

Westminster Presbyterian Church

THE LORD'S DAY OF WORSHIP — 08 December 2024

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 9:6-7)

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. ESV*

Welcome + Announcements

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 29:1-2, 10-11)

Call to Worship:

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

People: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

All: May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Prayer of Invocation + Adoration

Hymns of Praise + Adoration

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Hymn #194)

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God Graciously Renews Us in Christ

Corporate Confession of Sin:

Leader: *I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)*

Let us then confess our sins saying ...

All: Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken,
we confess that we fail to fulfill your will.
Though You have bound Yourself to us,
we refuse to bind ourselves to You.
In Jesus Christ You serve us freely,
but we misuse Your love and withhold ourselves from others.
We do not love You fully
or love one another as You command.
In Your mercy forgive and cleanse us.
Lead us once again to Your faithful love
and unite us to Christ,
the bread of life
and the vine from which we grow in grace.

Silent Confession & Reflection

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

Leader: *If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)*

In Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Amen!

Hymn of Renewal

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling (Songbook #529)

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God Calls Us to Make Offerings

Tithes + Offerings:

The Offering of the Prayers of the People: Mike McDonald

Missionaries: John and Kathy Clow (MTW – Mexico and Central America)

Ministry: Elder Aid

WPC Ministry: Share - Outreach Events [Summer in the Courtyard]

All: 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.

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Offertory

The Presentation of our Tithes + Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

God Gives us His Word

New Life: Nothing is Impossible with God = Samuel

I Samuel 1:1-20

REV. WADE COLEMAN

Hymn of Response:

He Shall Reign Forevermore (new)

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God Feeds Us His Covenant Meal

The Lord's Supper:

Preparation for Communion

Words of Institution: I Corinthians 11:23-26

Invitation + Warning

Prayer + Setting Apart the Bread and Wine

Holy Communion

Distribution of Communion Elements

Communion Hymn:

Immanuel (Songbook #73)

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Taking Together the Bread and Cup

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed¹

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 hell²; 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 church³, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

God Blesses Us and Sends Us Forth

Benediction:

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Leader: *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

All: AMEN!

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (Songbook #44a)

Passing of the Peace

Leader: 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."

¹ **The Apostles' Creed** is an ancient creed (or, statement of faith) of the Church and historically has been widely used and cherished by believers. Although it was not written by the Apostles, we believe it to be a concise summary of their teachings. It may have originated as a baptismal formula around the 2nd century, and developed into its present form by the 6th or 7th century.

² **Jesus' descent into hell** consisted in His priestly act of offering Himself up as a sacrifice for sins, undergoing the wrath of God on the Cross, and remaining under the power of death for three days before being vindicated in His resurrection.

³ The term "**catholic**" means "**universal**" and hence does not refer to one particular church, but to Christ's universal Church, wherever she may be found gathering in Christ's name.