

Peace



Prepare
the way
for the Lord;
make his paths
straight.

— MARK 1:3

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Sleepers, Wake*

Bach

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

Holy God, through Isaiah and John you sent your word into the wilderness, crying out: Repent, seek forgiveness, and prepare the way of the Lord! Now prepare the way in us and in our world for the coming of your living Word, so that all flesh may know your saving grace; through Jesus Christ who is coming to reign. Amen.

Choral Introit – *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Randall Harris

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Charles Hogrefe

Call to Worship – (*responsive*)

I am sending a messenger, says the Lord,

to prepare the way before me.

Even now, a voice is crying out:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 88 – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1,2,6, and 7)

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession – (*unison*)

Eternal God, we confess that we resist your holy realm. You come with fire to cleanse us, yet we remain in our corruption. You come with water to save us, yet we persist in our sin. Forgive us, God of grace. Prepare the way in us to greet the one who is coming, so that we may see your salvation; 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 second Advent Candle Edmonson Family

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading – Luke 3:1-6

pew Bible pg. 834

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *Creator of the Stars of Night*

Arr. Howard Keever

I. Creator of the Stars

II. This Endris Night

III. Thou Who Wast Rich beyond all Splendor

Katie Buckner, solo

IV. Savior of the Nations, Come

(see green insert for words)

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Affirmation of Faith: (*unison*) 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 87 – *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Prayers of the People 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 – *There, Upon a Manger Bed*

Handel

Haley Chapman and Joshua Cook, duet

* The Doxology – Hymn 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

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 104 – *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude – *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

Burkhardt



* 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

Rhetta Richardson, sister of Kinlock Bell – right leg amputated, prayers for recovery

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

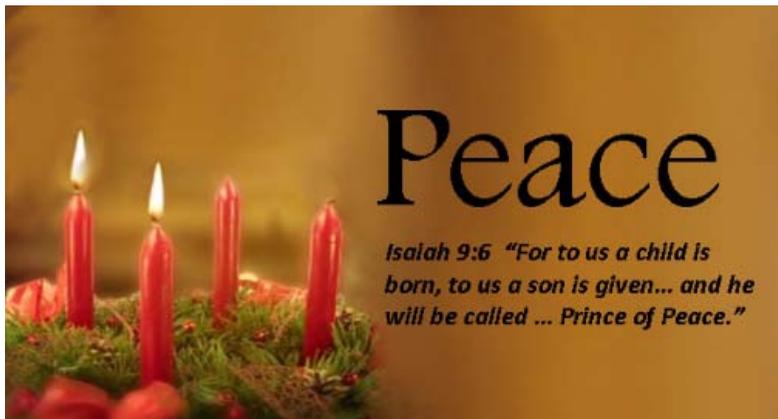
Virginia VanWart, friend of Janet Burke – lung cancer

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

Leonora Wilson, sister of Sarah Brannon – in hospital with lung issues

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

For the family and friends of Royce Holcomb, brother-in-law of Glenn Nobles





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

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.

The **deacons** will meet today after worship in the Generations classroom.

Children K-12 will meet today at **4 p.m.** for rehearsal.

PW Circles 1 & 2 meet Tuesday, Dec. 11. **Circle 1** meets at 9:30 a.m. at Ann Johnson's (100 Creek Side Manor) and **Circle 2** meets at 7 p.m. in the Generation classroom. **Circle 3** meets Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Catherine Edmonson's (1202 S. 34th Avenue)



Brown Bag Bible Study meets Tuesday at noon. We will study Joel chapter 3.

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
ACTIVITIES**

Wednesday night suppers will resume in January.

K-5 and Youth will meet at 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir will meet at 7 p.m..

All **Men of the Church** are invited to meet Thursday, Dec. 13, 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.

The **Breadbasket Christmas tree** is up in the narthex by the stairs. Please help us fill 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 December is Judy Haydel.

HAPPENINGS AT WESTMINSTER



The **Christmas Joy Offering** is shared equally by Presbyterian related - racial ethnic schools and colleges and supports retired pastors. The offering envelope is in today's bulletin. See pamphlet in bulletin for more details.

YOUTH SHOPPING FOR BOSWELL

The Youth (grades 7-12) are going shopping to purchase items for Boswell today following worship. You will need 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 TODAY

Christmas gifts for our friends at Boswell are due today. 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, instead 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.

New Beginnings will have its monthly luncheon on Monday, Dec. 17, at noon in Montague Hall. Everyone is invited to attend, so **RSVPs are essential**. Please contact Tommy Suttle (601-408-2589 or tommy@wpchattiesburg.com) if you plan to attend. **We will be packing Christmas boxes for Breadbasket.**

Volunteers are needed to deliver Christmas boxes, Wed. Dec. 19, at 1 p.m.



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