

Love



A child is born to us, a son is given to us... He will be named... Prince of Peace.

—ISAIAH 9:6

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *He Whom Shepherd Men Came Praising* Manz
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen Goemanne

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

Living God, with Elizabeth we wonder: How can this be, that the Lord has come? Fill us with the life of your Holy Spirit so that we may greet your promise of grace with hearts that leap for joy; through Jesus Christ, your word fulfilled. Amen.

Choral Introit – *Savior of the Nations, Come* Randall Harris

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements Gene Owens

Call to Worship – (*responsive*)

Let us magnify the Lord together!

Let us rejoice in God our Savior.

For a child will come from Bethlehem

to redeem the people of God.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 108 – *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (vs. 1-3)

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession – (*unison*)

Eternal God, we confess that we resist your holy realm. You look with favor on the poor while we treat the lowly with disdain. You scatter the plans of the proud while we aspire to power and privilege. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us what you desire, so that our hearts may leap with joy at the coming of our Savior; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (time for silent confession)

* Assurance of Pardon

- * The Congregation's Response: *Of the Father's Love Begotten (vs. 6)*
**Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost,
to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and
unwearied praises be. Honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Lighting of the fourth Advent Candle Brown Bag Bible Study group

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading – Luke 1:39-45 pew Bible pg. 831

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

Anthem – *The Yearning* Music: Craig Courtney, Words: Susan Boersma

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief
and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide
and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One,
the first-born of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own,
and by His death for a sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those
who wait the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased
and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.

Second Reading – Luke 1:46-55 pew Bible pg. 832

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

Sermon – *Our Song* 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 145 – *What Child is This*

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 – *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*

Biery

- * 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 133 – *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

- * Charge and Benediction

- * Postlude – *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Wood



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

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Lexie Aldridge, Ann Aldridge's daughter-in-law – blood disease, treatments not working

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

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

Judy Smith, Sharon Potin's sister –diabetic, Crohn's disease, and T.B.

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 Hugh Garraway who passed away Dec. 17.





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.



*You and your family are
invited to
join us for our
Christmas Eve Service
tomorrow at 6 p.m.
(nursery available)*



No Youth or Children activities today.
No Brown Bag Bible Study until Jan. 8.
Wednesday night suppers will resume Jan. 9.
No Choir this week. Rehearsals will resume Jan. 9.

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



All **Men of the Church** are invited to meet Thursday, Dec. 27, 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 \$334,500. 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.

Church office will be closed Dec. 25-26.



NEWSLETTER INFO for January is due Dec. 24.
Please email wes@WPCHattiesburg.com

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

CHURCH STAFF

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

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

Ray Robinson, Sexton