



Third Sunday of Advent

Preparation for **Worship**

God of grace, you are ever faithful in your promises. The earth rejoices in the hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Draw us near to you again this day, so that with joy and expectancy we may be ready to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. 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

11:15a Leigh & Jen Stuckey, Brigham, Tatum, and Pierce Simon

Prelude "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Held

* Call to Worship Zephaniah 3:14, 17, 19-20

Leader: We gather in preparation,
for good news is about to be proclaimed.

**People: We gather in expectation,
for joy is about to explode in our midst.**

Leader: We gather in celebration,
for we are those people who have said yes to the manger,

**People: yes to the one incarnate for others,
yes to the wholeness of God.**

**All: With preparation and in expectation,
let us worship God!**

* Hymn No. 109 "Blest Be the God of Israel" MERLE'S TUNE

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, revealed to us in the light that comes in darkness
to make known your love for this world,
have mercy on us.**

**We are more likely to hear your good news
in the glory of the celestial angels
than the fear and humility of the shepherds.**

**Open our ears to hear the good news in unlikely voices
and keep us watchful for your presence.**

**Make us bold to go and tell what we have seen
and to reflect the light of Christ to the world. 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.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory "Christmas Praise" arr. Phillips

* 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. 113 "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

Hearing **God's Word**

THE WORLD SINGS NOEL

Presented by the Junior and Senior Choristers

Katie Knauer, Children's Choir Coordinator

Martha Gower, accompanist

Mark Kemp, Music Director

Christ Comes that We May have Love Cameroon

Mary's Song Russia

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy West Indies

Glory to God Peru

Dance of the Shepherds Ireland

From a Distant Land Puerto Rico

Silent Night Austria

Sing Noel Liberia

Responding to **God's Word**

* Hymn No. 132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" IN DULCI JUBILO

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude "Wondrous Tidings" Simone

**All who are able may stand*

The Senior Choristers

Grier Clark
Harrison Dillard
Thomas Dillard
Caroline Dixon
Madelaine Hardaway
Bobby Hartman
Mary Howayeck
Leenie Jones
Daniel Knauer
Wells McFadden
John Merrell

Elizabeth Mullins
Pearson Mullins
Emmie Paradise
Ellen Reynolds
Capitola Riley
Thomas Waldrep
Graham Wallner
Camille Warren
Charlotte Willis
Molly Willis

The Junior Choristers

Anna Clark Cameron
Vivienne Cardell
Gretchen Cleveland
Mary Eliza Duncan
Gray Gault
Violet Howayeck
Heaton Jones
Salters Kelley
James Knauer
Catherine McNeely

Mills Muncaster
Reynolds Paradise
Mary Alice Price
Luke Pruitt
Quinn Ray
Sawyer Rentz
Caroline Riley
Quinn Wallner
Elizabeth Workman
Mary Wayne Workman

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr (9a) *preaching*, (11:15a) *liturgist*

Lauren Slingerland (9a), *liturgist*

Mae Todd Mullins (9a), *sponsor*

Nancy Smith, *organist*

Rosemary Hughes, *pianist*

Westminster Sanctuary Choir

James Wallner (9a), *lay reader*

Elizabeth Palmer (9a), Freddie Williams (11:15a), *head ushers*

Michael Dixon, Caroline Clark, Bob Dellert,

Neil Shurley, Hastings Blumer (9a), *greeters*

Ross Glidewell, Brian Blount, Ashley Gettys,

Carl Muller, Emily Busby (11:15a), *greeters*

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 our 9a 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.

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, December 6, we have received \$1,971,697 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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

We welcome Bennett Craig Waller, son of Marshall & Kate Waller, in our 9a worship service this morning.

In Memoriam

Marge Sik
(6/11/1933 - 12/4/2021)

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

We Remember in Prayer

The family of Marge Sik

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.

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.

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.

December 12: Uriah's Wife (Bathsheba)



THE 2021 WESTMINSTER INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

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.

To make our sanctuary, entrance pavilion and sanctuary atrium festive for the Christmas season, the Women of Westminster, our Youth, and the Lightly Seasoned group decorated this year's Christmas trees. Thank you to all!

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLES

Tuesday, December 14

- **Circle #3**, at the home of Becky Murphy (123 Buckingham Rd., 29607) at 12noon. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

Tuesday, December 21

- **Circle #7**, at the home of Gaye Sprague (10 Grey St., 29605) at 6p. Catered meal \$10/pp. Circle members are asked to bring one: appetizer, dessert, or beverage. No Bible study lesson in December. RSVP to Gaye Sprague (gayesprague@cs.com). Circle Chair: Talitha Allen (bewt29617@bellsouth.net).

Advent & Christmas at Westminster

December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

Children's Musical 11:15a (Sanctuary)

December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The 61st Annual Service of Lessons & Carols 9 & 11:15a (Sanctuary)

The 2021 International

Christmas Festival 10a (the SS hour)

December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

3p, 5p, 7p (Sanctuary)

(overflow in the Atrium and Fellowship Hall)

December 26

One Worship Service 11:15a (Sanctuary)

THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2310 Augusta Street
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(864) 232-2424

www.wpc-online.org

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Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 12 - 19, 2021

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 Christmas Party
- 6:30 Senior High Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 14

- 12:00p AI-Anon Group Meeting
- Circle 3 Meeting
- Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 15

- 11:00a Luncheon Group Meeting
- 2:15p WPC Kids Afterschool
- 2:45 It's Elementary
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 18

- 4:30p Youth Choir Caroling

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:00a The 61st Annual Service of Lessons & Carols
- 10:00 International Christmas Festival
- 11:15 The 61st Annual Service of Lessons & Carols

FINANCIAL MINISTRY

2021 BUDGET UPDATE

2021 Pledges	\$2,329,470
Amount Received	\$1,881,870
Pledges Outstanding	(\$447,600)

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 2021 statement in by December 31, 2021. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners. Thank you.

the **HARBINGER**
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | December 12, 2021 | No. 31

From the Pews, Brock Koonce

I have had the extraordinary privilege to work with some incredible community organizations. In fact, each day for the past year, I've been blessed to call one of them my job. In my 20+ year career as a working adult, I've seen many vocations. Advertising, higher education, marketing consulting, acting, non-profit, and others. I don't want to make it sound like I've jumped from job to job, but within 20 years, I've been lucky enough to experience a lot of areas of professional life.

Through all of these experiences, I've taken more away than I've given. I've learned more from the people I've worked with than I could ever have imagined. But, it's the work I've done with community organizations or non-profits that has made the biggest impact. For 8 years, I relished my role as Program Director for a brand new, community building non-profit. Through this role I saw the beautiful sides of our incredible County. I also saw many challenges our communities faced on a daily basis. Poverty. Crime. Racism. Sexism. Gentrification. These were the challenges we wanted to face head-on and work to find a solution or a path forward.

It was this work that I thought of when I reflected about this Harbinger cover. It's wonderful to see the beauty and the majesty around us, but we cannot ignore the blight and challenges we face. There are challenges all around us. I wonder if this is what John the Baptist felt as he preached and baptized sinners in the name of God? He let everyone know that forgiveness is given to those who repent and serve the Lord.

I have been reminded about this recently as the organization I work for has started 3 new programs that work to help currently incarcerated individuals transition back to civilian life and find employment. Are these individuals excluded from living a meaningful life because they sinned and payed for their crimes? Don't they deserve an opportunity to repent and be forgiven by God? In talking with many of the participants, we've seen the desire to be forgiven is paramount in their lives. They've acknowledged their sins and only want to live a right and just life. It's amazing to see the transformation that happens when they turn to God and repent. I think it would bring joy to John the Baptist's soul to see the impact it has.



Third Sunday of Advent

Preparation for **Worship**

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, in whose name we pray. 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 Jimmy & Kristen Cox, Delaney, Braden, Caroline, and Audrey

Prelude "Of the Father's Love Begotten" arr. Held

* Call to Worship Zephaniah 3:14-17

Leader: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

**People: Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!**

Leader: The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
God has turned away your enemies.

**People: On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.**

**The Lord, your God, is in your midst.
All: Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No.109 "Blest Be the God of Israel" MERLE'S TUNE

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we have returned to tired habits, old fears,
perpetual grudges, and false gods,
when you ask that we return to you.**

**Forgive us for taking the easy road that increases
our comfort but lets our faith remain shallow.**

**Forgive us for heeding conventional wisdom
about how to spend our time and money,
instead of obeying you.**

Give us the courage not simply to apologize, but to repent.

**Help us to grow into the generous and gracious people
you created us to be,
so that the winding ways of our hearts
would be made straight,
and we would be ready when your Son is born anew.**

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,
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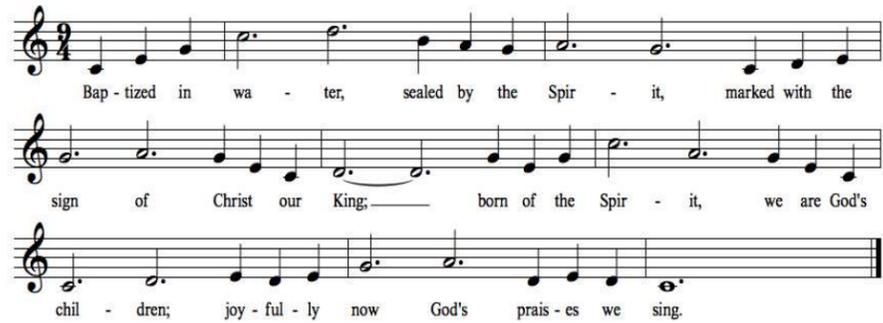
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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Sacrament of Baptism 9a *Bennett Craig Waller*
Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" Bunessan



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

Hearing **God's Word**

Anthem "Prepare the Way" Croushorn
Prayer for Illumination
Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 40:1-5* p. 581
Gospel Lesson, *Luke 3:1-18* p. 834
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Sermon "A Preacher With Only One Sermon"

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 "Christmas Praise" arr. Phillips

* 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. 143 "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" REGENT SQUARE

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "Wondrous Tidings" Simone

**All who are able may stand*

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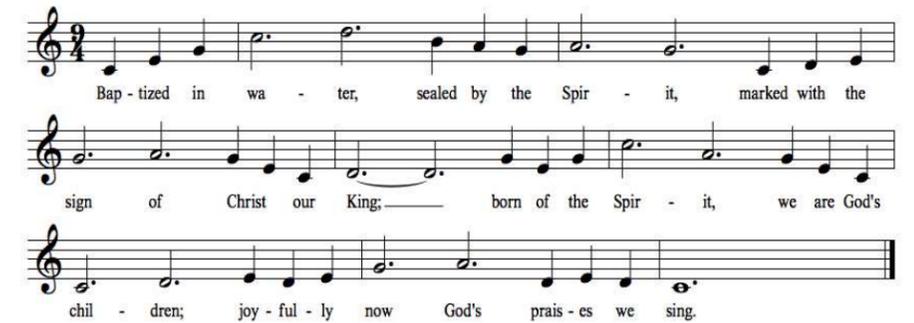
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