

Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday of Christmas
December 30, 2018



Praise the Lord from heaven!

Praise God on the heights!

Praise God, all of you who are God's messengers!

Praise God, all of you who comprise God's heavenly forces!

Sun and moon, praise God!

All of you bright stars, praise God!

You highest heaven, praise God!

Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!

Let all of these praise the Lord's name

because God gave the command and they were created!

God set them in place always and forever.

God made a law that will not be broken.

Psalm 148:1-6

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, VA ♦ 434-293-3133 ♦ www.westminsterva.org

Welcome visitors, newcomers, and friends worshipping here today! Feel free to take a *Welcome to Westminster* pamphlet from the pew rack. We hope you will worship with us again, whenever possible. If you're interested in joining our church community, please speak to a pastor after worship or contact the church office, 434-293-3133.

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Opening Voluntary *Two Christmas Preludes:
The Sans Day Carol
In the Bleak Midwinter* Noel Rawsthorne

◆ Call to Worship

Praise God from the heavens!
Praise God from the skies above!
Praise God, angels and all the hosts of heaven!
Praise God, sun and moon, and shining stars!
Praise God, all creatures great and small,
Praise God, animals and birds, reptiles and fish!
Praise God, kings of the earth and people everywhere,
Praise God, young and old, wise and foolish, lost and found!
*Let all the earth bring praise to the Lord,
at whose word creation came into being.*
We gather to praise and worship our God!

◆ Hymn 27 **Gentle Mary Laid Her Child** *Tempus adest floridum*

Call to Confession

*In the midst of great joy and celebration, we sometimes find ourselves needing God's grace more.
We need to know that God loves us and offers us forgiveness. And so in this Christmas season,
we turn to God in prayer.*

Prayer of Confession

**In this Christmastide, as another year draws to a close, we come together before God and with one another, confessing the ways in which we have been caught up in the frenzied spirit of the holidays and turned away from your Spirit of peace.
We confess those times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires that we have neglected the voices of your children who cry out for justice.
We have turned away from hurting people and broken places in our world in need of healing. O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.**

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

**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!**

Assurance of Pardon

*Hear the good news of Christmas.
Today God reveals to us the wonders of divine love.*

**For unto us a Child is born;
unto us a Son is given.
His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
the Mighty God,
the Everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.**

◆ Congregational Response

**Let the nations shout and sing, glory to their Savior bring;
All below and all above sing your praise with joy and love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

◆ Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Announcements for the Church and Community

God's Word to Us

Psalter	Psalm 148	OT pg. 550
Gospel Lesson	Luke 2:41-52	NT pg. 55
Sermon	Wait. What?	Ken Henry

◆ Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in one God, who is Creator, maker of all we see and all we don't see.
who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!
We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God.
He is one with the Creator; the Word made flesh, our Messiah: Savior of all creation!
We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit, Breath of God moving among us,
who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ.**

◆ Hymn 36 **In the Bleak Midwinter** *Cranham*

Prayers of the Congregation and the Lord's Prayer

The Offering

Offertory

Expectans expectavi from the Christmas Oratorio

Camille Saint-Saëns

Patiently have I waited for the Lord. And lo! He heard my cry.

◆ Presentation of the Offering

No. 53

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; Come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.**

◆ Prayer of Dedication

**Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season.
May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us,
for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It

◆ The Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Christians, Awake!

Charles Callahan

Ushers

John Echeverri-Gent
(head), Zanne Macdonald,
Carl Matthews

Greeters

Billie Best
Lucy Burnette

Fellowship Team

Robert Walters
Janet Muse

Sound Engineer

John Kleinschmidt

Deacon of the Day

Lucy Burnette

Lay Reader

Allen Hench

Organist

Roger Authers

Soloist

Ellie Weikle



Hearing Enhancement – Westminster is equipped with personal hearing assistance devices for use by our worshippers. These are available in the narthex, to be checked out from the ushers before services. Our sanctuary is equipped with “T-coil” technology.

Large-Print versions of the *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, and our own *Hymnal Supplement* are available for use during the service. If you would like to use any of these large print copies, please ask an usher.

Children and Worship – Families are encouraged to worship together, whenever possible. We strive to include children who are first graders and older in our worship service. Children’s pew Bibles, children’s bulletins, and worship bags are available from the ushers. A “comfort room” is available downstairs for those with small children who might need a place to rest or play. A speaker in that room makes it possible to hear the service.