



Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Preparation for **Worship**

"Coming to Bethlehem, they found 'the child with Mary His mother'. After that of Jerusalem, this was their second great temptation: to reject this smallness. But instead, 'they fell down and worshiped Him', offering him their precious symbolic gifts. Again, it is the grace of the Holy Spirit which assists them. That grace, which through the star had called them and led them along the way, now lets them enter into the mystery." – Pope Francis

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 *Pastorale* from Christmas Concerto Corelli

\* Call to Worship Psalm 126:1-3

**Leader:** When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
 we were like those who dream.  
**People:** **Then our mouths were filled with laughter,  
 and our tongues with shouts of joy.**  
**Leader:** Then it was said among the nations:  
 The Lord has done great things for them.  
**People:** **The Lord has done great things for us,  
 and we rejoiced.**  
**All:** **Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn No. 152 PUER NOBIS NASCITUR  
 "What Star is This, with Beams So Bright"

\* Prayer of Confession  
**God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that as forgiven and renewed people, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. 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 *James Maddoc Patterson*

Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" Buessan



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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 60:1-6* p. 602

Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 2:1-12* p. 783

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.  
**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Overwhelmed with Joy"

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

Solo "Arise, Shine" Pote

\* 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. 150 "As With Gladness Men of Old" DIX

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts" Saint-Saens

*\*All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Kevin Lancaster, *sponsor*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Kathryn Knauer, *soprano*

Emily Busby (9a), Stephen Woods (11:15a), *lay readers*

Butler Mullins (9a), Roger Beasley (11:15a), *head ushers*

Kevin Lancaster, Tony Atkins, Jeff Beck,

Emily Busby, Anna Hanor (9a), *greeters*

Mary Ashmore, Lisa Mangione, Rob Morgan,

Carl Muller, Mae Todd Mullins (11:15a), *greeters*

Daniel Knauer, *acolyte*

**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.

**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 *James Maddoc Patterson*, son of Grady and Kate Patterson, in our 11:15a worship service this morning.

This morning we welcome The Reverends Ludwig & Jean Weaver. Lud & Jean are honorably retired from Foothills Presbytery and Westminster Presbyterian and are the grandparents of James Maddoc Patterson.

**With Thanksgiving We Celebrate**

**BIRTH**

The birth of a son, *Charles McCants Frazier*, to Jim & Julia Frazier on Thursday, December 9, 2021.

**We Remember in Prayer**

Wayne Brown on the death of his mother, Dorothy James Brown, in Greenville - 12/21/2021.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

WPC BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, January 4, at 7p at the church in Room 209. Ellen Stevenson will lead the discussion of *Final Revival of Opal & Nev* by Dawnie Walton. The author will be answering submitted questions on a prerecorded video. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster fellowship group for those in their fifties (very loosely defined) – will meet on Friday, January 21, at 7p at the home of Amy Grace (8 Bachman Ct). Watch your e-mail for more information or check the church's website ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

WPC HIKING GROUP

Our previously scheduled hike on the Dismal Trail was postponed due to weather. It has been re-scheduled for January 7. If you are interested in this hike please contact Hike Leader, Kathryn Algary at kaalgary@gmail.com.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, December 27, we have received \$2,167,397 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).

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER  
WOMEN'S RETREAT

All women are invited to join Women of Westminster at Montreat for their annual retreat.

February, 25-27, 2022

Register online at [www.wpc-online.org](http://www.wpc-online.org).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 9, 2022, immediately following the 11:15a worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is threefold:

- To vote on the proposed terms of call for 2022 for our pastoral staff;
- To receive the 2022 operating budget;
- To elect 12 elders (Class of 2025) to the Session and 1 trustee.

The proposed slate being presented by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

- Elders: Jacob Barker, Marian Carpenter, Lindsey Donlan, Carroll Farmer, Zach Freeman, Susan Grier, Nikki Grumbine, Bill Holt, Ginny Reed, Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen, Parks Workman
- Trustee: Sue Inman, Class of 2027

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THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2 - 9, 2022

Sunday, January 2  
Second Sunday after Christmas Day

9:00a Worship Service  
10:00 Sunday School  
10:55 Session Meeting  
11:15 Worship Service

Monday, January 3

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 4

12:00p Administrative Committee Meeting  
Al-Anon Group Meeting  
7:00 Book Club

Wednesday, January 5

9:30a Weekday School Chapel  
9:45 Weekday School Chapel  
10:00 Weekday School Chapel  
2:15p WPC Kids Afterschool  
2:45 It's Elementary  
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers

Sunday, January 9

9:00a Worship Service  
Witness & Service Committee Meeting  
10:00 Sunday School  
10:55 Session Meeting  
11:15 Worship Service  
12:15p Annual Congregational Meeting  
4:30 Women of Westminster Leadership Meeting  
5:00 Personnel Committee Meeting  
Middler Youth Group  
6:30 Senior High Youth Group

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Divine Interventions:  
Creation and (re)Creation in Genesis  
Room 209

Explore Scripture's earliest and most misunderstood stories in a new adult Sunday School class beginning this Sunday, January 2. Over the course of four weeks we will study the two accounts of creation, the story of the fall, the great flood, and the tower of Babel. Led by Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey, streaming at [wpc-online.org](http://wpc-online.org).

the  
**HARBINGER**  
open minds open hearts

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*From the Pews, George McLarty*

My mind started to wander as I read this week's scripture, Matthew 2:1-12. Immediately, thoughts of the celebrated visit to see the newborn Child in Bethlehem and the gifts presented by the wisemen bounced around in my head. These verses had me thinking of the bright searchlight shining on Wade Hampton Blvd. each December, the Christmas pageants I have attended in the past, the carols I have sung countless times, the nativity scene our family sets up each year, and the Westminster Christmas service with all of those adorable kids. Once all these initial thoughts settled, I then began to wonder more about the star directing the wisemen on their journey to see Jesus: what guides are we following in our lives?

We are all familiar with the story of the wisemen's visit, but how do we connect their journey to our own lives? As I reflect on the guides in my travels, my first thoughts are of all those state maps poorly folded and stuffed in my glovebox years ago. Maybe even having to pull the car over to figure out exactly which way to turn on an unfamiliar path. Today, our phones guide us on the fastest route to a new destination, but these are not what is truly guiding us through life. What will enable us to open our hearts and minds to new directions? What will allow us to see the light and know this is the right direction for us? We should all strive to have God's light to be our guide and moral compass as we navigate life.

Most parents have informed a child when they are in need of an attitude adjustment. This is likely because they observe the child acting selfishly or refusing to share with others. Is it not the case that anyone fixed in their own way of thinking is also due for an attitude adjustment? If we are on a self-centered course with no desire for change, how are we going to be able to see God's light guiding us in new directions? A complacent attitude may inhibit us from being open to new lights or having the self-awareness essential for change to occur. We also should acknowledge that some of our actions need improvement; they may be self-centered or even harmful to others. We must actively seek God's direction before we can begin to see the light. When we allow ourselves to see God's light, hopefully we can change our direction as we aim to become better followers of Christ.

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