



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 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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a *Mike & Ellen Hall, Chapman and Caroline Doar*

11:15a *Elizabeth Clark, Owen and Grier*

Prelude Overture from *Messiah* Handel
 Introit "Canticle of the Turning" Cooney

* Call to Worship

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
People: **Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.**

Leader: Do not worry about anything, but in everything with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

People: **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No. 82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

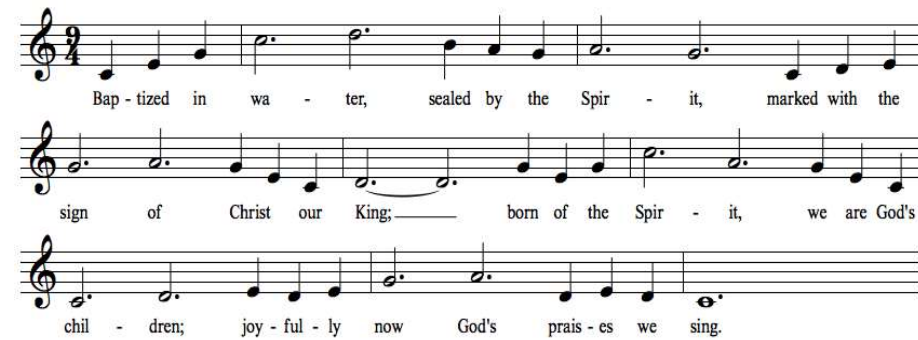
* Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God, we know that we often err on the side of impatience, anger, judgment, and apathy. Far too frequently, we let our pride produce stubbornness. We become stuck in the shallow end of faith. We are afraid of diving deep into the waters of vulnerability and compassion, and do not follow where your Spirit leads. Have mercy on us, and cleanse our hearts with your loving-kindness. Mold us once again into your new creation. Open our hearts to the path you have placed before us, where your peace will overwhelm us and your grace will astonish us. In Christ's name 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 11:15a *Lucille Lawson Jones*
 Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" Bunesan



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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *1 Samuel 2:1-10* p. 214

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 1:39-56* p. 831

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "For Pretend"

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.

Call to Prayer "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" Lee

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 Anthem "Magnificat" Ferguson

* 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. 99 "My Soul Gives Glory to My God" MORNING SONG
 * Charge and Benediction
 * Choral Response "My Heart Shall Sing" Cooney
 * Postlude "And the Glory of the Lord" from *Messiah* Handel
**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
 Julia Watkins, *liturgist*
 Jara Jones, *sponsor*
 Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*
 Westminster Sanctuary Choir
 Craig King, *trumpeter*
 Anna Hanor (9a), Allison Muller (11:15a), *lay readers*
 Ben Craddock (9a), Elizabeth Palmer (11:15a), *head ushers*
 Meg McKnight, Becky Warth, Scott Clark,
 Anna Hanor, Russ Williams (9a), *greeters*
 Durden Collins, Jay Culclasure, Kate Weaver-Patterson,
 Mary Ashmore, Anna Hanor (11:15a), *greeters*
 Graham Wallner (9a), Harrison Dillard, Thomas Dillard (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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

We welcome *Lucille Lawson Jones*, daughter of Will & Molly Jones, in our 11:15a worship service this morning.

We Remember in Prayer

Jackson Riley on the death of his father, Freddy Riley, in Orangeburg, SC - 11/22/2021.

Creighton Likes on the death of his father, Creighton Edward Likes, Jr., in Charleston, SC - 11/27/2021.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Harrison Quick Wolfe-Watson*, to Ginny Wolfe & Larkin Watson on Sunday, November 21, 2021.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

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

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@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)

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

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).

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: _____

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!

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLES

Wednesday, December 8

- **Circle #6**, at the home of Liz Einstein at 9:30a. Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com) and Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) co-chairs.

PRAYER REQUESTS

As a congregation that prays with and for one another, Westminster invites you to share your prayer requests using the cards located in the Ritual of Friendship pad at the end of each pew. You may complete a card and leave it in the offering plate so that the pastors and/or prayer chain team may pray for you. If you wish to join the prayer chain, please indicate that on your card.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 5 - 11, 2021

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

Tuesday, December 7

12:00p Administrative Committee Meeting
AI-Anon Group Meeting

Wednesday, December 8

9:30a Circle 6
Weekday Chapel
9:45 Weekday Chapel
10:00 Weekday Chapel
2:15p WPC Kids Afterschool
2:45 It's Elementary
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers Rehearsal
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 9

12:00p Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00a Worship Service
Witness & Service Committee Meeting
10:00 Sunday School
11:15 Worship Service
12:30p Stated Session Meeting
Youth Leadership Team Meeting
12:45 Connections Group
5:00 Middler Youth Group
5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:30 Middler Choir Rehearsal
Senior High Youth Group

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Elizabeth Timmons

I have a confession: For every Harbinger cover I have written, I have anxiously awaited the email reminder from Michelle with the sermon scripture for the upcoming week. Admittedly, while waiting each time I've thought, "I can't wait to write something so profound" and then I receive the text and am honestly... stumped... for a little while. I read the text over and over to find a deeper meaning. I do a Google search for a few different interpretations and usually end up thinking, "Why did they ask me to write Harbinger covers?" I am in my late twenties with just under 5 years of work experience. I live a simple life between work and caring for my dog. I am far from being a writer, being much more math/science minded. Why me? Then it hit me. This is what the text is all about. God uses ordinary people, the "why me?" people, to deliver his good news.

In the story, it seems like Elizabeth struggled with this "why me?" concept at first, too. Verse 43 quotes her saying "But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" And verse 45 nails it saying, "blessed is she who has believed that the Lord will accomplish what he said to her". Bingo. There it is. Elizabeth believed in God and this story is the beginning of her starting to spread the news of Jesus.

I'm not sure why I ask myself "why me?" so often when thinking about God's calling in my life. When asked to write Harbinger covers or be a youth group leader, I promise you at some point I asked myself, "why me?" Why did God give Elizabeth and Zechariah a child at such old ages? Why did he send his son to be born to an unmarried virgin woman? Why Elizabeth? Why Mary? Why me? Why you? Because He would change the world through ordinary people just like you and me.

I am reminded of the contemporary Christian song, "Control," by Tenth Avenue North. The refrain starts with "God you don't need me but somehow you want me". He wants the ordinary people like you and me to spread His good news.



**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.

Advent & Christmas at Westminster

- 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
11:15a in the Sanctuary

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, November 29, we have received \$1,798,437 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, you may mail in your pledge, or send your pledge by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens, at sherri@wpc-online.org.



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