels, from the Realms of Glory #143

*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 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: Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: Through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

Leader: For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

People: God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel:

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: Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only) #113

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Glory to God in the Highest

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayer for Illumination:

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. Amen.

Psalter: Psalm 67

People sing Hymn #341

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us, so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.

People: O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace; and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face, so that your way most holy on earth may soon be known, and unto every people your saving grace be shown. Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing; in every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.

Leader: May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth. May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

People: For you will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness, and on the earth all nations will your just rule confess. Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing. Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring. The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessing send, and all the earth will worship to its remotest end.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

Anthem: Lost in the Night arr. Kyle Haugen

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

Scripture Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon: What Do You Want for Christmas?

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.

The Sacrament of Baptism Scarlett Marie Fuller Infant daughter of Andrew and Joey Fuller

Response: Dearest Jesus, We Are Here #483 verse 1

*Hymn: Child of Blessing, Child of Promise #486 verses 1 and 4

*Affirmation of Faith: Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

*Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem #121

*Benediction

*Choral Response: Canticle of the Turning #100

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Ushers: Michael Maurer Charlotte Bock
 Amy Maurer Rick Bock

Shepherd: Terri Moehring

Liturgist: Whitney Frazier

Reader: James Frazier

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 24

Church office closed
 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Tuesday, December 25

Church office closed
Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 30

11:00 am Worship Service

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.

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 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>
Bobbie Ann Anderson	Bruce McNellie	Ken Deppisch
Sue Atkins	Robin Moore	Bennie Kitchens
Deborah Dalton	Ray Taylor	Terry Kline
Kristi Hachtel	Patricia Thompson	Terri Moehring
Michele Peck	Betsy Tucker	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

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



December 23, 2018
 Fourth Sunday of Advent

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" ²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

~ John 1:6-8, 19-28