



A
thrill
of
hope

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Variations of PICARDY*

Helman

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

Dear Lord, please teach me how to wait for you. I pray that you would make me aware of your presence in the world around me. Please give me enough faith so that I am bold enough to put all my hope in you. Amen

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Howard Keever

Call to Worship – From Psalm 80 (*responsive*)

Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock; you who sit enthroned between the cherubim,

Shine forth before us. Awaken your might; come and save us!

Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us, that we might be saved.

Return to us, O God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see!

Restore us, O Lord; make your face shine upon us, that we might be saved.

Come, let us worship the Lord, our God!

* Hymn of Praise 82 – *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We confess to you, O God, that we are not ready to meet you face to face. We are way too busy worrying about all the other things that clutter our lives. Our lists of things to do grow longer by the minute. If you were to return today, we would not be ready at all to greet you. We simply haven't spent the appropriate time to get ready for your return. Forgive us, Father. Our priorities convict us, our preoccupations condemn us, and our agendas consume us. Teach us to embrace your agenda! Forgive these sins we have named, and those we name now in silence . . .

- * Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Christ died for our sins.

He made a full atonement for us.

We are forgiven and have the promise of eternal life.

May we feel this forgiveness in our hearts!

We are his children, and our hearts have been cleansed!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

- * The Congregation's Response: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (vs. 1) Hymn 108

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

The Maul family

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson – Isaiah 64:1-9

pew Bible pg. 606

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *The Best of Rooms*

Randall Thompson

Christ, He requires still, wheresoe'er He comes

To feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms:

Give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part

Of all the house: the best of all's the heart.

Second Lesson – Mark 13:24-37

pew Bible pg. 826

Sermon – *Don't Forget About Us!*

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

- * Affirmation of Faith – Hebrews 1:1-4 (*unison*)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

- * Hymn of Thanksgiving 92 – *While We Are Waiting, Come*

Prayers of Intercession and 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.

Offertory – *Comfort, Comfort These My People*

Burkhardt

- * The Doxology – Hymn 606
- * Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn of Consecration 2 – *Come, Thou Almighty King*
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Postlude – *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Hobby



- * *Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold**. Also, please take your bulletin and papers home or place them in the recycling basket in the narthex.*



PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Marilyn Bowen, Sam Dossett's sister – colon cancer

Margaret Buckley – recovering at home

Brandi Carter, friend of Nancy Johnson – postponed cancer scans

Ruthie Davis – health concerns

Andrew Dennis, Beverly and Charles Dennis' son – melanoma

Sam Dossett – continued prayers

Fluffy Fair – moved to Provision Living

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

Crystal Miller, friend of Nancy Johnson – hospitalized with pneumonia

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

Margaret Suttle – recovering at home

Louise Van-Beck, friend of Harry and Carol Hickman – recovering from stroke

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

For the family and friends of Chris and Brittany Herrin whose 4-month-old baby girl died Thanksgiving Eve. Friends of Chris and Jenny Maul





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.

Advent Workshop is today at 4:30.

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.

Youth and children Christmas program follows supper.



Upcoming Meetings

Inviting Committee—8:30 a.m., today in the conference room
Belonging Committee—11:30 a.m., today in the conference room
Property Committee—11:30 a.m., today in the generation room
PW Coordinating Team—9:30 a.m., Tuesday, in the generation room
Administration Committee—4:30p.m., Wednesday in the conference room
Diaconate—11:30 a.m., Sunday Dec. 10, in the generation room
Session—TBA, Sunday, Dec. 19, in the conference room

Brown Bag Bible Study meets Tuesday at noon. We will be studying II Kings 10-11.

There will be no more Wednesday night suppers until after the new year begins.

Choir meets Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Attention all would-be Youth and Children's Ministries volunteers! The Growing Spiritually Committee and the Youth and Children Ministry Teams will be hosting a forum to discuss the ministries for our young people at Westminster, Wednesday, December 6th, at 6 p.m. in Montague Hall for anyone who has ever been curious about volunteering with WPC kids. Please come and ask questions, gather information, and learn a little about what this type of ministry is all about! You CAN plug in! It's easier than you think and it is rewarding beyond words!

All **Men of the Church** are invited to meet Thursday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 a.m. at Shoney's.

PLEDGE CARDS

Pledge cards are available on the narthex cabinet for anyone needing to turn in their pledge for 2018. The Administrative Committee is finalizing the budget and needs to know your pledge. Place card in offering plate, in office or mail.

Thanks to everyone who has already turned in their pledges.

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for all the very useful items given to us at our baby shower for baby Charlie! We love our church family and appreciate the gifts and your love very much! We cannot wait to meet baby Charlie! Thanks again. The Maul Family.

HAPPENINGS AT WESTMINSTER



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. 10.

See pamphlet in bulletin for more details.

BOSWELL'S GIFTS DUE DEC. 14

It's time to start shopping for Christmas gifts for our friends at Boswell. This year 100 males and 53 females will be looking forward to receiving something special from us. The collection boxes and copies of the wish list are in the narthex. Please do not wrap the gifts but bring gift bags.



Advent Workshop is today at 4:30.

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In celebration of Advent, **Randall Harris will present an organ recital** Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the holiday music.



Breadbreakers is a supper club that provides a great way to get to know people from church. Groups will start up in January, **so don't miss out.** **Names will be randomly** grouped for this fun fellowship. **SIGN UP TODAY!** Sheets are located in the narthex.

Save the Date: Johnson's Lights & Bites, Friday, Dec. 15, from 6-9 p.m.



Angel Tree Volunteers

The Salvation Army Christmas volunteers are needed. Dates are Dec. 14th and 15th. A sign-up sheet is on the narthex cabinet. Sorry we are so late getting this to you, but we just received our dates this week.



Angel Tree Due Dec. 17

Sunday School classes are asked to designate a portion of their weekly offerings for the upcoming **Angel Tree holiday project**. The funds will buy Christmas gifts and clothing for children in need. All donations will be collected through **Dec. 17th**. Put "Angel Tree" on checks. For more details see Mary Clare Royals or Ginny Graham.

A CAROLING WE WILL GO Dec. 17. Meet at the church at 5 p.m.
Hot dogs and chili afterwards.



PreK-Youth's Christmas Party
Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 5:30 p.m.
Montague Hall

Volunteers are needed! R3SM is doing restoration work in the Hattiesburg area. You are invited to join Steve Ramp and volunteers from Parkway Heights on Saturday, Dec. 9th, to work at 108 Griffith St. in Petal starting at 8:30 a.m. If you are able to help out, please give Chris Adams a call at 601-818-5899. Since the January tornado R3SM has approved 19 houses for rebuilding and 38 houses for extensive repairs.

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 2017

Mac Forsyth
Jeff Haydel
Karen Reidenbach

Class of 2018

Gene Owens
Michael Raggio
Robin Roberts

Class of 2019

Althea Jerome
J. T. Johnson
Cindy Nobles

THE TRUSTEES

Franklin Bryant Gene Fair Wally Gregg

THE DEACONS

Class of 2017

Dan Davis
Lisa Forsyth
Larry Royals
Dudley Westbrook

Class of 2018

Shane Brooks
Kathy Cain
Howard Keever
Beth Richmond

Class of 2019

David Daves
Janeil Harris
Butch Nobles
Susan Turner
Youth Representative
Drew Suttle

CHURCH STAFF

Mike Anderson, Interim Pastor
Martha Davis, Church Administrator
Connie Roberts, Chancel Choir Director
Amy Ruff, Children/Youth/College Ministry
Jenny Maul, Children's Music Director

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship
Sinclair Lundy, Financial Secretary
Randall Harris, Organist
Wes Brooks, Communications
Ray Robinson, Sexton