

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

THE LORD'S DAY OF WORSHIP — 05 December 2021

## The Sanctuary: A House of Prayer and Preparation

Welcome to Westminster! We offer a short time for meditation at 9:40, before the service starts. Join us to prepare your heart for worship, and we will begin our time of announcements and the call to worship at 9:45.

## Offering Stones

If you give financially to Westminster online or by mail, please take a stone as you enter the sanctuary. You may place your stone in the offering plate as it comes your way during the offertory as a physical token of your offering to the LORD. (This is also a great way to teach children and others about sacrificial giving.)

## Meditation: Preparing our Hearts for Worship (Isaiah 63:7-9)

*I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,  
the praises of the LORD,  
according to all that the LORD has granted us,  
and the great goodness to the house of Israel  
that He has granted them according to His compassion,  
according to the abundance of His steadfast love.  
For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely."  
And He became their Savior.  
In all their affliction He was afflicted,  
and the angel of His presence saved them;  
in His love and in His pity He redeemed them;  
He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.*

## Welcome + Announcements

# Lighting of the Advent Candle - the Wickersham 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 63:1-4)**

Leader: O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek You;  
my soul thirsts for You;  
my flesh faints for You,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

People: So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary,  
beholding Your power and glory.

Leader: Because Your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise You.

Unison: So I will bless You as long as I live;  
in Your name I will lift up my hands.

### **Prayer of Invocation + Adoration**

## Hymns of Praise + Adoration

### Hail to the Lord's Anointed (Songbook #55)

Music by Sandra McCracken, Words by James Montgomery (alt. McCracken) ©2012 Drink Your Tea Music (ASCAP) Admin. by Simpleville, INC; CCLI License # 1148879

### What Child is This (Hymn #213)

Public Domain

## God Graciously Renews Us in Christ

### Corporate Confession of Sin:

Leader: *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, (Jeremiah 17:9-10a). Therefore, let us confess our sins saying ...*

People: **Awesome and compassionate God, You have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved You. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive Your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.**

Silent Confession & Reflection

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

Leader: *Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53: 11-12).*

People: **Amen!**

## Hymn of Renewal:

### Immanuel (Songbook #73)

Stuart Townend © 1999 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved.  
CCLI License # 1148879

### Sacrament of Baptism

**Abigail Jordan Folia**  
**Charlotte Elizabeth Folia** (Covenant  
children of Robert & Maddie Folia)

### God Calls Us to Make Offerings

#### Tithes + Offerings:

The Offering of the Prayers of the People: Pat Wells  
Missionaries: John & Cathy Clow – Honduras  
Elder-Aid

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

While there are many ways to contribute financially to God's Kingdom, the church is the primary means by which that kingdom is established on earth. Thus, God calls us first and foremost to be faithful in the regular, ongoing support of one's local church body through tithes and offerings. If you haven't made tithing a practice, please consider adopting tithing or generous giving as a spiritual practice—that you might grow in faith and that together we might increase Westminster's capacity to be the body of Christ in Bryan & College Station for the world.

If you give to Westminster online or by mail, please take a stone as you enter the sanctuary. You may place your stone in the offering plate as it comes your way as a physical token of your offering to the LORD. (This is also a great way to teach children and others about sacrificial giving.) 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.

Offertory: Special Music

The Presentation of our Tithes + Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn of Preparation:

○ Little Town of Bethlehem (Songbook #118) (vv 1-2)

Public Domain

God Gives Us His Word

**Morning Lesson**

*A Thrill of Hope: Prophets*

Luke 1:1-25

REV. TITUS BAGBY

## Hymn of Response:

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Songbook #118) (vv3-4)

Public Domain

## 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-packaged cups of grape juice marked "J" on the outer row of each tray and pre-packaged wine marked "W" in the inner rows of the tray. 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). These cups are marked gluten free in the service trays.

### 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**

### Distribution of Communion Elements

#### O Come, All Ye Faithful (Hymn #208)

Public Domain | Music: Public Domain For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. CCLI License # 1148879

### Taking Together the Bread and Cup

## God Blesses Us and Sends Us Forth

### Benediction: Jude 24-25

Leader: *Now to Him Who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.*

People: **AMEN!**

### Gloria Patria

### 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."