

Hope



*N*ations will come to your light and kings
to your dawning radiance. —ISAIAH 60:3

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Two Preludes for Advent*

Cherwien

I. People Look East

II. Lift Up Your Heads

Prayer of Preparation (*you may wish to prepare for worship by praying silently*)

Holy God, earth and heaven may pass away but your realm is eternal and your promise is sure. Enlighten our hearts with hope as our Redeemer draws near. Help us to heed the signs of the times, so that we may be ready to stand before Christ, our Judge and Savior, in whose glorious name we pray. Amen.

Choral Introit – *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Nancy Johnson

Call to Worship – (*responsive*)

The days are coming, says the Lord,

when the promise will be fulfilled.

Heaven and earth will pass away,

but God's word will stand forever.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 93 – *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession – (*unison*)

Eternal God, we confess that we resist your holy realm. You seek justice and righteousness, but we pursue selfish agendas. You promise us salvation, but we trust in our own strength. Forgive us, God of grace. Lead us in your way of truth so that we may be ready to see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(time for silent confession)

* Assurance of Pardon

* The Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri* Hymn 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.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Lighting of the first Advent Candle Michael and Katie Ginn

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading – Jeremiah 33:14-16 pew Bible pg. 645

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* Paul O. Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins,

Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God,

Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,

Rejoice on earth ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon!

Ev'n so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;

They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Second Reading – Luke 21:25-36 pew Bible pg. 856

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *Coming in a Cloud* Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Communion Hymn 102 – *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory – *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* Shackley

THE EUCHARIST

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Hallelujah! The Lord our God Almighty reigns! Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come.

Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Hear us now as we pray as our Lord has taught us.

. . .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.

The Words of Institution

The Communion

Prayer After Communion (unison)

Mighty God, holy is your name. We thank you for gathering us at your table and feeding us with the bread of life. As we leave this table to go to the many places where you call us, send your Spirit to accompany us, so that we may share in your magnificent work: lifting up those who are laid low, showing mercy to all in need of human kindness, and feeding the bodies and hearts of all those who are hungry. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 83 – *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude-*March*

Charpentier



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**



PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Melissa Altice, Claude Sanders' cousin – upcoming surgery, breast cancer

Marilyn Bowen, Sam Dossett's sister – colon cancer

Ruthie Davis – upcoming surgery

Sam Dossett – continued prayers

Lauranne Doggett, Sarah Brannon's sister – Alzheimer's

Sarah Ellena, daughter of Martha Ann and Charles Hogrefe – recovery from alcohol addiction

Katie Hall, friend of Bob Lochhead – slowly recovering from a brain aneurism

Mary Halliwell, friend of Mary and Dean Cromartie – pancreatic cancer

Stephanie Liddell, Geri Jones' daughter – employment and special prayers

Jim Lundy, Sinclair Lundy's brother – early stages of dementia and Parkinson's

Sinclair Lundy – recovery from knee surgery

Mrs. Paul (Mary) McMullen – recovering from accident

Donald Marr, Sr., friend of Nancy Johnson – brain cancer

Cindy Nobles – undergoing treatment for the recurrence of cancer

Stuart Ramsdale, friend of Gene Owens – cancer on liver, colon, and throat

James Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's brother – frontotemporal dementia motor neuron disease and ALS

Kem Reid, father of Ryan Reid – bone marrow transplant

Sharon Sabin, friend of Mary and Dean Cromartie – advanced cancer and Parkinson's

Becky Smith, Ann Aldridge's friend – prayers for strength

Patty Talbot, Ann Aldridge's sister – cancer free

Virginia VanWart, friend of Janet Burke – lung cancer

Shirley Wilbanks, Betty Mitchell's cousin – stage 4 ovarian cancer





Greeting and Announcements

Welcome to Westminster! We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please turn off cell phones during the worship hour.

DEVOTION BOOKS FOR ADVENT 2018

Today, the season of Advent begins. You will find two different devotion books available to you in the narthex. The first is *Advent in Narnia, Reflections for the Season* by Heidi Haverkamp. The other title is *Names for the Messiah, An Advent Study* by Walter Brueggemann. These books are joyfully provided at no charge to you in the hopes that they will help you rightly prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth. There is a limited supply of both volumes.

There will be a short organizational meeting of **the Men of the Church** in the Generation classroom after worship. All men are invited to attend. We will discuss schedule, format, and menu.

PW Coordinating Team meets Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 9:30 a.m. in the Generations classroom.

Brown Bag Bible Study meets Tuesday at noon. We will study Joel chapters 2-3.



Wednesday night suppers will resume in January.

K-5 will meet upstairs at 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir will meet at 7 p.m..

All **Men of the Church** are invited to meet Thursday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 a.m. at Shoney's.

PLEDGE CARDS

Pledge cards are available on the narthex table for anyone needing to turn in their pledge for 2019. Place card in offering plate, in office, or mail. Thanks to everyone who has already turned in their pledges.

Next Sunday, the **Diaconate will meet** at 11:30.

A **Breadbasket Christmas tree** will be put in the narthex by the stairs. It will be made of boxes. Please help us fill up this tree with items to be used by Breadbasket. There is a list on the tree of items to purchase. For more information see Sharon Potin.

Head deacon for the month of December is Judy Haydel.

HAPPENINGS AT WESTMINSTER



Advent Workshop is today at 5 p.m.

This is an important way for everyone to begin preparing for Christmas. There will be lots of fun and meaningful activities for participants of all ages. Soup will served afterwards.

The **Christmas Joy Offering** is shared equally by Presbyterian related - racial ethnic schools and colleges and supports retired pastors. This offering will be received Sunday, Dec. 9. See pamphlet in bulletin today for more details.



YOUTH SHOPPING FOR BOSWELL

The Youth (grades 7-12) are going shopping to purchase items for Boswell on Sunday, Dec. 9, following worship. Bring a change of clothes (if you choose) and money for lunch. Parents are welcome. Shopping should be finished by 1:30. For more details, see Ginny or Mary Clare.

BOSWELL'S GIFTS DUE DEC. 9

It's time to start shopping for Christmas gifts for our friends at Boswell. The collection boxes are available in the narthex. Needed items: Women: clip on earrings, jewelry, T-shirts/tops, NO socks or slipper socks. Men: baseball caps, slippers, shirts/t-shirts. Both: flashlights with batteries, drawing pads, Uno cards, outdoor balls, games, 100-piece jigsaw puzzles, tabletop games. The Boswell staff sorts the gifts so please don't wrap, rather provide a gift bag and tissue paper.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND DINNER

The Children and Youth Christmas program is Sunday, Dec. 16, at 5 p.m.
Dinner will follow.



PreK-Youth's Christmas Party
Friday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m.
Forsyth's home (89 Dover Trace)

A CAROLING WE WILL GO Dec. 23.

Meet at the church at 5 p.m.
Hot dogs and chili afterwards.



Just as the human body needs eyes, hands, ears, lungs, etc., so does the Body of Christ. We have many small group opportunities for growth, fellowship and service here at Westminster. We encourage members to use their gifts to participate in the mission of this congregation and to invite others to join us in serving Jesus Christ.



The Seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

A Symbolic Statement of the Church

The Cross – Christianity

The Transept – Bible and Pulpit

The Dove – The Holy Spirit

The Intersection – Baptismal Font or
Communion Cup

Flames – Implied triangle, the Trinity

THE SESSION

Class of 2019

Althea Jerome
J. T. Johnson
Cindy Nobles

Class of 2020

Claude Sanders
Dean Cromartie
Kathryn Cummings

Class of 2021

David Arnold
Ginny Graham
Eric Reidenbach

THE TRUSTEES

Franklin Bryant Mary Cromartie Wally Gregg

THE DEACONS

Class of 2019

David Daves
Janeil Harris
Susan Turner

Class of 2020

Katie Ginn
Judy Haydel
Sinclair Lundy
Robert Lochhead

Class of 2021

Chad Edmonson
Brandon Hayes
Rhoda Pickett
Beth Richmond

Youth Representative

Jackson Creel

CHURCH STAFF

Christopher Crotwell, Minister
Sinclair Lundy, Financial Secretary
Randall Harris, Organist
Wes Brooks, Communications

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship
Martha Davis, Church Administrator
Connie Roberts, Chancel Choir Director
Michael Ginn, Children's Music Director
Ray Robinson, Sexton