

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day

December 24, 2017

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. 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

Soloist: **Light Four Candles to Watch for Messiah** #85  
Johnny Brown, tenor

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

All: **Let us worship God!**

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

\*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

Time for Personal Confession

Response: **Have Mercy, God, upon My Life**  
Tune: #123 CAROL; *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

**Have mercy, God, upon my life, and make me clean within:  
Pour out your ever faithful love and wash away my sin.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

People: **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"**  
Luke 2:10-13

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the Gospel: God claims us by giving of his only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

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: **Gesu bambino** Pietro Yon  
Bobbie Ann Anderson, soprano  
Jennifer Marshall, violin

\*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 know from Scripture that "people do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." May we hear your life giving word this day and may we have the courage to follow its teaching. For we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Psalter: **Psalm 96**

Leader: O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

People: **Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

People: **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

Leader: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

People: **Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

People: **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

Leader: Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

People: **Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."**

Leader: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

People: **Let the field exult, and everything in it.**

Leader: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

People: **He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.**

Scripture Reading: **Titus 2:11-14**

Anthem: **The Wexford Carol** arr. Howard Helvey

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: **O Little Town of Bethlehem** #121

Scripture Read **Matthew 1:1-25** (selected verses)

Sermon: **Waiting for What Has Already Arrived** Steve Newton

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 Confession of 1967 9.08**

**In Jesus of Nazareth true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all people.**

\*Hymn: **Angels We Have Heard on High** #113

\*Benediction

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

Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able

**ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Ushers: Clarence Bahs Sue Johnson  
Barbara Bahs Terri Moehring  
Shepherd: Terri Moehring  
Liturgist: Apollonia Ellis  
Reader: Robin Moore

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, December 24**  
5:00 and 7:00 Candlelight Communion Services

**Monday, December 25**  
*Merry Christmas!*  
Church office closed

**Sunday, December 31**  
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**

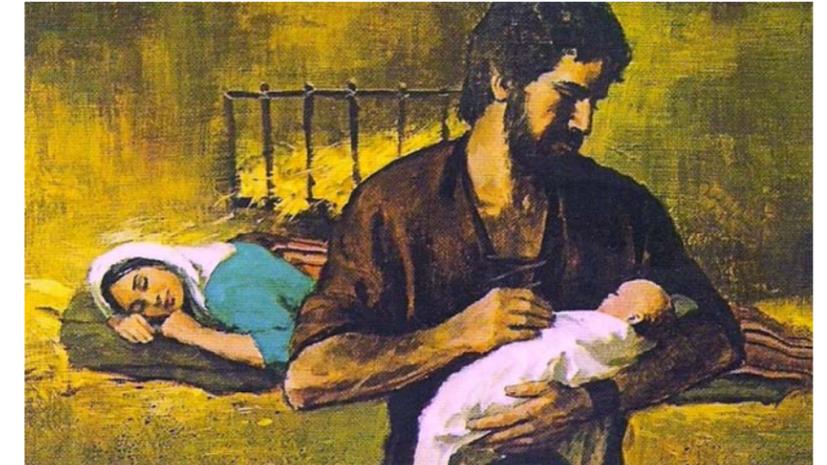
<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>
Ken Deppisch	Bobbie Ann Anderson	Bruce McNellie
Bennie Kitchens	Clarence Bahs	Robin Moore
Chris Kline	Deborah Dalton	Ray Taylor
Lisa Thompson	Kristi Hachtel	Patricia Thompson
	Michele Peck	Betsy Tucker

**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
	Associate Pastor	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](http://www.westpreschurch.com)  
E-mail: [wpc4u@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:wpc4u@suddenlinkmail.com)  
903 North Street; Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

**Westminster  
Presbyterian Church  
Nacogdoches, Texas**



**December 24, 2017  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

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. 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."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.  
Matthew 1:18-25