



All is
calm,

all is
bright

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *An Advent Prelude*

Callahan

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

Gracious God, in this season of Advent as we anxiously await your coming into the world, teach us to have the kind of faith your servant Joseph had. Grant us the trust he had in you and encourage us to mirror his obedience to your words of promise and assurance. Prepare now, O Lord, our hearts for worshiping you.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Tommy Suttle

Call to Worship – From Psalm 98 (*responsive*)

O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done wonderful things!

The Lord has made known his salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth and sing praises!

Let the mountains sing together for joy before the Lord;

For He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness, and the people with equity.

Come, let us worship and shout joyfully before the King, the Lord our God!

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

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Loving God, your sanctuary is decorated, your church is adorned for the coming of the Christ Child, however our lives are cluttered with Christmas cards, and presents, and parties. Your Son, Jesus Christ, has come into the world as a shining light, and yet we continue to hustle and bustle around in the darkness. Forgive us when we do not embrace the light. Forgive us when we replace the hope, love, peace, and joy of advent with the chaos of the holiday season. Come Lord

Jesus, come, and forgive our sins so that we might be ready to receive you. Forgive also the silent confessions of our hearts . . .

- * Assurance of Pardon (responsive)
For God so loved the world,
He gave us His only begotten Son,
That whoever believes in Him should not perish, but shall have eternal life.
God did not send his son to judge the world;
He sent His son so that the world might be saved through him!
This is the good and assuring news of the Gospel -
Through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven!
Alleluia!

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

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE AND IN SONG

The Lighting of the First Advent Candle The Haydel family

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson – Isaiah 52:7-10 pew Bible pg.
596

John 1:1-5; 10-14 pew Bible pg.
862

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**
Anthem – *Good News* Arr. Howard Keever
Susan Ruggiero, flute and Mateo Martinez, oboe
(see red insert for words)

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

- * Affirmation of Faith: (*unison*) (Hymnal pg. 35)
**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

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 – *How Beautiful Are the Feet*

Handel

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

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn of Consecration 93 – *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Postlude – *An Advent Postlude*

Callahan



- * *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 – upcoming surgery Jan. 20, 2018

Andrew Dennis, Beverly and Charles Dennis' son – melanoma

Sam Dossett – continued prayers

Fluffy Fair – moved to Provision Living

*Thomas Guest, son of Scott & Marti Guest (friend of Carrie Creel) – freshman at MSU
severely injured in ATV on Nov. 30*

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

Crystal Miller, friend of Nancy Johnson – hospitalized with pneumonia

Jack Ramsey, friend of Harry and Carol Hickman – having surgery

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



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.

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



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

Today the Diaconate meets at 11:30 and **the Session** meets at 4 p.m.

No Children or Youth activities today.

PW Circles 1 & 2 meet Tuesday, Dec. 12. **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 room. **Circle 3** meets Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at Catherine Edmonson's home (1202 S. 34th Ave. Hattiesburg).



Brown Bag Bible Study meets Tuesday at noon. We will be studying II Kings 12.

Wednesday night suppers will resume Jan. 10.

Choir meets Wednesday at 7 p.m.

All **Men of the Church** are invited to meet Thursday, Dec. 14, 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.

New Beginnings will meet for its monthly luncheon on Monday, Dec. 18, 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.**

HAPPENINGS AT WESTMINSTER

BOSWELL'S GIFTS DUE DEC. 14

We are in need of 50 male gifts and 20 female gifts. The collection boxes and copies of the wish list are in the narthex. Please do not wrap the gifts but bring gift bags. Please bring to the church no later than noon Thurs., Dec. 14.



Margaret Lochhead is seeking volunteers to fill **Breadbasket applications** for Dec. 27-29. Easy step-by-step instructions are available. A sign-up sheet is on a narthex table.



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.

We will carpool from the church at 5:30. (see green insert)



Angel Tree Volunteers

The Salvation Army Christmas volunteers are needed. Dates are Dec. 14 and 15. A sign-up sheet is on a narthex table. Sorry we are so late getting this to you, but we just received our dates last 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. 17**. Put "Angel Tree" on checks. For more details see Mary Clare Royals or Ginny Graham. Following worship on Dec. 17, the youth will eat lunch then go shopping.

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



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

Class of 2018

Gene Owens
Michael Raggio
Robin Roberts

THE SESSION

Class of 2019

Althea Jerome
J. T. Johnson
Cindy Nobles

Class of 2020

Margaret Brooks
Dean Cromartie
Kathryn Cummings

THE TRUSTEES

Franklin Bryant Gene Fair Wally Gregg

Class of 2018

Shane Brooks
Kathy Cain
Howard Keever
Beth Richmond

THE DEACONS

Class of 2019

David Daves
Janeil Harris
Butch Nobles
Susan Turner

Class of 2020

Katie Ginn
Judy Haydel
Sinclair Lundy
Robert Lochhead
Youth Representative
Sarah Beth Suttle

CHURCH STAFF

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship
Sinclair Lundy, Financial Secretary
Connie Roberts, Chancel Choir Director
Jenny Maul, Children's Music Director

Martha Davis, Church Administrator
Wes Brooks, Communications
Randall Harris, Organist
Ray Robinson, Sexton