

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day December 31, 2017
 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: 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.** Psalm 96:1-2

Leader: Praise the Lord!

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

*Hymn: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #133

*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: *Have Mercy, God, upon My Life* #421
 verses 1 and 4

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

**Create in me a faithful heart, a spirit right and new.
 Sustain me with your saving love and keep me close to you.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: Hear the good news! If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Friends, believe the good news. Romans 6:8, 11

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:

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, and in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalter: **Psalm 8**
 (Tune: Repton #432; *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*)

Leader: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

People: **O LORD, our LORD, Thy majesty Is sung in all the earth;
 Who hung the moon and stars in space,
 and gave to us, Thy chosen race,
 From dust a noble birth. From dust a noble birth.**

Leader: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

People: **How vast the heav'ns, how small are we,
 And yet we feel Thy care.
 O who are we to own such grace,
 To see Thy glory face to face,
 Thy goodness ev'rywhere? Thy goodness ev'rywhere?**

Leader: All flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

People: **All creatures bow beneath our feet;
 Through us their wants attend.
 For life and love so freely giv'n,
 May we preserve the gift of heav'n:
 Earth's love that knows no end! Earth's love that knows no end!**

Scripture Reading: **Hebrews 1:1-3**
 Solo: *The Three Kings* Peter Cornelius
 Brenton Mattox, bass

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

Scripture Reading: **John 1:1-17**

Sermon: **The Word Became Flesh** 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: from Brief Statement of Faith 1982

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

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: *Angels We Have Heard on High* #113

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Ushers: Chris Kline Clarence Bahs
 Dee Allums Barbara Bahs
 Shepherd: Margaret Sultenfuss
 Liturgist: Clarence Bahs
 Reader: Ray Taylor

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 1

Happy New Year!
 Church office closed

Sunday, January 7

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

**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
 E-mail: wpc4u@suddenlinkmail.com
 903 North Street; Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

**Westminster
 Presbyterian Church
 Nacogdoches, Texas**



**December 31, 2017
 First Sunday after Christmas**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

~John 1:1-17