

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIII | DECEMBER 24, 2020 | No. 33

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve 2020

5:00 p.m. and On Demand Following

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night, draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

Prelude	"Pastorale" from <i>Messiah</i>	Handel
Welcome		
Lighting of the Christ Candle		Hunter Ditsch & Jordan Smith

This year, we dreamed of world peace.
We dreamed of deep breaths and restful sleep.
We dreamed of love that lasts and suffering that passes.
We dreamed of doors open wide and a cure to disease.
We dreamed, because to dream is to believe.
For to dream is to hope; to dream is to see.
So make room in your being to dream yet again,
Of a world without fear, and a God that draws near.
For it is almost Christmas.
Love is almost here.
May we dream to see, and hope to believe.
Let us worship God.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Ever-present God, from time to time we dream radical dreams. We dream of freedom for the imprisoned, food for the hungry, and equality for all. We dream bold, radical dreams, until the world tells us that these dreams are impossible. And when that happens, we are tempted to tuck our dreams into coat pockets and let them collect dust on the shelves of our hearts.

Forgive us for giving up so easily, for on this night we remember and celebrate a radical dream — that you dwelled among us. Give us the courage to dust old dreams off the shelf, with the confidence that with you, the impossible is possible. With you, a light always shines in the darkness. With you, even an unwed teenage couple and a band of shepherds can bring joy to the world.

Thanks be to God for a dream like that. Amen.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 9:2-7*

Message for Children

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 2:1-20*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Homily

“Will We Always Remember This Christmas?”

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Solo

"All Is Well"

McCracken

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.**

Lighting of the Candles and "Silent Night"

During the singing of Silent Night, you will notice that our pastors will light their candles from the Advent wreath in the chancel. While we are not all in the same space inside our sanctuary tonight, we invite you to dim the lights and light a candle in your home to remind you that the light of Christ connects us and brightens even the darkest of times.

A Christmas Prayer

Charge and Benediction

The liturgy we are using this Advent is adapted from a variety of sources, including A Sanctified Art's "Those Who Dream" Words for Worship.

LEADING WORSHIP THIS EVENING

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, Mary Kathleen Duncan, Lauren Slingerland, Amos Workman *liturgists*

Nancy Smith, *organist*

Allie Able, Mark Kemp, *vocalists*

Corey Sanders, *percussion*

The Mulfinger String Quartet

***The Pastors & Church Staff wish each of you
a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.***

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

The birth of a son, Simmons Wills Matthews, to Dan & Sarah Matthews in Greenville on 12/3/2020.

We Remember in Memoriam

Margaret Hull • (5/27/1925 - 12/14/2020)

and The family of Margaret Hull

"I am the resurrection and the life." - John 11:25

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to a Christmas season offering. Fifty percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports the eight Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council.

GIVING HEARTS • Financial Update @ WPC

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Thursday, December 17, we have received \$2,108,499 in pledges toward our 2021 budget goal of \$2,513,715.

For your convenience, you may pledge via our website at wpc-online.org/pledge-today, you may mail in your pledge, or send your pledge by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens, at sherri@wpc-online.org.

FINANCIAL MINISTRY

2020 BUDGET UPDATE

2020 Pledges	\$2,517,968
Amount Received	\$2,079,155
Pledges Outstanding	(\$438,813)

Our auditing firm has informed us that we must close our books on December 31. Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2020 statement in by December 31, 2020. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners. Thank you.

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 Sherri Owens, the church's Financial Secretary.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2020 LIBRARY MEMORIALS

The following have made donations for books
and supplies for the library:

Bill & Ruth Algary

in honor of *their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild*

Randy & Gayle Blouin

in memory of *Joseph Samuel Smith*

Randy & Gayle Blouin

in memory of *Joseph & Marianne Blouin*

Randy & Gayle Blouin

in honor of *Eloise Smith*

Dave & Joan Edwards

in memory of *their parents*

Dave & Joan Edwards

in honor of *their children & grandchildren*

Will & Beth Edwards

in honor of *Dave & Joan Edwards*

Will & Beth Edwards

in honor of *Joan Asbury Holladay*

Kay Kelly

in memory of *her father, Don Taylor*

Kay Kelly

in honor of *her mother, Pat Taylor*

Kay Kelly and Pat Taylor

in honor of *Hal & Peggy Phillips*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2020 LIBRARY MEMORIALS CONTINUED

Michael, Phillip, Scott, and Sharon Kilgore
in memory of *their parents, Donald G. Kilgore, Jr. & Jean Augur Kilgore*
and *their brother, Stephen*

Dan & Susan McLeod
in honor of *Budd Reynolds, Ellen Reynolds,*
Mary-Frances Reynolds, and Virginia Reynolds

Dan & Susan McLeod
in honor of *The WPC Staff*

Elizabeth, Jason, Whit, Laney, and Louise Palmer
in honor of *The Pastors and Staff of WPC*

Elizabeth, Jason, Whit, Laney, and Louise Palmer
in honor of *WPC Basketball Coaches*

Elizabeth, Jason, Whit, Laney, and Louise Palmer
in honor of *WPC Youth Advisors*

David & Dorothy Rutledge
in memory of *Edward L. Correll, Jr.*

David & Dorothy Rutledge
in honor of *David Edward Rutledge*

Carolyn Sems
in memory of *Dave Sems*

Carolyn Sems
in memory of *Brian Samf*

Jean Stevens
in memory of *Douglas Stevens*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2020 LIBRARY MEMORIALS CONTINUED

Jean Stevens
in honor of *her children and grandchildren*

Pat Taylor
in memory of *her husband, Don Taylor*

Keith & Fran Walker
in honor of *their three grandchildren*

2020 ENDOWMENT GIFTS

The following have made donations
to the Endowment Fund:

Margaret Paylor
in memory of *John Hill Paylor, Jr.*

Margaret Paylor
in honor of *her family*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2020 POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias in the sanctuary
have been given by the following:

Talitha, Bill, Emily, and William Allen
in memory of *James L. "Jim" Rogers and William K. Allen*

Talitha, Bill, Emily, and William Allen
in honor of *Harriet H. Rogers*
and *Merv B. Allen*

James & Sarah Brice
in memory of *Rick Carpenter*

Margaret & Duff Bruce
in memory of *Tom & Ducky Gower*

Margaret & Duff Bruce
in memory of *Ben Sprague*

Margaret & Duff Bruce
in memory of *Art Howson*

Margaret & Duff Bruce
in memory of *Charlie Warth*

Madeline & Allen Freeman
in honor of *The Westminster Staff*

Madeline & Allen Freeman
in honor of *The Pruitt and Donohue Families*

Debra Gammons
in memory of *Elizabeth Grier Gower*

Debra Gammons
in honor of *Sue Lile Inman & Sam Inman*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2020 POINSETTIAS CONTINUED

Debra Gammons
in honor of *Aline & Phillip Kilgore*

Paul & Susan Grier
in honor of *Hayward and Elizabeth Grier*

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in memory of *Dr. & Mrs. John Miller Grier*

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in honor of *Mr. & Mrs. David Guritz*

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in honor of *Westminster's Staff*

Henry, Garrison, and John Hill
in honor of *their grandmother, Kathryn Algary*

Henry, Garrison, and John Hill
in honor of *their grandmother, Grace Hill*

Kelly Moorhead
in memory of *Margaret Cooper Williams*

Kelly Moorhead
in memory of *Martha Glenn Moorhead and Mary Glenn Stockton*

Kelly Moorhead
in honor of *Dominican Republic Missions*

Charlie & Debbie Moseley
in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Julian Dickerson*

Charlie & Debbie Moseley
in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Moseley,
Ginny Moseley, and Linda Moseley*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2020 POINSETTIAS CONTINUED

Elizabeth, Jason, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in memory of *Adam Carlisle Bean*

Elizabeth, Jason, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in honor of *Connie Walker*

Elizabeth, Jason, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in memory of *Wayne Cole*

Elizabeth, Jason, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in memory of *Susan Murphy*

Elizabeth, Jason, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in memory of *Lon Joyce*

Elizabeth, Jason, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in honor of *Lud & Jean Weaver*

Elizabeth, Jason, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in honor of *Barbara Stoop*

Margaret W. Rich
in memory of *her husband, James D. Semans*

Margaret W. Rich
in memory of *her mother, Margaret C. Williams*

Margaret W. Rich
in memory of *her father, Braxton H. Williams*

Margaret W. Rich
in honor of *PW Circle 5*

Margaret W. Rich
in honor of *Kelly Moorhead*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2020 POINSETTIAS CONTINUED

Margaret W. Rich
in honor of *Libby & Meg Holleman*

Gaye & Joel Sprague
in memory of *Ben Sprague*

Carole Tinsley
in memory of *Al Tinsley*

Carole Tinsley
in memory of *her sister, Mary Osborn*
and her friend, Bobbi Stitt

Josie Williams
in memory of *her mother, Tandy Jones Gilliland*