

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day

December 30, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Almighty God, you wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature. In your mercy let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candles

Call to Worship:

Leader: Christ Jesus, the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

People: **For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.**

Leader: He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

People: **He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.**

Leader: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

People: **And through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.** Colossians 1:15-20

All: **Let us worship God.**

*Hymn: *Joy to the World* #134

*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with prejudice, warfare, and greed. God our Father, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Time for Personal Confession

Response: *O Lord, Have Mercy* #578

**O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy;
O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy;
O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on 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: *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: **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, we know that your law was given for our benefit. Help us to understand it. Give us the courage to be obedient and the joy of living for our savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Psalter: *Psalms 145* Responsive Reading

Leader: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

People: **Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.**

Leader: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

People: **One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.**

Leader: They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

People: **They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds.**

Leader: They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

People: **The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.**

Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

People: **The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.**

Leader: He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.

People: **The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.**

All: **My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.**

Solo: *Sweet Little Jesus Boy* Robert MacGimsey
Johnny Brown, tenor

Scripture Reading: **Colossians 3:12-17**

*Hymn: *Once in Royal David's City* #140

Scripture Reading: **Matthew 25:14-30**

Sermon: **The Power of Love** Robert Adamson

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: *Angels We Have Heard on High* #113

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Ushers: James Allums Terri Moehring
 Dee Allums Carrie Moody
 Shepherd: Lynnae Perdue
 Liturgist: Sue Atkins
 Reader: Kevin Helmer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 31

Church office closed

Tuesday, January 1

Happy New Year!
 Church office closed

Wednesday, January 2

1:00 pm Sanctuary Guild

Sunday, January 6

Epiphany

9:30 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Children's Choir
 11:00 am Worship Service
 12:00 noon Communion Reception
 5:00 pm Youth

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

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

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - Noon, Monday – Friday
 Church Office Phone: 936-564-0203 Fax: 936-564-0204
 Website: www.westpreschurch.com
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 903 North Street; Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

**Westminster
 Presbyterian Church
 Nacogdoches, Texas**



December 30, 2018
 First Sunday after Christmas

¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ ²¹“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’ ²²“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ ²³“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’ ²⁴“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ ²⁶“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. ²⁸“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’