



First Sunday of Advent

Preparation for **Worship**

“We are all meant to be mothers of God. What good is it to me if this eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly, but does not take place within myself? And, what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace if I am not also full of grace? What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to his Son if I do not also give birth to him in my time and my culture? This, then, is the fullness of time: When the Son of Man is begotten in us.”

— Meister Eckhart, 1260-1328, German Monk

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

Introit 11:15a "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Helmore

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a Jacob & Rita Barker, Madeline, Eliza, and James  
11:15a Scott & Ashley Flesher, Addison, Parker, and Peyton Godwin

\* Call to Worship

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord.  
**People: My spirit rejoices in God the savior.**  
Leader: For the Mighty One has done great things,  
**People: and holy is God’s name.**  
**All: Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn No. 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

\* Prayer of Confession

**God of grace and truth,  
in Jesus Christ you came among us  
as light shining in darkness.  
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,  
or trusted the good news to be good.  
We have closed our eyes to the glory in our midst,  
reluctant to be interrupted by your plan,  
expecting little, and hoping less.  
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,  
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,  
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. 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)

**Glorify 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.**

Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, Micah 5:2-5a p. 756

Gospel Lesson, Luke 1:26-33 p. 831

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Surprise!"

Responding to **God’s Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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.**

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Solo 9a "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" DeFord

Offertory 11:15a "There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth" Mendelssohn

\* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

**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 No. 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion" BEREDEN VÅG

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Choral Response 11:15a "Rejoice, Rejoice" Helmore

\* Postlude "Swiss Noel" Daquin

\*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Hunter Ditsch, *tenor* (9a)

Westminster Sanctuary Choir, (11:15a)

Sarah Brady (9a), Pam Evans (11:15a), *lay readers*

Grier Mullins (9a), Brandon Coker (11:15a), *head ushers*

Hastings Blumer, Neil Shurley, Tony Atkins,

Jay Culclasure, Bob Dellert (9a), *greeters*

Hastings Blumer, Jeff Beck, Brian Blount,

Emily Busby, Talitha Allen (11:15a), *greeters*

Leenie Jones (9a), Lillian Threatt, Cam Warren (11:15a), *acolytes*

WORSHIP NOTES

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

During worship, children in K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children’s Church. Parents can pick their children up in the Children’s Church room across from the library following worship.

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.

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.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

THORNWELL OFFERING

Thornwell, a residential home and foster program located in Clinton, SC, provides a place for children who need a stable home life, a solid education, and spiritual nurturing. As members of Westminster, we have an opportunity to share in meeting this need. Please make checks payable to Westminster and designate for Thornwell.

FILL THE FOOD PANTRY

In this season of abundance, practice generosity by donating the following items to the United Ministries food pantry: canned fruit and vegetables, soups, pastas, canned meat, peanut butter, and powdered milk. Items may be left in the marked wall cabinets in the Friendship Court.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

NEW CLASS  
SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

11/21-12/12: JESUS' WOMEN  
ROOM 209 &  
STREAMING AT WPC-ONLINE.ORG

If you've grown up in the church you know the story of Christmas well – shepherds watching their flock at night, angels announcing good news, a fearful family watched by Rome, and an outpost shed turned into a nursery for the Messiah. But how well do you know Jesus' genealogy? In Matthew, Jesus' lineage is traced through Abraham, and includes four Gentile women – an unusual addition for an ancient genealogy. Join us as we consider the strange characters of Christmas, and what these women can teach us about God's work in the world.

November 21: Tamar  
November 28: Rahab  
December 5: Ruth  
December 12: Uriah's Wife (Bathsheba)

ANCIENT SYMBOL,  
PRESENT WORD

11/28  
ROOM 212

Every year our Chrismon trees go up and become a backdrop for treasured family photos. Filled with ancient symbols, they teach us about Jesus the Christ, but do you know how this tree came to be and the meaning of the symbols? Come learn all about Chrismons and possibly try your hand at making a few! This intergenerational class will deepen your appreciation for the trees and maybe inspire some for your own family tree.

## POINSETTIA/ENDOWMENT/HERITAGE LECTURE MEMORIALS

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in three ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for \$15.00 or you may give to either the Endowment or Heritage Lecture Funds. 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 Wednesday, December 8.

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Poinsettias x \$15.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Endowment:\_\_\_\_\_ Heritage Lecture: \_\_\_\_\_

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster fellowship group for those in their fifties (very loosely defined), will meet at the church on Wednesday, December 1, at 6p to decorate the Sanctuary Atrium Christmas tree. Watch your email for more information, or - if you don't hear from us - contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org). See you there!

CONNECTIONS

Connections lunch group will meet Sunday, December 12 at 12:45p at Larkins on the River (318 S Main). RSVP by Friday, December 10, with Ruth Johnston (201-6117 or ruthjohnst51@gmail.com). Newcomers are always welcome!

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will next hike the Palmetto Trail at Keowee Toxaway State Park on Friday, December 3. Hike Leader: Ralph Bouton (ralphbouton@yahoo.com). Contact Ralph if you are interested in participating.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

The 2021 Daily Advent Devotionals will be delivered by email beginning this Sunday, November 28. If you prefer to receive a paper copy, contact the church office at 232-2424. We invite you to take a moment out of your day to read and meditate on this daily devotion that will lead us through the Advent season.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Facebook Twitter Instagram YouTube wpcgreenville | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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(864) 232-2424  
www.wpc-online.org

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SHOP TO SUPPORT WPC PARTNERS

This Christmas, shop two upcoming markets for gifts that will make a positive impact in our community. On December 9 from 5-7pm at Project Host (525 S. Academy St.), shop to support local partners, including United Ministries, Gateway, and Mill Village Ministries. Then, on December 19 at 10am at Westminster, choose from a variety of products from Greenville and around the world at the International Christmas Festival market. Questions? Contact Julia (jwatkins@wpc-online.org).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 28 - December 5, 2021

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent

9:00a Worship Service - communion  
10:00 Sunday School  
11:15 Worship Service - communion  
5:30p WestFest IX

Monday, November 29

4:00p Heritage Lecture Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 30

12:00p Al-Anon Group Meeting

Wednesday, December 1

2:15p WPC Kids Afterschool  
2:45 It's Elementary  
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers Rehearsal  
6:00 Lightly Seasoned Tree Decorating  
Youth Tree Decorating  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 2

6:00p WOW Tree Decorating

Friday, December 3

8:00a Hiking Group

Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

9:00a Worship Service  
Membership Committee Meeting  
10:00 Sunday School  
11:15 Worship Service  
12:30p Women of Westminster Advent Luncheon  
5:00 Middler Youth Group  
5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 Middler Choir Rehearsal  
Senior High Youth Group

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

ADVENT LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

12:30P

SIGN UP ONLINE TO PURCHASE LUNCH OR TO REQUEST CHILDCARE. DEADLINE IS 12/2.

# the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | November 28, 2021 | No. 29

From the Pews, Mark Matlock

## Unexpected news

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:26-33

Think of a time in your life when you received unexpected news. Perhaps it was the loss of a job, a surprise pregnancy or a sudden passing of a loved one. To varying degrees, that sort of news can be unsettling. The mind begins to sift through the implications of your life ahead.

That sudden "course correction" can lay out what a person is made of and what work lies ahead. They are sobering moments to be sure.

Now imagine being a teen-age girl 2,000 years ago. You had no rights, you were a piece of property only: first of your father, then of your husband. You had no say in the matter. Whatever your lot in life, you would remain that way until you died. Compared to the freedoms and liberties we enjoy today, it was a stark existence.

Today's scripture tells of unwed teen Mary receiving the news from the angel Gabriel that she will give birth to the Son of God. For many, that would be a full-bore, freak out moment. "I'm gonna be bearing WHOSE son!?"

But in one of the most inspiring stories in the New Testament, Mary does not question, does not shrink from the moment. She says, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Mary takes the yoke upon her, accepts the role and blazes the way for Christianity. It is a quiet moment, but one that shouts from the highest mountain the power of God and his love for us.

May we all have such poise and grace when unexpected news arrives.



**THE 2021  
WESTMINSTER  
INTERNATIONAL  
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL  
DECEMBER 19TH**

During the Sunday School hour on December 19, you're invited to the International Christmas Festival, a churchwide event! All ages can explore traditions from various countries as we prepare our hearts this Advent. Visit the different countries in classrooms to learn about the origins of some of your favorite traditions and how people around the world celebrate the coming of the Christ child. There will also be an alternative gift market with gift ideas from local mission partners and fair trade items from around the world. There are also lots of ways to give your time to help make this event a success! If you're interested in helping with this event, learn more and sign up using the link on our website.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Last Sunday we welcomed the following new members into our fellowship

- Glenda Clark joined by transfer from Sequoyah Hill Presbyterian, Knoxville, TN.
- William & Joan Herlong joined by transfer from Buncombe Street United Methodist.
- Sam & Keaton Rogers joined by reaffirmation of faith. They have a son, Hall (7 wks.).
- McLain & Pearce Scales. McLain joined by transfer from First Presbyterian, Greenville and Pearce joined by transfer from First Presbyterian, Anderson.
- Holly Schaumber joined by reaffirmation of faith. She and husband, Drew, have two sons, Jack (7), Hayes (6), and a daughter, Vivienne (8 mos.).
- Mary Martha Smoak joined by transfer from Parkway Presbyterian, Winston-Salem, NC.
- Deb VanderVeer joined by transfer from Eastminster Presbyterian, Simpsonville.

**2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

As of Monday, November 22, we have received \$1,693,797 in pledges toward our 2022 budget goal of \$2,520,968.

For your convenience, you may pledge via our website at [wpc-online.org/pledge-today](http://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](mailto:sherri@wpc-online.org).



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*Advent & Christmas at Westminster*

November 28 *First Sunday of Advent*  
WestFest IX featuring  
the Erica Berg Collective and  
the Project Host Hostmobile Food Truck  
5:30-7:30p in the Green Lot

December 5 *Second Sunday of Advent*  
Women of Westminster Advent Luncheon  
12:30p in the Fellowship Hall

December 12 *Third Sunday of Advent*  
Children's Musical  
11:15a in the Sanctuary

December 19 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
The 61st Annual Service of Lessons & Carols  
9 & 11:15a in the Sanctuary  
The International Christmas Festival  
10a (the Sunday School hour)

December 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship  
3p, 5p, 7p in the Sanctuary  
(overflow in the Atrium and Fellowship Hall)

December 26 One Worship Service  
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