

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
THE LORD'S DAY OF WORSHIP — 06 December 2020

**Meditation: Preparing our Hearts for Worship**

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
for His steadfast love endures forever!  
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
whom He has redeemed from trouble  
and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.  
Some wandered in desert wastes,  
finding no way to a city to dwell in;  
hungry and thirsty,  
their soul fainted within them.  
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and He delivered them from their distress.  
He led them by a straight way  
till they reached a city to dwell in.  
Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,  
for His wondrous works to the children of man!  
For He satisfies the longing soul,  
and the hungry soul He fills with good things.  
Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
prisoners in affliction and in irons,  
for they had rebelled against the words of God,  
and spurned the counsel of the Most High.  
So He bowed their hearts down with hard labor;  
they fell down, with none to help.  
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and He delivered them from their distress.  
He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,  
and burst their bonds apart.  
Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,  
for His wondrous works to the children of man!*  
Psalm 107:1-15

## Welcome + Announcements

### Lighting of the Advent Candle - the Fearing Family

#### *The Bethlehem Candle*

#### Second Week of Advent: The Bethlehem Candle (purple candle)

The second candle is the Bethlehem candle whose light bears witness to the Savior who was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King. From Bethlehem, though little among the clans of Judah, the light has shined around the world to bring people of all nations out of darkness into His marvelous Light. King David had been born in Bethlehem a thousand years before Jesus, and it had become known as the City of David. God highly honored David by promising him that the Messiah would come from one of his descendants and from the city of Bethlehem. David's greater son, Jesus, is also a King who reigns over His Kingdom, a Kingdom that has no end.

## God Calls Us to Worship Him

Psalm 138:1-8

Leader: I give You thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing Your praise;  
I bow down toward Your holy temple  
and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love  
and Your faithfulness,  
for You have exalted above all things  
Your name and Your word.

People: On the day I called, You answered me;  
my strength of soul You increased.  
All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O LORD,  
for they have heard the words of Your mouth,

Leader: and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for great is the glory of the LORD.  
For though the LORD is high, He regards the lowly,  
but the haughty He knows from afar.

All: Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
You preserve my life;  
You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies,  
and Your right hand delivers me.  
The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me;  
Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of Your hands.

## Prayer of Invocation + Adoration

## Hymns of Praise + Adoration:

### What Child Is This

What Child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping  
This this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste haste to bring Him laud  
The Babe the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christian fear for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading  
Nails spear shall pierce Him through  
The cross be borne for me for you  
Hail hail the Word made flesh  
The Babe the Son of Mary

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh  
Come peasant king to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him  
Raise raise the song on high  
The Virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy joy for Christ is born  
The Babe the Son of Mary

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## O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

## God Graciously Renews Us in Christ

### Corporate Confession of Sin:

Leader: The Prophet proclaims, *the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick; who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind* (Jer. 17:9-10). Let us then confess our sins saying ...

People: Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short, that it cannot save, or His ear dull, that it cannot hear; but our iniquities have separated us from God and our sins have hidden His face from us so that he does not hear. Our mouths are filled with anger, our lips quick to speak lies and our eyes are filled with illicit and unnecessary desires. Our feet are swift to run to evil and our thoughts are the thoughts of iniquity. We have lost our way and are far from the way of peace. The roads we travel are crooked and desperate. We hope for light, but behold darkness. Lord, only You can intercede and bring health to us. Only Your strong arm can bring us salvation. May the redeemer of Zion save us.

In Jesus' name, we pray ... Silent Confession & Reflection

The Words of the Gospel for those who repent and believe:

Leader: *For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit* (Titus 3:3-5).

People: Amen!

## Hymn of Renewal:

### The Love of Christ is Rich and Free

The love of Christ is rich and free  
Fixed on His own eternally  
Nor earth, nor hell, can it remove  
Long as He lives, His own He'll love

His loving heart engaged to be  
Their everlasting Surety  
Twas love that took their cause in hand  
And love maintains it to the end

Love cannot from its post withdraw  
Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law  
Can turn the Surety's heart away  
He'll love His own to endless day

Love has redeemed His sheep with blood  
And love will bring them safe to God  
Love calls them all from death to life  
And love will finish all their strife

He loves through every changing scene  
Nor aught from Him can Zion wean  
Not all the wanderings of her heart  
Can make His love for her depart

Love cannot from its post withdraw  
Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law  
Can turn the Surety's heart away  
He'll love His own to endless day

At death, beyond the grave, He'll love  
In endless bliss, His own shall prove  
The blazing glory of that love  
Which never could from them remove

## God Calls Us to Make Offerings

### Tithes + Offerings:

The Offering of the Prayers of the People: Rev. Titus Bagby

Missionaries: Tim & Cheri Hoke: African Bible University, Uganda

Ben & Beth Hailey: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, College Station

People: 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.

### The Collection of our Tithes + Offerings

Although we won't be passing the offering plate today, we invite you to take this time to reflect on what you give to the Lord. Romans 12:1: *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

If you would like to participate with your giving in real time, visit our website to give online, [under the Giving + Membership tab](#). Or, set up text giving: text the number of an amount to 979-200-4600 and then enter your credit card information. Thank you for supporting the work and ministry of Westminster during this time.



## Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed  
Mary was that mother mild  
Jesus Christ her little child

He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all  
And His shelter was a stable  
And His cradle was a stall  
With the poor and meek and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy

## **Morning Lesson**

*Longing for the Love of God*

Isaiah 63:15-16

REV. TREE TRIOLO

## Hymn of Response:

### Once in Royal David's City

Jesus is our childhood's pattern  
Day by day like us He grew  
He was little, weak, and helpless  
Tears and smiles like us He knew  
And He feels for all our sadness  
And He shares in all our gladness

And our eyes at last shall see Him  
Through His own redeeming love  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is out Lord in heaven above  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He has gone

## ☞ God Feeds Us His Covenant Meal ☞

### The Lord's Supper:

#### A Word about Communion at Westminster

This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or The Eucharist, which means 'thanksgiving') is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat bread and drink wine. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to an evangelical church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ. We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from partaking until doing so.

## Preparation for Communion

**Words of Institution: I Corinthians 11:23-26**

**Invitation + Warning**

**Prayer + Setting Apart the Bread and Wine**

## Holy Communion

Westminster uses wine and grape juice in serving the Lord's Supper. You will find pre-sealed cups with bread and grape juice or bread and wine on the communion table. Each person may take the element according to his or her conscience.

We offer an alternate bread wafer for those with gluten and dairy allergies (also soy and egg free).

## Prayers for Those Not Communing:

Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who You are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of You that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that You promise. Amen. **Prayer of Searching for Truth**

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that You have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive You as my savior. Amen. **Prayer of Believing on Jesus**

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in You the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on You, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me and run with perseverance the race that You have set before me, looking only to You, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen. **Prayer of Struggling Against Sin**

## Communion Element: Taking Together: The Bread

# Immanuel

From the squalor of a borrowed stable  
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith  
To the anguish and the shame of scandal  
Came the Savior of the human race  
But the skies were filled  
With the praise of heav'n  
Shepherds listen as the angels tell  
Of the gift of God come down to man  
At the dawning of Immanuel

King of heaven now the friend of sinners  
Humble servant in the Father's hands  
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit  
Filled with mercy for the broken man  
Yes He walked my road and He felt my pain  
Joys and sorrows that I know so well  
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again  
I will follow my Immanuel

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal  
He was lifted on a cruel cross  
He was punished for a world's transgressions  
He was suffering to save the lost  
He fights for breath He fights for me  
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell  
And with a shout our souls are free  
Death defeated by Immanuel

Now He's standing in the place of honor  
Crowned with glory on the highest throne  
Interceding for His own beloved  
'Til His Father calls to bring them home  
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds  
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell  
But the bride will run to her Lover's arms  
Giving glory to Immanuel

## Taking Together: The Cup

### Confession of Faith: The Westminster Larger Catechism #35

Leader: How is the covenant of grace administered under the New Testament?

People: Under the New Testament, Christ is revealed as the substance of the same covenant of grace, which was and still is to be administered in the preaching of the word and in the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper. In these the spiritual power of grace and salvation is more fully and clearly developed for all nations.

### Benediction: II Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: *AMEN!*

### Doxology:

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.

### Passing of the Peace

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

GREET ONE ANOTHER WITH A SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP SUCH AS:  
"THE PEACE OF CHRIST BE WITH YOU" & "AND ALSO WITH YOU."