

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 8, 2019

9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God of all wisdom, our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love, and our minds search for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior, and strengthen us to grow in love, that at the dawn of his coming, we may rejoice in his presence and welcome the light of his truth. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

##### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

##### PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

###### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

9:00 a.m. – *Michael & Coleman Dixon, Natalie and Caroline*  
11:15 a.m. – *Paul & Caroline Clark, Charlotte and Trixie*

PRELUDE "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Burkhardt

\* CALL TO WORSHIP *Isaiah 55:12*

Leader: The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing.  
People: **And all the trees of the forest shall clap their hands.**  
Leader: For behold, our Lord and Ruler is coming to reign forever.  
All: **Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 82 HYFRYDOL

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Good and gracious God, we pray that you would forgive our foolish ways. We have chased after dreams that served our own interests. We have spent energy on that which enhanced our own comfort. We have shied away from difficult decisions, and ducked invitations to work for justice in our neighborhood. We are blind to our own greed, and indifferent to our own deceptiveness. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and uphold us with your compassion. Let your light shine in the darkest places of our lives, so that we would go forward without fear, always erring on the side of grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.  
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

\* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 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.**

##### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

9:00 *Frank Reece Wrenn, IV*

Presentation  
Questions & Profession of Faith  
Question to the Congregation  
Thanksgiving over the Water  
Baptism  
Prayer  
Welcome

*At 9:00 a.m. children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.*

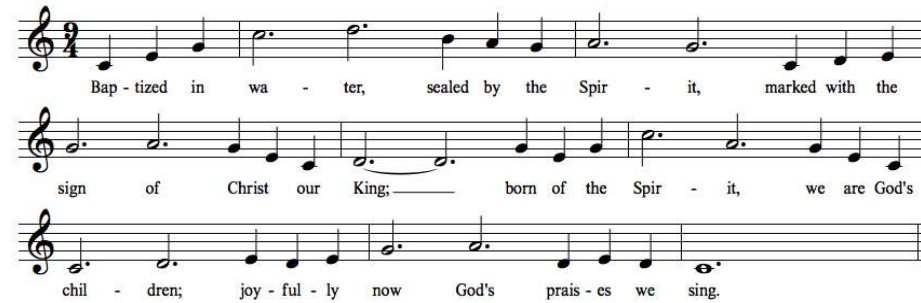
##### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

11:15 *Catherine Ruth Riner  
Mary Hazael Wilson*

Presentation  
Questions to the Parents  
Question to the Congregation  
Thanksgiving over the Water  
Baptism  
Prayer

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Welcome and Congregational Response



*At 11:15 a.m. children in K5-first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 7:10-14 O.T., p. 554

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 1:18-25 N.T., p. 784

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Joseph's Temptation" Ben Dorr

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* 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.**

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER 11:15 Lee

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Hymnal page 35, Traditional*

### OFFERING

Offertory "In the Bleak Midwinter" arr. Ellingboe

\* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

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

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* HYMN No. 106 BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

\* CHARGE & BENECTION

\* CHORAL RESPONSE "While We Are Waiting, Come" Cason

\* POSTLUDE "And the Glory of the Lord" from *Messiah* Handel

*\*All who are able may stand*

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

<b>HEAD USHERS:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Keith Stevenson
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	Tonya Cochran
<b>SPONSORS:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Kristin Burrell
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	Carroll Farmer
<b>GREETERS:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Freddie Williams, Catherine Pollock
		Jon McKnight
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	Christa Likes, Susan Jones
		Talitha Allen
<b>LITURGIST:</b>		Mary Kathleen Duncan
<b>LAY READERS:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Katy Glidewell
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	Ryan Nation
<b>ACOLYTES:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Mason Donlan, Mills Hardaway
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	George Blount, Kass Williams

### PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

### TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

### STREAMING

All worship services at Westminster are broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at [www.wpc-online.org](http://www.wpc-online.org) and click the link "Worship via Live Streaming."

### CHURCH NOTES

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

*Nancy Smith, organist*

**9:00 a.m.**

*Chancel Choir*

**11:15 a.m.**

*Sanctuary Choir*

### NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

During worship, children in K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children's Church in Room 206.

### BIRTH

A son, *Cuyler Bradley Jensen*, was born to Erik & Whitney Jensen on Thursday, August 22, 2019, in Greenville.

### BIRTH

A daughter, *Mary Weston Porcher White*, was born to Rhoades & Weston White on Wednesday, November 27, 2019, in Greenville.

### LET US PRAY FOR:

*Lisa Kistler and family*

### CHERUB CHOIR CHRISTMAS

This **Sunday, December 8**, you are invited to hear the youngest voices of Westminster share their holiday songs and a reading of the Christmas story in *A Cherub Choir Christmas*. The event will begin at **5:30 p.m.** in the **Sanctuary**, followed by cookies and punch in the **Sanctuary Atrium**. Out of town family can also be invited to watch online by visiting the live stream link on [wpc-online.org](http://wpc-online.org).

### SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Lisa Kistler* on the death of her mother, Jane Griffin, on Friday, November 15, 2019, in Meridian, Mississippi.

### BAPTISM

This morning at the 9:00 a.m. worship service we welcome into our fellowship *Frank Reece Wrenn, IV*, by baptism. We also welcome *Jenny Wrenn*, Frank's wife, into our membership. Jenny joins by reaffirmation of faith.

### BAPTISM

This morning at the 11:15 a.m. worship service we welcome the following into our fellowship:

- *Catherine Ruth Riner*, daughter of Michael & Mary-Catherine Riner.

- *Mary Hazael Wilson*, daughter of Mahon & Ellen Wilson.

### 2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, November 26, we have received \$2,181,323 in pledges toward our 2020 budget goal of \$2,513,715.

For your convenience, pledge cards are in the pews, or you may mail in your pledge or send it by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens, at [sherri@wpc-online.org](mailto:sherri@wpc-online.org).

**“How a Rose E’er Blooming: Pastors Reflect on the Christmas Story”**

Join us this Advent for a **combined Sunday School** to explore the stories of Jesus’ birth. This discussion and lecture based class will probe old stories for new insights into the relevancy of the Christmas story for a modern age. “How a Rose E’er Blooming” will meet in **Room 209**.

- December 8:** *Lauren Slingerland on the prophecies*
- December 15:** *Ben Dorr on Simeon and Jesus in the Temple*
- December 22:** *Mary Kathleen Duncan on the Magnificat*

**CONNECTIONS**

The Connections group will meet for our annual Christmas Brunch this **Sunday, December 8 at 12:45 p.m.** Join us at the **Westin Poinsett Hotel's Spoonbread Restaurant**. We will gather in the lobby at the round tables next to the Christmas tree. *Edna Ruth Miller* (288-8645 or rgvduo@bellsouth.net). First time attendees are welcome.

**WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

Get your day started right with the **“It’s Never Too Early to Talk About Jesus”** study and discussion group, meeting again **Tuesday, December 10, at 6:00 a.m.** in the **Women’s Lounge**. This semester we are studying Tish Harrison Warren's book, The Liturgy of the Ordinary. Questions? Contact *Kathleen Reynolds* (kathleenmreynolds@yahoo.com or 346-3155).

**WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER**

- Tuesday, December 10**
- **Circle #5:** *Ilene Schlacht*, chair (rischlacht@att.net), will meet at **11:00 a.m.** in the **Entrance Pavilion** for their annual Christmas Luncheon. Lunch will be served at **noon** with cost being **\$7**.
- **Circle #3:** *Dee Malone*, chair (dee05m@gmail.com), will meet at the home of *Becky Murphy* (123 Buckingham Rd.) at **6:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, December 11**

- **Circle #6:** *Liz Einstein* (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) and *Sherry Tate* (sherrytate63@gmail.com), co-chairs, will meet at **9:00 a.m.** at Sherry's home (207 Camille Ave.).

**SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON**

Senior Adults are invited to celebrate Christmas with a luncheon on **Thursday, December 12, at 12:30 p.m.** in **Room 209**. Lunch is \$7 per person. Come prepared to share your Christmas traditions. Reservations must be made by **Wednesday, December 11** with the church office.

**YOUNGISH CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Young...or at least *Youngish*? It's all a state of mind. Come celebrate Christmas at Leigh's (208 A Anderson St.) on **Friday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m.** Wear your ugliest sweater, or at least your most festive.

**THE FLOCK CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Join the Flock for an Ugly Sweater Christmas Party on **Saturday, December 14**, at the home of **Jason & Elizabeth Palmer** (16 Club Forest Ln., 630-7100) at **6:00 p.m.** Bring an appetizer to share and your own adult beverages.

**THEOLOGY READING GROUP**

The Theology Reading Group will meet **Monday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Charter Room**. This will be a seasonal gathering - a time of fellowship and the sharing of light refreshments and a Christmas memory, poem, story, or more. All are invited.

**RETIREMENT GIVING**

For those 70 and 1/2 years of age or older, you can make a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Though you will not get a charitable deduction, the withdrawal can serve as your required minimum distribution. The money will not be taxed and will not count toward your adjusted gross income. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Owens, the church’s Financial Secretary.

**THE HARBINGER WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 2310 Augusta Road  
 Greenville, South Carolina 29605  
 (864) 232-2424  
 www.wpc-online.org

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**CHURCH STAFF**

- Church 232-2424**      **Weekday School 232-5766**
- Pastor *Ben Dorr*  
bdorr@wpc-online.org
- Associate Pastor *Leigh Stuckey*  
lstuckey@wpc-online.org
- Associate Pastor *Mary Kathleen Duncan*  
mkduncan@wpc-online.org
- Associate Pastor *Lauren Slingerland*  
lslingerland@wpc-online.org
- Parish Associate for Older Adults *Amos Workman*  
aworkman@wpc-online.org
- Music Director *Mark Kemp*  
mkemp@wpc-online.org
- Children’s Choir Coordinator *Kathryn Knauer*  
kknauer@wpc-online.org
- Volunteer Coordinator *Jennifer Dillard*  
jdillard@wpc-online.org
- Youth Intern *Lauren Ghighi*  
lghighi@wpc-online.org
- Organist *Nancy Smith*  
nls1949@aol.com
- Weekday School Director *Cara Puntch*  
cpuntch@wpc-online.org
- Financial Secretary *Sherry Owens*  
sherry@wpc-online.org
- Office Manager *Michelle Little*  
michelle@wpc-online.org
- Secretary *Wendy Bagley*  
wendy@wpc-online.org
- Director of Nurseries *Janell Pitman*  
jpitman@wpc-online.org
- Director of Hospitality *Lisa Ridge*  
lisa@wpc-online.org
- Building Supervisor *Steve Phillips*  
stevep30@bellsouth.net

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

December 8 - 14, 2019

**SUNDAY**

- 9:00 a.m.      Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m.    One Adult Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m.    Worship Service
- 12:45 p.m.    Connections Group
- 5:00 p.m.      Middler Group Meeting
- 5:15 p.m.      Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m.      Cherub Choir Christmas
- 6:00 p.m.      Youth Dinner
- 6:30 p.m.      Middler Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 p.m.      Senior High Group Meeting
- Alcoholics Anonymous

**MONDAY**

- 6:15 p.m.      NAMI
- 8:00 p.m.      Narcotics Anonymous

**TUESDAY**

- 6:00 a.m.      Women's Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m.     Staff Meeting
- Circle #5 Luncheon
- Al-Anon
- Circle #3

**WEDNESDAY**

- 9:00 a.m.      Circle #6
- 3:00 p.m.      It's Elementary
- 4:30 p.m.      Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 p.m.      Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY**

- 10:00 a.m.     Thursday Bible Study
- 12:30 p.m.     Senior Adult Christmas Lunch
- 8:00 p.m.      Narcotics Anonymous

**FRIDAY**

- 6:30 a.m.      Youngish Adults Christmas Party

**SATURDAY**

- 6:00 p.m.      The Flock Christmas Party

**LIBRARY/POINSETTIA MEMORIALS**

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in two ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for \$15.00, or money may be given to buy library books. Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary at the Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve Services. Please fill out the slip below or contact the church office, 232-2424. Donors may pick up their poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service you choose to attend. Orders must be placed by **Sunday, December 15**.

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Library Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OR Poinsettias x \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_



This week’s New Testament scripture reading in Matthew is one of the two birth stories of Jesus we have in the Bible. In Matthew’s version, the angel of the Lord visits Joseph in the night after he was considering quietly divorcing Mary because of her out-of-wedlock pregnancy. The angel tells Joseph not to fear, to take Mary as his wife, and to keep Jesus as his son. Matthew 2 finishes with Jesus being born in Bethlehem and the wise men coming with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In the other account of Jesus’ birth found in the second chapter of Luke, the nativity scene is set with the baby born in a manger and the shepherds coming to visit after the angels appear to them in the night.

In Middler Youth Group, one of our questions of faith this year is the authority and inerrancy of scripture: how can we have two different stories of the same event that are so different? A few weeks ago, we compared this week’s birth story of Jesus to the story found in Luke. Several of our students noted that in this story the angel names Jesus Emmanuel which is not mentioned in the beginning of Luke. They also noted that the wise men came in Matthew, but instead the shepherds visited in Luke’s story. The angels had different roles in both stories but we all concluded that both of these narratives are pivotal in our understanding of Jesus’ birth and the Advent season. Reading only one of these stories completely changes our picture of the nativity scene.

Our youth noticed that even with two differing birth narratives, they both highlight important parts of Jesus’ birth story. Angels appear in the night and the first thing they say is not to fear; Joseph and the shepherds immediately follow their commands with faith in what they believe.

This week the second candle of Advent representing Peace is a reminder of the humble and unexpected birth of Jesus and the promises to come. I am reminded to obey as Joseph and the shepherds did and to find peace in that which I do not understand.

*David Hanor*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Table with 2 columns: Day/Time and Activity. Includes dates from Sunday, December 8 to Sunday, December 15, with various church services and events.

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CHURCHWIDE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 15 6:30 p.m.

\$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 3-11

Join us at our annual Christmas dinner, on Sunday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Menu: turkey, dressing, gravy, green beans, sweet potato casserole, salad, and dessert. To keep the check-in lines moving on December 15, we ask that you sign up and pay online by going to https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/. Sign ups end on Monday, December 9.

At 7:30 p.m. the Sanctuary Choir, joined by orchestra, will present John Rutter's Magnificat, the canticle of Mary, mother of Jesus. The Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55, has been set to music more often than any other biblical text. In his typical writing style, Rutter couples exciting rhythmic elements and beautiful melodies in a forty-five minute setting of the traditional text with the addition of the 15th century poem Of a Rose. Join your church family for this modern expression of timeless faith.

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