

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day

January 15, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Eternal God, your Son, Jesus Christ now exalted as Lord of all, pours out his gifts on the church. Grant us that unity which your Spirit gives, keep us in the bond of peace, and bring all creation to worship before your throne; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candles

Call to Worship:

Leader: In Revelation we read, "Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

People: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." Revelation 4:9-11

All: Let us worship God!

*Hymn: *Crown Him with Many Crowns* #268

*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, in Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us. We are not quick to proclaim Christ as savior. We have our own desires that demand our devotion. Other people have power over us that we dare not deny. We sometimes confuse Christ's will and our own. At times it is awkward to confess him the source of new life. With compassion he suffers, aware of our plight. O God, hear our confession, and through Christ keep us upright.

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: As the Gospel reminds us, "The very stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing and it is amazing in our eyes." Psalm 118:22-23; Mark 12:10

People: Christ is our foundation; God's will in him cannot be shaken. Our redemption is sure; 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:

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalter: Psalm 118:1, 14-29

(Tune: Mit Freuden zart #645; *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*)

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The LORD's right hand has done mighty things! The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"

People: Give thanks unto our gracious God,
 whose love endures forever;
 The Lord, our strength and song shall be,
 from whom no fault can sever.
 Sing mighty songs of victory,
 both now and for eternity,
 For God will leave us never.

Leader: I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done. The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

People: I shall not die, but I shall live,
 and sing God's grace with elation.
 Though I deserve no more than death,
 God blesses me with salvation.
 The gate that should unyielding be
 is open wide to welcome me,
 Give thanks and adoration!

Leader: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

People: Upon the stones the builders judged
 imperfect, weak and tender,
 Now rest the corner of God's house,
 still unsurpassed in splendor.
 This is the day the Lord has made;
 God is my sun, and God my shade;
 Rejoice and praise gladly render!

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Anthem: *The Work of Christmas* Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among the people,
 To make music in the heart.

by Howard Thurman

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 Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* #353

Scripture: First Peter 2:4-10

Sermon: A Royal Priesthood

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.

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 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.

Service of Installation

*Hymn: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* #306

*Benediction

*Choral Response: *He Came Down*

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

#137

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.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Nacogdoches, Texas



ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Ushers: Tony Thompson Clarice Miller
Patricia Thompson Hamp Miller
Shepherd: Margaret Sultenfuss
Liturgist: Sharon Ninness
Reader: Deborah Dalton

THE SESSION

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 15

12:00 noon Children's Choir Practice
5:30 pm Super Sunday

Monday, January 16

Office closed
5:15 pm Soul Sisters

Tuesday, January 17

5:30 pm Handbell practice
5:30 pm Prayer group

Wednesday, January 18

5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live Dinner and Program
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Sunday, January 22

9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
12:00 noon Children's Choir Practice
5:30 pm Youth
6:00 pm Session Meeting

MINISTERS: All the Members of the Congregation

CHURCH STAFF: Pastor Steve Newton
Director of Music Deborah Dalton
Organist James Pitts
Director of Christian Education Jean Williams
Nursery Coordinator Myra McNellie
Presbyterian Women Moderator Marilyn Tutwiler
Treasurer Sue Atkins
Secretary Sally Newton
Children's Choir Director Elise Gavin
Handbell Choir Director Myra McNellie
Newsletter Editor Sally Newton

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

January 15, 2017
Second Sunday after Epiphany

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

First Peter 2:4-10