

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 5, 2020  
9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

Second Sunday after Christmas Day

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendor. The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the night that covers the earth and signals the dawn of justice and peace. May his brightness illumine our lives and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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

PRELUDE *Pastorale* from Christmas Concerto Corelli

\* CALL TO WORSHIP *John 8:12*

Leader: Jesus said: I am the light of the world.  
People: **Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**  
All: **Let us worship God!**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 152 PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

#### \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that we may be forgiven, renewed, and show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. 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.*

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM 11:15 John Tyler Womack

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

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Welcome and Congregational Response

Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

*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 60:1-6 O.T., p. 602  
SOLO/ANTHEM “Arise, Shine” Pote  
GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 2:1-12 N.T., p. 783  
Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**  
SERMON Ben Dorr  
“Mischief and Myrrh”

### 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 Nicolai

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

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

#### OFFERING

Offertory Trumpet in Dialogue Clerembault  
\* 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. 150 DIX

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

#### \* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL RESPONSE “Walk in the Light” Thomas  
\* POSTLUDE “Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts” Saint-Saëns

*\*All who are able may stand*

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEAD USHERS: 9:00 a.m. Anne Nuttall  
11:15 a.m. Will Quinn  
SPONSOR: Becky Warth  
GREETERS: 9:00 a.m. Bob Dellert, Scott Clark  
Roxanne Cromartie  
11:15 a.m. Kristin Burrell, Coleman Kirven  
Becca Donohue  
LITURGIST: Leigh Stuckey  
LAY READERS: 9:00 a.m. Bill Ballinger  
11:15 a.m. Hunter Ditsch  
ACOLYTES: 9:00 a.m. Addy Cizon, Eliot Cizon  
11:15 a.m. Grier Clark, Elizabeth Todd Mullins

### 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.**  
*Katie Knauer, soloist*  
**11:15 a.m.**  
*Sanctuary Choir*

### LET US PRAY FOR:

*Jim Terry and family*  
*Cris Crain and family*

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for **Sunday, January 12, 2020**, immediately following the **11:15 a.m.** worship service. The purpose of the meeting is threefold:

- To vote on the proposed terms of call for 2020 for our pastoral staff;
- To receive the 2020 operating budget;
- To elect 12 elders (Class of 2023) to the Session, 2 trustees, and to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

The proposed slates being presented by the Nominating Committee are as follows:

**Elders:** *Mary Ashmore, Tony Atkins, Jeff Beck, Emily Busby, Caroline Clark, Durden Collins, Kevin Lancaster, Lisa Mangione, Rob Morgan, Carl Muller, Mae Todd Mullins, Laura Williams Sanders*

**Trustees:** *Charlie Gentry (to fill an unexpired term, Class of 2021) and Rick Carpenter (Class of 2025)*

**APNC:** *Roger Beasley, Ted Gentry, Allen Gillespie, Charlie LeGrand, Christa Likes, Susan McLeod, Gaye Sprague, Amanda Warren*

### 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.

### BAPTISM

This morning at the 11:15 a.m. worship service, we welcome into our fellowship *John Tyler Womack*, son of Tyler & Amanda Womack.

### HEALTH MINISTRY

We are offering free blood pressure screenings this **Sunday, January 5**. The screenings will take place in the **Friendship Court** following the **9:00 a.m.** and **11:15 a.m.** services. If you have any questions or if you are a healthcare professional and would like to help, please contact *Tim Miller (627-0725)*.

MEN'S GROUP BOOK STUDY

The Men's Group will begin a new book study on **Monday, January 6**, at **6:00 p.m.** in **Room 209-C**. We will study the book, *The Bible Jesus Read*, by Philip Yancey. All WPC men are invited to participate and newcomers are welcome. For more information, contact *Rick Carpenter* (608-1881).

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club meets on the first Tuesday night of the month, at **7:00 p.m.** in the church library. For **January 7**, the group will read and discuss *Truth and Beauty* by Ann Patchett. It is her first work of nonfiction which chronicles her decades-long friendship with the critically acclaimed and recently deceased author, Lucy Grealy. *Ellen Stevenson* will be leading this discussion. Join us!

ADULT GROUPS

• **Couples Bible Study Group (50+)**: Will meet **Wednesday, January 8**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Charter Room. **Group Leaders: Dick & Mary Sargent** (mfsdesigns95@yahoo.com).

Women of Westminster:

Women's Retreat

February 21-23, 2020

Registration available at [www.wpc-online.org](http://www.wpc-online.org).

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

Wednesday, January 8

• **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 Liz's home (223 Camille Ave.).

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections will meet **Sunday, January 12**, at **12:45 p.m.** at the **Iron Hill Brewery** (741 Haywood Rd.). Make your reservation **by Friday, January 10** with *Carole Tinsley* (430-2142 or caroletinsley@yahoo.com). Newcomers are welcome!

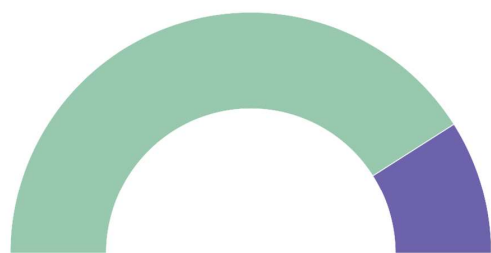
THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet **Monday, January 20**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Charter Room**. *Sonya O'Neal* will lead the discussion of *Liberation Theology for Armchair Theologians* by Miguel A. De La Torre. Read the book and join us for an interesting evening. All are invited.

BAPTISM CLASS

If you are interested in having your child or children baptized at Westminster, you are invited to attend a brief class on baptism taught by Ben Dorr. The next class will be **Sunday, January 26**, at **4:00 p.m.** in the **Charter Room**. Please email Michelle in the church office at [michelle@wpc-online.org](mailto:michelle@wpc-online.org) if you are planning to attend.

2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



As of Tuesday, December 31, we have received \$2,323,306 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).

**THE HARBINGER**  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
2310 Augusta Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29605  
(864) 232-2424  
[www.wpc-online.org](http://www.wpc-online.org)

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CHURCH STAFF

Church 232-2424	Weekday School 232-5766
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	<a href="mailto:bdorr@wpc-online.org">bdorr@wpc-online.org</a>
Associate Pastor	Leigh Stuckey
	<a href="mailto:lstuckey@wpc-online.org">lstuckey@wpc-online.org</a>
Associate Pastor	Mary Kathleen Duncan
	<a href="mailto:mkduncan@wpc-online.org">mkduncan@wpc-online.org</a>
Associate Pastor	Lauren Slingerland
	<a href="mailto:lslingerland@wpc-online.org">lslingerland@wpc-online.org</a>
Parish Associate for Older Adults	Amos Workman
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Music Director	Mark Kemp
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Children's Choir Coordinator	Kathryn Knauer
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Volunteer Coordinator	Jennifer Dillard
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Youth Intern	Lauren Ghighi
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Organist	Nancy Smith
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Financial Secretary	Sherri Owens
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	<a href="mailto:michelle@wpc-online.org">michelle@wpc-online.org</a>
Secretary	Wendy Bagley
	<a href="mailto:wendy@wpc-online.org">wendy@wpc-online.org</a>
Director of Nurseries	Janell Pitman
	<a href="mailto:jpitman@wpc-online.org">jpitman@wpc-online.org</a>

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

We will be printing a new church address directory soon. Please review your family information. If there are any changes, including business telephone numbers and e-mail addresses, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. You may also e-mail any changes you have to [michelle@wpc-online.org](mailto:michelle@wpc-online.org) or make changes online at "my wpc." If you have a child that has moved to or from school, please update their information. Also, if you would like to submit your e-mail address, but you do not wish to have it published in the directory, please indicate your wish on the form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Work # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's Work # \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Cell # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please publish my cell # in the directory: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please publish my e-mail address in the directory: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 5 - 11, 2020

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:15 a.m. Worship Service  
 5:00 p.m. Middler Group Meeting  
 5:15 p.m. Senior High Choir Rehearsal  
 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner  
 6:30 p.m. Middler Choir Rehearsal  
 Senior High Group Meeting  
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study Group  
 6:15 p.m. NAMI  
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
 12:00 p.m. AI-Anon  
 7:00 p.m. Westminster Book Club  
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. Circle 6 Meeting  
 3:00 p.m. It's Elementary!  
 4:30 p.m. Junior & Senior Choristers  
 7:00 p.m. Couples Bible Study (50+)  
 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. Thursday Bible Study  
 12:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting  
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous



Each year, the first Advent decoration to go up in our home is also the last decoration to come down. It's been this way for as long as I can remember, even back to my earliest days growing up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Over the years, our Moravian Star has become the definitive symbol of the Advent season for me. It points the way to our warm and cozy home, filled as it is with family, friends, and gifts under the tree.

I'm reminded anew of the diasporic community of Moravians from whom this tradition originates. The Moravians were some of the earliest adherents to the Protestant movements of the 15th and 16th centuries, and as a result, found themselves scattered across northern Europe before eventually sending missionaries to North America in the 18th century. They founded many settlements, including what is now known as Old Salem.

Perhaps the Moravians who once settled in Old Salem could relate to the simultaneous hope and relief expressed in Isaiah 60 as the Jewish people return home from Babylonian exile. After centuries of darkness and uncertainty, finally, a bright dawn appears, and the glory of the Lord arises over all.

As a church here at Westminster, we've also been scattered over the last few months as the busyness of Fall has given way to an even busier Advent season. At times it has seemed overwhelming and, if we are honest, easy to lose sight of our destination.

With this season behind us, and a new year beckoning us, we have time now – today – to pause beneath this radiant natal star that has pointed us in the direction of the Messiah. With gratitude, let us reflect upon and give thanks for the journey that has led us here. May our hearts thrill and rejoice at the peace and security we find in this moment.

David Duncan

## **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

### **ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

We at Westminster believe that education is essential for discipleship and hope that what you learn in this place will transform your living beyond our doors. This quarter kicks off this **Sunday, January 5**, and will run each Sunday **through February 23**. We will introduce a new peer-led discussion-based class exploring Luke and Acts on February 2. You are welcome to join any class at any point!

#### **1. God Save This Honorable Court:**

##### **What Christians Should Know About the Supreme Court.**

The United States Supreme Court is deeply entwined with the religious and moral lives of Americans. For some Christians, judicial appointments have become the most important factor in deciding for whom to vote. By studying how the Court operates and, equally importantly, delving into the stories and the “real people” behind contentious court decisions, we will endeavor to reach conclusions about how we as Christians ought to think about “the least dangerous branch” of government.

**Teacher:** *Ted Gentry*, a member of Westminster since 1992, has extensive appellate experience, including cases before the South Carolina Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. Ted is of Counsel at Wyche, P. A. and serves as an Elder and Chair of Finance at Westminster.

**Room 209**

#### **2. Bible Stories We Almost Remember**

Who was that character that defeated the Philistines with just a rock and a slingshot? And who exactly is Mary Magdalene? Join this small-group, discussion-based class to delve deeply into some of Scripture’s most memorable — and least understood! – texts.

**Teacher:** *Judith Chandler*, a member of Westminster, has taught at Furman’s Lifelong Learning Institute since its inception. She is also a recognized local artist.

**Room 210**

#### **3. Riddles from Long Ago: Unpacking Jesus’ Parables in the 21st Century**

Jesus’ most evocative and visceral stories often come in the form of parables — and are as often misunderstood as they are repeated. A skilled teacher, Jesus used images that would be familiar to hearers in first century Palestine as a way to evoke curiosity about the character of God’s kingdom. But life in the first century middle east and life in Greenville today are rather different. How can we understand these stories, and how can they provoke us to deeper seeking?

**Teacher:** Leigh Stuckey is the Associate Pastor for Adult Education at Westminster.

**Room 211**

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