

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 17, 2017

11:15 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In this place where Your Name, O God, is above every name, where Your truth is sought and Your faith cherished, grant Your blessing upon all who worship You in sincerity and truth. Here may the weary find rest; the lonely, friendship; the saddened, comfort; the fearful, courage; the discouraged, hope; the weak, strength; the strong, discipline; and all of us the reassurance of Your forgiving and empowering mercy, and the desire and opportunity to invest our lives for the good of all people and the glory of God.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Not in the mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem,
People: the Messiah is coming.
Leader: Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph,
People: the Messiah is coming.
Leader: Not announced by couriers or kings, but by two lowly women,
People: the Messiah is coming.
Leader: Nothing will be impossible for God, who brings newness where we least expect it. Look among the straw and the stars:
People: the Messiah is coming.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Chuck & Carrie Marguet, Will and Kate

The candle of joy is the third candle on the Advent Wreath. It is rose colored to symbolize our joy at the coming of Christ.

* HYMN OF PRAISE - No. 92 WAITING
While We Are Waiting, Come

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride, power, and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world, we turn away from the hungry waiting to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend, make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, transform our apathy into acts of love. We pray in the name of God-with-us, Jesus Christ.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

* 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 LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal page 35, Traditional

SERVICE OF GIVING

Offertory O Come, Little Children arr. Wood

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* HYMN No. 143

REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Jesus, Light of the World

by Mark Patterson

Presented by the Junior and Senior Choristers

Prologue

Jesus, Light of the World

Will You Be Ready?

ensemble: George Blount, Eliza Barker, Laney Lucas, Max McGregor

Silent Night

soloist: Laura Morgan
ensemble: Elizabeth Brasington, Caroline Thomasson, Laney Palmer

He Is Born (Il est Ne)

soloist: Margaret Rowan
duet: Katy Cox, Mary Mac Fairey

Shepherd's Yodel Song

ensemble: Mary Mac Fairey, Levi Kemp, Amelia Kent, Charlie Ratterree

From a Distant Home

solos: Sarah Katherine White, McCrae Mattice

Take This Light

Jesus, Light of the World

* HYMN No. 113

GLORIA

Angels We Have Heard on High

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Kathryn Knauer, Children's Choir Coordinator

Mark Kemp, Music Director

Martha Beaudrot, accompanist

Jackson McCarthy, Music Intern

Junior Choristers

Clayton Alford, Hudson Alford, Eliza Barker, George Blount, Mary Helen Bryan, Charlotte Clark, Grier Clark, Ellie Coker, Lucy Cole, Reid Craddock, Bennett Eller, Annie Fleming, Hamilton Gary, Henley Gilreath, Clarissa Hart, J.P. Hartman, Elle Hawks, Alex Hoffman, Daniel Knauer, Laney Lucas, Murray Lucas, Sadie Mattice, Macy McCall, Max McGregor, Lucy Meredith, Elizabeth Todd Mullins, Charlie Nantz, Anna James Norris, Grayson O'Toole, Louisa Palmer, Helen Ratterree, Cooper Ray, Lilly Rayneri, Charlie Rowan, Savannah James Teague, Maggie Terry, Cam Warren, Molly Weiss, Kass Williams, Molly Willis, Sawyer Woodard

Senior Choristers

Madeline Barker, Rollins Beck, Elizabeth Brasington, Lilly Coker, Katy Cox, Emily Craddock, Davis Fairey, Mary Mac Fairey, Ramsey Glidewell, Parker Godwin, Peyton Godwin, Libby Graves, Henry Horne, Levi Kemp, Amelia Kent, Amelia Key, Bradley Lucas, McCrae Mattice, Miles McGregor, Parker Meredith, Laura Morgan, Rebecca Nelson, Laney Palmer, Sterling Porterfield, Anna Puntch, Charlie Ratterree, Emily Jane Rayneri, Margaret Rowan, Sarah Sanders, Caroline Thomasson, Zach Warren, Sarah Katherine White

*All who are able may stand

HEAD USHER: 9:00 a.m.

Zach Freeman

SPONSOR:

Sarah-Ann Davis

GREETERS: 11:15 a.m.

Steve Johnson, Michael Hoffman, Coleman Kirven

LITURGISTS:

Ludwig Weaver, Mary Kathleen Duncan

If you are visiting this morning, we extend a special welcome to you.

Westminster Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a community of faith

open to all who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

STREAMING

All worship services at Westminster are broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at www.wpc-online.org and click the link "Worship via Live Streaming."

CHURCH NOTES

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Nancy Smith, organist

9:00 a.m.

Chancel Choir

11:15 a.m.

Junior Choristers

Senior Choristers

To help us maintain the spirit of worship, please refrain from taking pictures or videos during the musical. The service will be posted in its entirety on YouTube.com/wpcgreenville.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

During the worship service, children in rising K5 - 1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children's Church in Room 206. The leaders for the 9:00 a.m. Children's Church this Sunday, December 17, are Parker & Brandi Ariail.

NURSERY

PARENT SCHEDULE

FOR DECEMBER 17

9:00 a.m.

Crib Andy & Julia Mowlajko

Crawler Adam & Darcy Slizewski

Toddler Harrison Wheeler & Laura Morrison

K2 Edmund & Alison Williams

K3 Jay & Kimberly Sparkman

K4 Libby Holleman

11:15 a.m.

Crib Gene & Elizabeth Campbell

Crawler Allen & Leslie Hellenga

Toddler Philip & Beth Land

K2 Trevor & Nicole Ream

K3 Brad & Sarah Lucas

K4 Bill & Margaret Bouton

LET US PRAY FOR:

Tiffany Rhodes and family

Viviane Till and family

WATCH THE CHILDRENS SERVICES

Missed the Cherub Choir Christmas service? Make sure to watch or re-watch our youngest voices sing the Good News on YouTube. Simply visit youtube.com/wpcgreenville. You'll also be able to view sermons, anthems, and Minutes for Mission on our channel.

CHRISTMAS TREES

To make our sanctuary, entrance pavilion and sanctuary atrium festive for the Christmas season, the PW Circle #2 with their families, the Lightly Seasoned group, and the Senior High Girls decorated this year's Christmas trees.

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, December 9, 2017, Kaley Steele and Michael Powell were united in marriage at Westminster.

CONNECTIONS

Connections will meet at the Westin (120 S Main St.) on Sunday, December 17, at 12:30 p.m. Respond by Friday, December 15, to Edna Ruth Miller (288-8645 or rgvduo@bellsouth.net). New members are welcome.

YOUNGISH ADULTS

Join us Sunday, December 17, at Leigh Stuckey's home (208 A Anderson St.) from 6:00 pm-till for our annual Christmas party. Wear your most festive Christmas threads and bring a jar of peanut butter for United Ministries. Questions? Contact Leigh Stuckey (lstuckey@wpc-online.org).

57th ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

On Sunday, December 24, the congregation of Westminster will gather for the 57th Annual Service of Lessons & Carols for one morning worship service at 11:15 a.m.. This traditional service, begun in 1918 at King's College in Cambridge, England, utilizes scripture readings and carols to tell the prophecies, birth, and coming Kingdom of Christ. The Westminster Sanctuary Choir will be joined by Nancy Smith, organist, and the Westminster Brass.

2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, December 12, we have received \$2,276,601 in pledges toward our 2018 budget goal of \$2,514,739.

For your convenience, pledge cards are in the pews, or you may mail in your pledge or send it by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens at sherri@wpc-online.org.

YOUTH

This Sunday, December 17, we will gather at the *DuBose* home (7 Parkins Lake Ct.):

- **4-5:30 p.m.**
Middler Sock Exchange and Snack Bar Extravaganza

(bring a pair of fun socks to exchange and a pack of socks [any size] to donate).

- **6-8:00 p.m.**
Senior High Potluck and Gift Exchange (bring a \$15

gift to exchange and a side dish to share).

Thursday, December 21

- **Open Gym for all youth**
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(bring \$5 for a pizza lunch).

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 17

The Third Sunday of Advent

GAIHN families depart

9:00 a.m.

Worship Service - preaching

Advent Wreath Lighting

11:15 a.m.

Children's Christmas Musical

Advent Wreath Lighting

12:30 p.m.

Connections Group Lunch

4:00 p.m.

Middler Christmas Party

6:00 p.m.

Senior High Christmas Party

Youngish Adult Christmas

Drop In

Wednesday, December 20

The Flock Christmas Party

WOMEN of WESTMINSTER

Tuesday, December 19

- **Circle #7:** *Talitha Allen*, chair, will meet at the home of *Jean Atkins* (4 Barksdale Rd.) at **6:30 p.m.** Dinner will be catered and the cost will be \$10. Please RSVP to *Terri LeGrand* (legrandfamily@charter.net0) by **Sunday, December 17.**

THE FLOCK CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join the Flock families (children included) for a fun night of caroling on **Wednesday, December 20**, at the home of *Jason & Elizabeth Palmer* (16 Club Forest Ln., 630-7100).

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

Thursday, December 21

11:00 a.m.

Youth Open Gym

Sunday, December 24

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:15 a.m.

Worship Service

Advent Wreath Lighting

57th Annual Service of

Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Candlelight Worship Services

Advent Wreath Lighting

Sunday, December 31

11:15 a.m.

One Worship Service

(no Sunday School)

12:15 p.m.

Fellowship Hour

THE HARBINGER WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2310 Augusta Road Greenville, South Carolina 29605 (864) 232-2424

www.wpc-online.org

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CHURCH STAFF

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Associate Pastor	Barbara Stoop
Phone	313-6956
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Associate Pastor	Leigh Stuckey
Home Phone	451-7688
	lstuckey@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Mary Kathleen Duncan
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	mkduncan@wpc-online.org
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Home Phone	292-5128
	weavjean@aol.com
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Director of Music	Mark Kemp
	mkemp@wpc-online.org
Children's Choir Coordinator	Kathryn Knauer
	kknauer@wpc-online.org
Mission Outreach Coordinator	Susan McLarty
	smclarty@wpc-online.org
Organist	Nancy Smith
	nls1949@aol.com
Weekday School Director	Cara Puntch
	cpuntch@wpc-online.org
Financial Secretary	Sherri Owens
	sherri@wpc-online.org
Office Manager	Michelle Little
	michelle@wpc-online.org
Secretary	Wendy Bagley
	wendy@wpc-online.org
Director of Nurseries	Janell Pitman
	jpitman@wpc-online.org
Director of Hospitality	Lisa Ridge
	lisa@wpc-online.org
Building Supervisor	Steve Phillips
	stevep30@bellsouth.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS December 17 - 23, 2017

SUNDAY

GAIHN departs

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:15 a.m. Worship Service
12:30 p.m. Connections Luncheon
5:00 p.m. Middler Christmas Party
6:00 p.m. Senior High Christmas Party
Youngish Adults Christmas Drop-In

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

6:00 p.m. NAMI
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

12:00 p.m. AI-Anon meeting
6:30 p.m. PW Circle 7

WEDNESDAY

11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

Weekday School closed (thru January 2)
11:00 a.m. Youth Open Gym
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

FINANCIAL MINISTRY 2017 BUDGET UPDATE

2017 Pledges	\$2,409,691
Amount Received	\$1,971,178
Pledges Outstanding	(\$438,513)

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 2017 statement in by December 31, 2017. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE Women of Westminster:

February 23-25 Women's Retreat

More details and sign-ups to come!

LIBRARY/POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in two ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for \$15.00, or money may be given to buy library books. 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 **Sunday, December 17.**

Donor _____
In Memory of _____
In Memory of _____
In Honor of _____
In Honor of _____

Library Amount \$ _____ OR Poinsettias x \$15.00 = \$ _____



CHRISTMAS, A TIME OF TRADITIONS AND MEMORIES

As I think about growing up in a Catholic household during Christmas time, I recall as a child the many traditions that come with growing up Catholic. The most prominent is the long "midnight" mass we attended each year just before Christmas morning. Before going, my mom and dad would allow my brother, sister, and me to open a single present. As tradition worked out, it was always a new pair of pajamas. Around 10:30 p.m. we would put on our best Christmas attire and march downstairs for the twenty-minute drive to the Catholic Church in Orangeburg, SC. It was the closest Catholic Church to my hometown of St. Matthews.

I remember the beautiful choir, our priest who would sing throughout the mass, and the strong smell of incense in a ball of smoke that our priest would come around and spread as he walked the aisles. As I sat there during mass I remember feelings of excitement and happiness. Happy to be with my family, happy to be at my beautiful church, and anxiously excited for the next morning and the festivities that were to come!

In Isaiah 61:10 the scripture tells us, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness."

This passage leads us to remember some of the perfect and endless gifts God provides. A joyful soul, salvation, and righteousness. Though we refer to these as gifts, they are not tangible, they don't go out of season, and they don't get thrown away during spring cleaning. These gifts of joy and salvation and righteousness are real, and they are part of what we pursue as Christians.

As this wonderful time of year rolls around, I am greeted with the memories of my childhood, and forever grateful and excited about the new traditions and memories we are making with our children.

Sarah Lucas

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 17, 2017

9:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In this place where Your Name, O God, is above every name, where Your truth is sought and Your faith cherished, grant Your blessing upon all who worship You in sincerity and truth. Here may the weary find rest; the lonely, friendship; the saddened, comfort; the fearful, courage; the discouraged, hope; the weak, strength; the strong, discipline; and all of us the reassurance of Your forgiving and empowering mercy, and the desire and opportunity to invest our lives for the good of all people and the glory of God.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Not in the mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem,

People: the Messiah is coming.

Leader: Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph,

People: the Messiah is coming.

Leader: Not announced by couriers or kings, but by two lowly women,

People: the Messiah is coming.

Leader: Nothing will be impossible for God, who brings newness where we least expect it. Look among the straw and the stars:

People: the Messiah is coming.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Bill & Ruth Johnston

The candle of joy is the third candle on the Advent Wreath. It is rose colored to symbolize our joy at the coming of Christ.

* HYMN OF PRAISE - No. 92 WAITING "While We Are Waiting, Come"

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride, power, and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world, we turn away from the hungry waiting to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend, make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, transform our apathy into acts of love. We pray in the name of God-with-us, Jesus Christ.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

* 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 LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal page 35, Traditional

K5 and first grade children leave for Children's Church following the prayer.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ANTHEM "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper" Keesecker
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Page 691)
Douglas Culclasure
NEW TESTAMENT LESSON — Luke 1:39-56 (Page 57)
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
SERMON Leigh Stuckey
"Yeah, I think she knew."

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* 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; 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.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Offertory "O Come, Little Children" arr. Wood
* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.
* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN No. 100 STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN
"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE "Good Christians All - Rejoice!" arr. Smith

**All who are able may stand*

HEAD USHER: Coleman Kirven
GREETERS: Donn James, Roxanne Cromartie
Nancy Quinn
LITURGIST: Mary Kathleen Duncan

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Westminster Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a community of faith
open to all who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.*

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OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* 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; 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.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Offertory "O Come, Little Children" arr. Wood
* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.
* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN No. 100 STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN
"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE "Good Christians All - Rejoice!" arr. Smith

**All who are able may stand*

HEAD USHER: Coleman Kirven
GREETERS: Beri Draganic, Kathleen Reynolds,
Kathryn Freedman
LITURGIST: Mary Kathleen Duncan

*If you are visiting this morning, we extend a special welcome to you.
Westminster Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a community of faith
open to all who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.*