



First Sunday after Christmas

Preparation for **Worship**

We praise you, we worship you, we adore you. You hold the heavens in your hand, all stars rejoice in your glory. You come in the sunrise and the song of morn and bless the splendor of the noonday. The stars in their courses magnify you, day and night tell of your glory. Your peace blows over the earth and the breath of your mouth fills all space. Your voice comes in the thunder of the storm and the song of the wind whispers of your majesty. You satisfy all things living with your abundance and our hearts bow at your presence. Accept us, your children, Eternal Father, and hearken to our prayer. Bend over us, Eternal Love and bless us. Amen.

– John Wallace Suter, *Prayers for a New World* (1964)

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Welcome and Announcements

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

Prelude *Christmas Medley* arr. Clark

* Call to Worship

Leader: The wolf shall live with the lamb;
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
**People: the calf and the lion will feed together,
 and a little child shall feed them.**
 Leader: They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,
**People: for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
 as the waters cover the sea.**
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 143 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" REGENT SQUARE

* Prayer of Confession

**Prince of Peace, we confess,
 we do not look for you in the unexpected places.
 We look for you in our certainty, our accolades,
 and our knowledge of what is best.
 We expect to find you in halls of power, in popularity,
 and in triumph.
 We have lost sight of you.
 Forgive us, Lord, for you are not there.
 You are in the manger, around the table,
 in the garden by the empty tomb,
 and nearer to us than our own breath.
 Upend our presumptions, O Christ,
 that we might learn to expect you in unexpected places;
 that your grace would surprise us anew,
 and that love might find us ready to follow you. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

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

* Gloria Patri, Hymn 581 GLORIA PATRI

**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

Katherine McKay Gilliland

Congregational Response

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN



Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Psalms 148*

p. 508

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 2:41-52*

p. 833

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Out of the Mouths of Babies"

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.****

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The 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.**

Offering

Offertory *Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild* arr. Kimbrough

* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDETH

**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.**

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 159 "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" KINGSFOLD

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Toccata on REGENT SQUARE* Smith

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Nick Carson, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Anna Hanor, *sponsor*

Anna Hanor, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

Jim Clark, *mandola*

Kathi Hurst, *soloist*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Sam White, Jr., Nikki Grumbine, Mandy Pruitt,

LeAnne White, Zach Freeman, *greeters*

Mary-Frances Reynolds, Virginia Reynolds, *acolytes*

WORSHIP NOTES

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices. The Family Lounge, located down the stairs from the front office and straight down the hallway on the right, is available for any child caregiver and includes worship livestream, comfortable seating, and a changing table.

WORSHIP BAGS

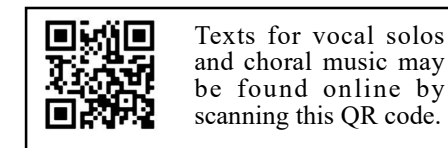
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday.

WELCOME TO WPC!

Please fill out a name tag and find more information about WPC at the Welcome Table in the Atrium. First time visitors are also invited to take home a WPC mug.

CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER

Looking for ways to be involved? Please complete a Connection Card from the Ritual of Friendship pad and place it in the offering plate to express interest or sign up for an opportunity.



Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Katherine McKay Gilliland*, daughter of Mac & Claire Gilliland.

We Remember in Prayer

Gena Runion and her family on the death of Gena's mother, Myrna Staggs, on Sunday, December 15, 2024, in Lufkin, TX.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1.

2024 GIVING

Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2024 contribution statement postmarked by December 31, 2024, or you can hand deliver to the Church office on or before December 31. You can also place your offering in the plate this Sunday, December 29. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners.

Our Vision:
*Open Minds
 Open Hearts*

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
 Generosity
 Justice
 Imagination
 Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
 Serve
 Grow*

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, January 7, at 6:30p in the church library. Beth Edwards will review *Send Down the Rain* by Charles Martin. This book raises the question of how two individuals, each with their own losses and difficult circumstances, randomly meet. Together are they able to find a way to move on from their current situations? All are welcome to attend.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, January 20 at 7p. Bill Holt will lead the discussion of *The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren When Uncertainty's a Sure Thing*, by Larry Rasmussen. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEER FOR PROJECT HOST

Please consider signing up to volunteer at Project Host in 2025. This is a great opportunity to serve our community with other members of Westminster. Four volunteers are needed every other Tuesday from 9a-1p. During this time, you will prepare a nutritious lunch, serve the patrons, and clean up after lunch service. Please sign up at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration>. Contact Susan Clark at 864-982-4130 or susanhunterclark@gmail.com for more information.

HIKING GROUP

On Thursday, January 2, we will have two hikes to offer. The first hike is to the top of Table Rock, led by Ruthie Bultz (rbultz@gmail.com). The second hike is at the Brissey Ridge Trailhead at the top of Paris Mountain, led by Durden Collins (durden.collins@gmail.com). If you plan to hike or have questions, contact the hike leader of the hike in which you are interested.

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, January 12, at 4:30p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

HERITAGE LECTURE - 2025

Announcing the 2025 Heritage Lecturer, the Reverend Dr. Hunter Farrell. Join us on Sunday, February 23, to hear Dr. Farrell preach at both 9a and 11:15a. He will also lead the adult Sunday School class. Farrell previously served the PCUSA as Director of World Mission, and is presently the Leader of World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is also the author of several books including *Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility, and Co-Development*.

SUPPERS WITH SEVEN
JANUARY - MARCH 2025




Sharing a meal is one of the best ways to establish and renew relationships with members of the Westminster church community. "Suppers With Seven" is seven (or so) persons - some couples, some singles, some older and some younger - gathering for a series of two or three meals at a time convenient to the group. To sign up, return this form to the church office, or fill out the online form on the church website by navigating to the Suppers With Seven page. The deadline to sign up is Monday, January 6.

Name(s): _____ (include both names, if a couple)
Phone: _____ (will be shared with your group)
Email Address: _____ (will be shared with your group)

Preferred Method of Contact: ___ email ___ phone call ___ text

Please check as many as apply:

- _____ I/We can host and lead the first gathering of Suppers with Seven.
- _____ I/We cannot host the first gathering but would consider a subsequent one.
- _____ I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.

   [wpcgreenville](http://wpcgreenville.com) | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 29, 2024-January 5, 2025

Sunday, December 29

First Sunday after Christmas
10:00a Morning Reception
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service

Monday, December 30

Weekday School Closed
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, December 31

Weekday School Closed
12:00p AI-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, January 1

Weekday School Closed
Church Office closed

Thursday, January 2

Weekday School Closed
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, January 3

Weekday School Closed

Sunday, January 5

Second Sunday after Christmas
9:00a Membership Committee Meeting
Worship Service
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
5:00p Middler Youth Group
5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00 Youth Group Dinners
6:30 Senior High Youth Group
Middler Choir Rehearsal

THE SESSION

The Class of 2025

Jacob Barker	Nikki Grumbine
Marian Carpenter	Bill Holt
Lindsey Donlan	Ginny Reed
Carroll Farmer	Jordan Smith
Zach Freeman	Tom Vanderbloemen
Susan Grier	Parks Workman

The Class of 2026

Ben Bloodworth	Walker Miller
Emily Cole	Stan Pendergrass
Ingrid Erwin	Betsy Raines
Roger Gower	Jeff Reynolds
Amy Hawkins	Susan Robbins
Anne Howson	Zach Weaver
George McLarty	

The Class of 2027

Ben Dillard	Creighton Likes
Will Edwards	Carrie Marguet
Kathryn Freedman	Trey Morrow
Mary Gentry	Mandy Pruitt
Claire Gilliland	Elizabeth Timmons
George Howell	Sam White, Jr

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Megan Revson

The after-Christmas season often brings a bittersweet feeling, especially for parents watching their children grow. The joyful chaos of the holidays fades into quiet routines, leaving a nostalgic ache for moments that feel fleeting. Decorations come down, and the house feels emptier, mirroring the realization that children, too, are growing quickly—each season marking another step toward independence. Excitement shifts in ways that remind parents how time is slipping by. Yet, amidst this sadness lies a deep gratitude for the memories made and the opportunity to witness their growth, knowing these moments shape the family's lasting story.

Luke 2:41-52 can deeply resonate with a family's story, particularly in the reflective after-Christmas season. This passage highlights the tender balance of parenting: Mary and Joseph experience the anxiety of losing track of their child and the profound realization of His divine mission. For a mother, this story may mirror the challenges of guiding her children while nurturing their unique identities and purposes. After Christmas—a time filled with joy, but also the bustle of family gatherings and traditions—this narrative serves as a reminder to pause, reflect, and cherish the spiritual growth within the family. Just as Mary pondered Jesus' words in her heart, mothers can take moments to appreciate the small, everyday signs of their children's growth, trusting that each step is part of a greater plan.

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

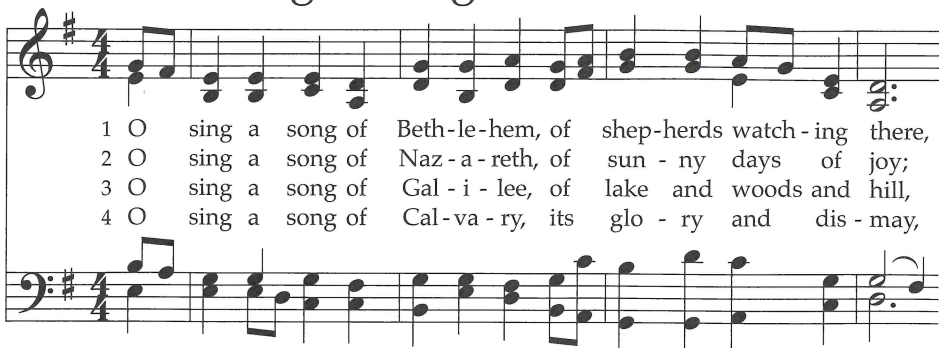
all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

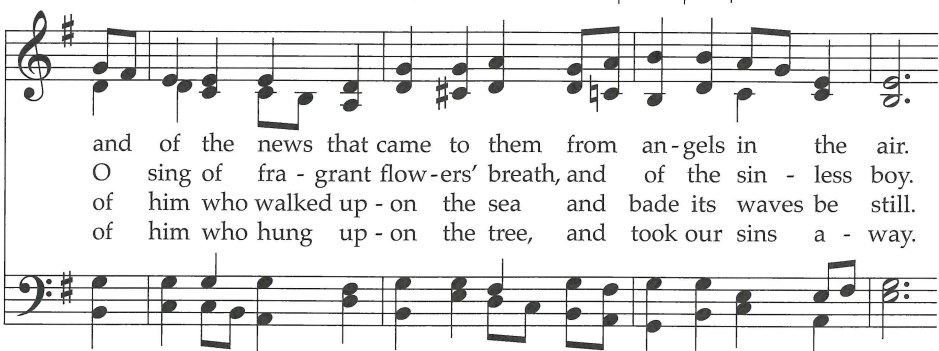
come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

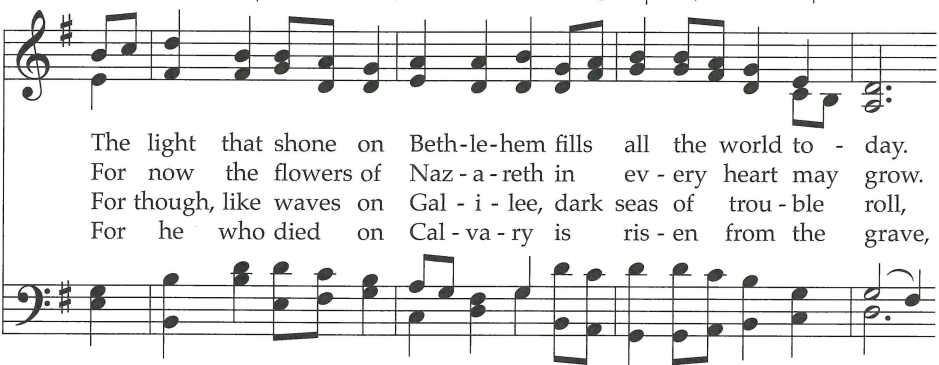
159 O Sing a Song of Bethlehem



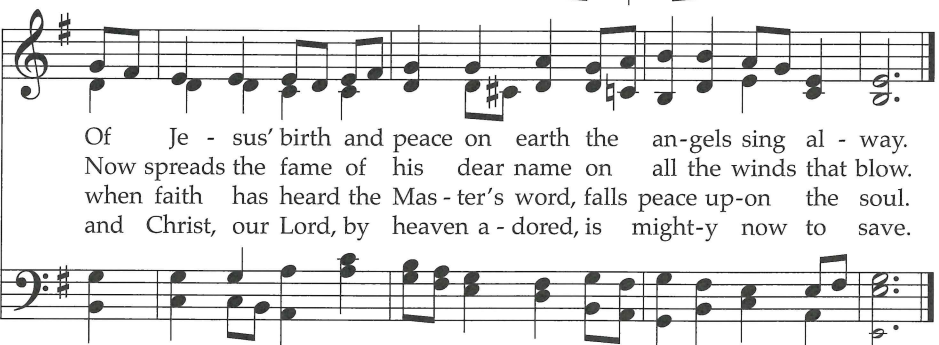
1 O sing a song of Beth-le-hem, of shep-herds watch-ing there,
 2 O sing a song of Naz-a-reth, of sun-ny days of joy;
 3 O sing a song of Gal-i-lee, of lake and woods and hill,
 4 O sing a song of Cal-va-ry, its glo-ry and dis-may,



and of the news that came to them from an-gels in the air.
 O sing of fra-grant flow-ers' breath, and of the sin-less boy.
 of him who walked up-on the sea and bade its waves be still.
 of him who hung up-on the tree, and took our sins a-way.



The light that shone on Beth-le-hem fills all the world to-day.
 For now the flowers of Naz-a-reth in ev-ery heart may grow.
 For though, like waves on Gal-i-lee, dark seas of trou-ble roll,
 For he who died on Cal-va-ry is ris-en from the grave,



Of Je-sus' birth and peace on earth the an-gels sing al-way.
 Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.
 when faith has heard the Mas-ter's word, falls peace up-on the soul.
 and Christ, our Lord, by heaven a-dored, is might-y now to save.

This hymn created by a noted Presbyterian hymnal editor and scholar employs place names and sensory images (light, fragrance, wind) to sketch the events of Christ's life. The tune name commemorates the village in Sussex where the arranger first heard the traditional melody.