

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Nacogdoches, Texas

The Service for the Lord's Day



Advent 2020

Keep Awake! Prepare!

November 29, 2020 11:00 a.m.

Assembling in Spirit Via the Internet

Facebook.com/westpresnac or www.westpreschurch.com

PRELUDE

Dr. James Pitts, organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH: HOPE

Leader: Isaiah the Prophet *blasts open* this wonderful, terrible season of anticipation and preparation, *shouting* his prayer to God: “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence.

All: “From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.” (Light First Candle)

UNISON PRAYER:

O God, we light this first candle as a sign of your coming in Christ. Our hope is in you alone. As you spoke to your people in the past speak again to us to bring the hope of your salvation. Tear open the heavens and come down to make your name known to all people. You are the potter and we are the clay. Renew us and your whole world, through Christ we pray. AMEN.

HYMN OF ADVENT 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Sing verses 1 & 7 today.

Veni Emmanuel

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | <p>6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |
|---|---|

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Because we trust a gracious merciful God and King, let us come with open hearts to confess our sins. Let us pray...

All: God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to see things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. AMEN.

(Continue in silent prayer...)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the Good News! If anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation. The old is finished and past. Behold, the new has begun. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ: we are forgiven. Give thanks and praise to God forever!

All: In Christ we are forgiven! Let us forgive others, love God, and live in peace. Alleluia! Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

**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.**

OFFERING REFLECTIONS AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#606

HEARING GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 64:1-9

SOLO

“Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled”

Oley Speaks

Chelsea Scott, soloist

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me
Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

“Beware! Keep Alert!”

Rev. Howard Reed

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Apostles’ Creed”

Constitution, PCUSA

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

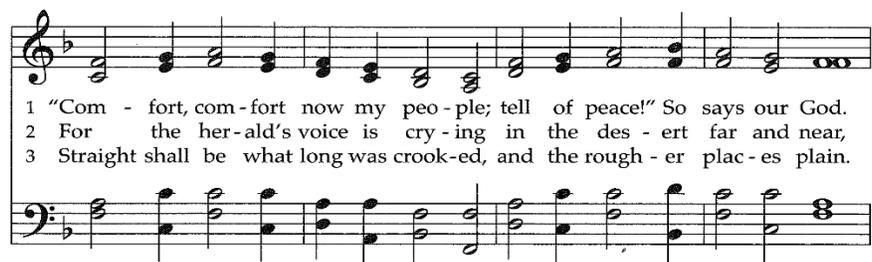
**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION
AND LORD’S PRAYER**

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.

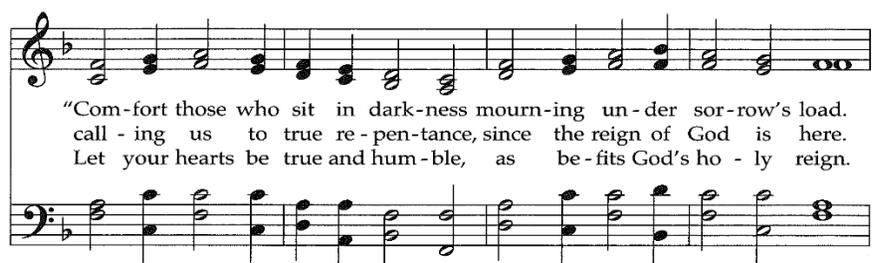
WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

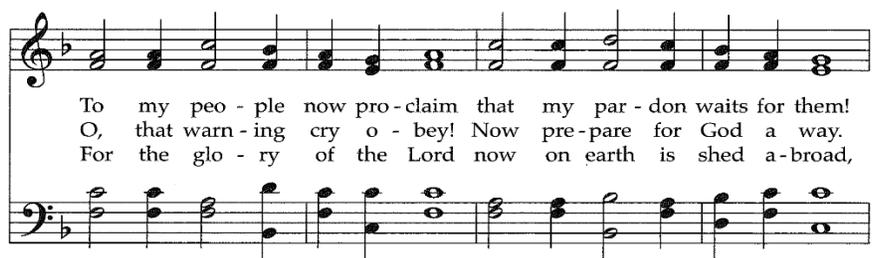
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



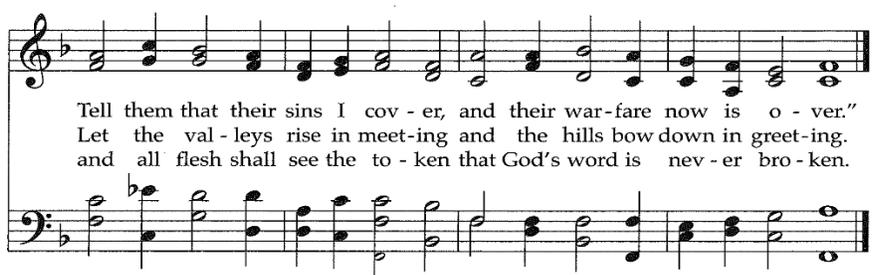
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

TEXT: Johannes Olearius, 1671; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

GENEVAN 42
 8.7.8.7.7.8.8

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The congregation is grateful to James Pitts, Michele Peck, Whitney Frazier, and our soloists for faithfully sharing worship with many others via the internet.

*On today's cover: Original artwork by Howard Reed, 2004
 Communion Table Antependium, Handmade Papers on Canvas, 10' X 3'*

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 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 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Ken Deppisch	Deborah Dalton	Sue Johnson
Bennie Kitchens	Charles Gavin	Tony Thompson
Terry Kline	Kevin Helmer	Stephanie Petti
Terri Moehring	Michele Peck	Bruce McNellie
Barbara Stump	Lynnae Perdue	Robin Moore

MINISTERS:

All the Members of the Congregation

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor	Rev. Howard Reed
Director of Music	Deborah Dalton
Organist	James Pitts
Director of Christian Education	Whitney Frazier
Nursery Coordinator	Myra McNellie
Presbyterian Women Moderator	Lisa Thompson
Treasurer	Sue Atkins
Secretary	Angelea Richardson
Handbell Choir Director	Myra McNellie
Newsletter Editor	Angelea Richardson
Clerk of Session	Robin Moore

Address: 903 North Street; Nacogdoches, Texas 75961
Church Office Hours: 8:00 am – noon, Monday – Friday
Church Office Phone: 936-564-0203 Fax: 936-564-0204

Interim Pastor Phone: 713-870-1943 Interim Pastor e-mail: jhrlit@gmail.com
Website: www.westpreschurch.com E-mail: wpc4u@suddenlinkmail.com