

Service for the Lord's Day

Epiphany

January 6, 2019



*When they had heard the king, they set out;
and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen
at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.*

*When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy..*

Matthew 2:9-10

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 here again, whenever possible. If you are interested in our church community, please speak to a pastor after worship or call the church office, 434 293 3133.

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Opening Voluntary

Étoile du soir

Louis Vierne

◆ Call to Worship

We gather wondering, "Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?"

We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

We gather asking, "Where will we find the Child of Christmas?"

We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

We gather wanting to know, "Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?"

We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

◆ Hymn 56

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

v. 1 all; v. 2 RR side; v. 3 FH side; v. 4 high voices; v. 5 low voices; v. 6 all

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of Glory,
you sent Jesus among us as the Light of the world to reveal your love for all people.
We have seen the glimmer of his star-light, but have followed other paths.
We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light.
We turn away from the poor;
we ignore cries for justice;
we do not strive for peace.
Forgive us.
In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin and pour out the gifts of your Spirit upon us,
that, restored and renewed, we may show forth your glory.

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

No. 44

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

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

Christ is in our midst! In Jesus, we are forgiven.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

◆ Congregational Response



All glo - ry be to God in heaven, who un - to us the Son has given!
With all the an - gel choir re - joice, and prai - ses sing with heart and voice.

◆ 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

Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

OT pg. 649

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

NT pg. 1

Sermon

A Beautiful and Imperfect Journey

Lynne Clements

◆ Affirmation of Faith

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom.

Like Christ, we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful.

No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world.

Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom.

Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom:

to serve as he has served us;

to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;

to walk by faith, not by sight, and to hope for what we have not seen.

from A Declaration of Faith

Hymn 62

Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love

Epiphany Song

Prayers of the Congregation

The Offering

Offertory *Saw You Never in the Twilight* Harold Friedell
 text by Cecil Frances Alexander
 Saw you never in the twilight, when the sun had left the skies,
 Up in heaven the clear stars shining through the gloom, like silver eyes?
 So of old the wise men, watching, saw a little stranger star,
 And they knew the King was given, and they followed it from far.
 Know ye not that lowly baby was the bright and morning Star?
 He who came to light the Gentiles, and the darkened isles afar?
 And we, too, may seek his cradle; there our hearts' best treasures bring;
 Love, and faith, and true devotion for our Savior, God, and King.

- ◆ Presentation of Bread and Cup 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.**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table
 The Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, HS No. 78
**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

... Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. HS No. 79

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

Communion Music *Bethlehem Down* Peter Warlock
 text by Bruce Blunt

“When He is King we will give Him the kings’ gifts, myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
 Beautiful robes,” said the young girl to Joseph fair with her firstborn on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight — winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
 Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in gravesheets, myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
 He that lies now in the safe arms of Mary sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming. Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
 Mary for love, and for lullaby music songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Prayer After Communion

**We give you thanks, O Lord, for once again you have filled us with good things—
 not just bread and wine, but your very self.
 Now may this glimpse of your kingdom sustain us,
 give us eyes to see you at work in every place,
 and strengthen us to be your body in the world.
 Make us your people and fill us with your light.
 In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

- ◆ Hymn HS 9 Jesus, the Light of the World *We'll Walk in the Light*

- ◆ The Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary *Finale* Christian Heinrich Rinck

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 copyright © 2018 Westminster/John Knox Press and Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion. Kimberly
 Bracken Long, ed. WJK: Louisville, KY, 2015. Words to the choral responses are reprinted by permission.

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 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.

Mission Statement

*Sustained by grace, we are called to serve Christ,
 share God’s love, and work for justice in a complex world.*

Worship

Liturgist

Ken Henry

Ushers

Alyce Outlaw (head), Jim
Cauthen, Debbie Wolfe,
Jim Wolfe

Greeters

James Moak, Jeannie Miller

Fellowship Team

Barb Mann
Lucy Burnette

Sound Engineer

Barb Mann

Deacon of the Day

Kathy Redding

Communion Preparers

Liza Millett, Leanna and
Lacy Whitmore

Elders Serving Communion

Steve Sherman
Heather Warren

Lay Reader

Carolyn Kelly

Staff

Ken Henry, *Pastor*

khenry@westminsterva.org

Lynne Clements,

Associate Pastor

Megan Sharp

Director of Fine Arts

Jonathan Schakel, *Organist*

Brittany Caine-Conley,

Interim Dir. of Univ. Mission

Sanford Wilcox,

Church Administrator

Kate Brinkley,

Office Manager

Steve Brown,

Finance Administrator

Tom Mullen, *Sexton*

Alonzo Williams,

Assistant Sexton



WESTMINSTER EVENTS

The Tuesday Evening Study Group will meet in the lower lounge at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, at 7:30 p.m. Beth Hochstetler will lead the group in discussing Chapter 4 in the study book, *God's Promise: I Am with You*. Please bring bar soap for the Emergency Food Network. If you need more information or a ride, please call Barbara Deaver, 973-3819.

Racial Justice Opportunities abound in the New Year! See the antiracism resources page (an outgrowth of the class on Waking Up White): <http://bit.ly/WPCAntiracism>. Of particular (and urgent) interest is the retreat offered by the Presbytery of the James in Richmond, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, January 11-12. You'll find links to more information on the resources page.

Souper Bowl of Caring begins next week! Bring your cans and non-perishable items to the Fellowship Hall until February 3. 100% of our collection helps families in our community. Together, let's tackle hunger!

Christian Education

Join us on Sunday mornings for a class that can enrich your perspective and experience at Westminster.

Next Sunday, January 13, Rev. Jill Duffield, Editor of The Presbyterian Outlook will lead a class addressing the question, "Is the church dying or drowning in abundance?" The class will explore the juxtaposition of a declining mainline church and the "end of white Christian America" with the myriad gifts found in our communities of faith. Library

Coming Up

Sunday, January 6

11 a.m., Worship with
Communion
Noon, Fellowship Hour

Tuesday, January 8

10:30 a.m., Worship Comm.,
lounge
4 p.m., Admin. Comm., lounge
6 p.m., Tues. Evening Study
Group, lower lounge

Thursday, January 10

4 p.m., Choristers Rehearsal,
choir room
7 p.m., Adult Choir Rehearsal,
choir room

Sunday, January 13

11 a.m., Worship
Noon, Fellowship Hour
12:15 p.m., Session Meeting,
library
12:15 p.m., Singers Rehearsal,
choir room

*The flowers today are given by Liza Millett
in memory of Frederick B. Millett.*