



*H*appiness and joy will overwhelm them;  
grief and groaning will flee away. —ISAIAH 35:10

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *O How Joyfully/Joy to the World* *arr. Berry*

Jackson Creel, piano

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

Holy God, you sent John into the wilderness to baptize and proclaim good news to all. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit so that we may repent and bear good fruit, while we await the promised coming of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Choral Introit – *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Randall Harris

Chiming of the Hour

Young Disciples – *Infant Lowly*

Michael Ginn, Director

Greeting and Announcements

Ellie Forsyth

Call to Worship – (*responsive*)

Sing praise and shout for joy!

**The Lord God is in our midst.**

Rejoice in the Lord always.

**Again, rejoice! The Lord is near.**

Let us worship God.

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

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession – (*unison*)

**Eternal God, we confess that we resist your holy realm. You deliver us from judgment but we continue to judge one another. You seek to restore our lives but we fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us, God of grace. Baptize us with Spirit and fire so that we may be ready to meet you when you come again in glory; 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 third Advent Candle Forsyth Family

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading – Philippians 4:4-7 pew Bible pg. 955

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

Anthem – *Of the Father's Heart Begotten* Arr. Willcocks

Of the Father's heart begotten, ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that fountain all that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things yet to come the mystic close evermore.

He is assumed this mortal body, frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law has sentenced in the depths of hell to lie, evermore.

By his word was all created; He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean, universe of three in one,  
All that breathes beneath the sun, evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday, when the maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation, by the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, in her loving arms received, evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed in the page of prophecy;  
Lo! He comes, the promised Savior; let the world his praises cry! Evermore.

Sing ye heights of heaven, his praises; Angels and archangels, sing!  
Wheresoever ye be, ye faithful, let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing, countless voices answering, evermore.

Second Reading – Luke 3:7-18 pew Bible pg. 834

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

Sermon – *He Proclaimed Good News* Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

## 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 106 – *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

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 – *In Dulci Jubilo*

Bach

Jackson Creel, organ

- \* 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 119 – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

- \* Charge and Benediction

- \* Postlude – *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Hobby



- \* 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*

*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*

*Virginia VanWart, friend of Janet Burke – lung cancer*

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

*Leonora Wilson, sister of Sarah Brannon – lung cancer*

## PRAYERS OF COMFORT

*For the family and friends of Betty Jolene Sanders, Catherine Sampson's sister*





## 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.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** is today at 5 p.m. Dinner will follow.

**A devotion book** titled *Names for the Messiah, An Advent Study* by Walter Brueggemann is available to you in the narthex.

**Circle 3** meets Dec. 19, at 5:30 p.m. at Catherine Edmonson's (1202 S. 34<sup>th</sup> Ave.)

**PW Prayer Ministry** will meet Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Generations classroom.

**Brown Bag Bible Study** meets Tuesday at noon. We will study Amos chapter 1.

**Chancel Choir** will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

All **Men of the Church** are invited to meet Thursday, Dec. 20, at 6:30 a.m. at Shoney's.

The **Breadbasket Christmas tree** is 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.

**Stewardship Update:** We have received commitments for \$276,000. Our operating budget for 2019 calls for \$518,000. If you haven't pledged yet, please turn in a card. Pledge cards are on the narthex cabinet.

**New Beginnings** will have its monthly luncheon on Monday 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](mailto: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  
Butch Nobles  
Susan Turner

#### **Class of 2020**

Katie Ginn  
Judy Haydel  
Sinclair Lundy  
Robert Lochhead

#### **Class of 2021**

Chad Edmonson  
Brandon Hayes  
Rhoda Pickett  
Beth Richmond  
Jackson Creel

#### **Youth Representative**

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

### **CHURCH STAFF**

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

Ray Robinson, Sexton