

Service for the Lord's Day

Baptism of the Lord
January 13, 2019



*As the people were filled with expectation,
and all were questioning in their hearts
concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,
John answered all of them by saying,
“I baptize you with water; but one
who is more powerful than I is coming;
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire...”*

Luke 2:15-16

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 *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* Dieterich Buxtehude

◆ Call to Worship

All creation proclaims the mysterious love of God.

God's love permeates even the deepest darkness.

The light of God shines on us with new hope.

We are called to be people of compassion and justice.

Open our hearts, O Lord, to see your light and live in your hope.

Prepare us for service to all your people and to this world.

Come. Let us worship God.

◆ Hymn HS 26

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

In Babilone

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Sky-shattering God,

we confess that we have not always paid attention to the baptism of Jesus,

but rather have viewed it as a nice story which initiates Jesus' ministry.

We have not always seen ourselves as one of those standing in line waiting to be baptized, waiting to be empowered to bring about God's reign on earth.

Yet you have called us by name, knowing each of us, and loving us.

We admit that we have behaved in unloving ways

which do not promote your love and peace in the world.

Forgive us for our blindness. Turn us around.

Help us to be people who not only recognize the light,

but who are willing to live in that light, bringing help to others in your name.

Heal, restore, and bless us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our newborn Savior.

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

HS No. 74

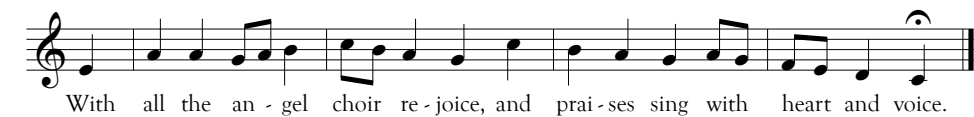
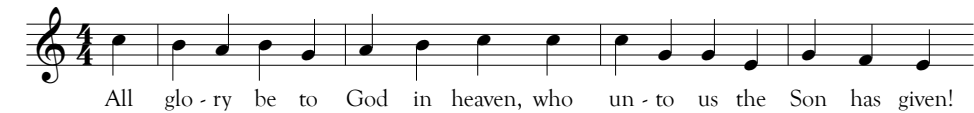
Assurance of Pardon

People of God, you are known and loved by the Creator. You are marked as God's chosen ones to bring hope and peace to others. Be at peace and live in hope.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven,

Thanks be to God. Amen.

◆ Congregational Response



◆ Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Announcements for the Church and Community

Time for Children and Youth

God's Word to Us

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-7

OT pg. 631

Anthem

O Breath of Life

arr. Alan Bullard

text by Bessie Porter Head

O Breath of life, come sweeping through us, revive your church with life and power;

O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us, and fit your church to meet this hour.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us, till humbly we confess our need;

Then in your tenderness remake us, revive, restore; for this we plead.

O Breath of love, come breathe within us, renewing thought and will and heart;

Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us, revive your church in every part!

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

NT pg. 56

Sermon

Holy Spirit Baptism

Jill Duffield

◆ Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life,

who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us,

protecting, nurturing and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby,

embodying both love and the need for love,

and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth,
 always drawing us on to be born again,
 encouraging and nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.
 We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ.
 Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness
 so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.
 And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God,
 a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace.
 Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.

Written by Nathan Nettleton, 1999, incorporating some lines from "Midwife of our Lives," by Kathy Galloway, published in Kathy Galloway (ed.) The Pattern of Our Days, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 1996, p.138.

- ◆ Hymn 323 **Loving Spirit** *Omni Die*

Prayers of the Congregation and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16

The Offering

Offertory *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* Dirck Janszoon Sweelinck
 O Morning Star, how fair and bright! Thou beamest forth in truth and light!
 O Sovereign meek and lowly! Thou root of Jesse, David's Son,
 My Lord and Savior, Thou hast won my heart to serve Thee solely!
 Thou art holy, fair and glorious, all-victorious, rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.

Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds of music ring
 In God's high praises blended. Christ will be with me all the way,
 Today, tomorrow, every day till traveling days be ended.
 What bliss is this! He that liveth to me giveth life forever, nothing me from him can sever..

- ◆ Presentation of the Offering No. 591
 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Christ, all people here below;
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
 Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

- ◆ Prayer of Dedication

- ◆ Hymn HS 44 **I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light** *Houston*

- ◆ The Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary *Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam* J. S. Bach

- ◆ Please stand, if you are able.

*The flowers today are given by Dick Haines
 in loving memory of Charity Haines.*

Christian Education

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

Join us next Sunday, January 20 at 9:30 a.m.:

**Old Testament from Scratch - Introduction:
 The Bible**, Lynne Clements, Library

Louise Penny Book Studies, Betsy Donohoe,
 Room 209

Contemporary Theology, Room 207

Faith and Family, Lounge

Opening Doors, Room 208

Weekday Education Event

“Healing the Wounds of Privilege” is a 90-minute webinar to be aired by *Presbyterian Outlook* this Tuesday, January 15. According to presenter Amy Julia Becker, privilege of all kinds is a “social problem that has spiritual roots, and Christians have an opportunity to apply the spiritual tools of our faith tradition to bring a message and actions of healing and hope in a world often overcome by fear and hurt.” If this catches your imagination, join Carolyn Brown in the Lounge this Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Participants in Worship

Liturgists

Lynne Clements
 Ken Henry

Greeters

Dana Eastman
 Billie Best

Ushers

David Martin (head)
 Gene Foreman,
 Allison Saunier,
 Eleanor & Sophia Saunier

Fellowship Team

Opening Doors Class

Sound Engineer

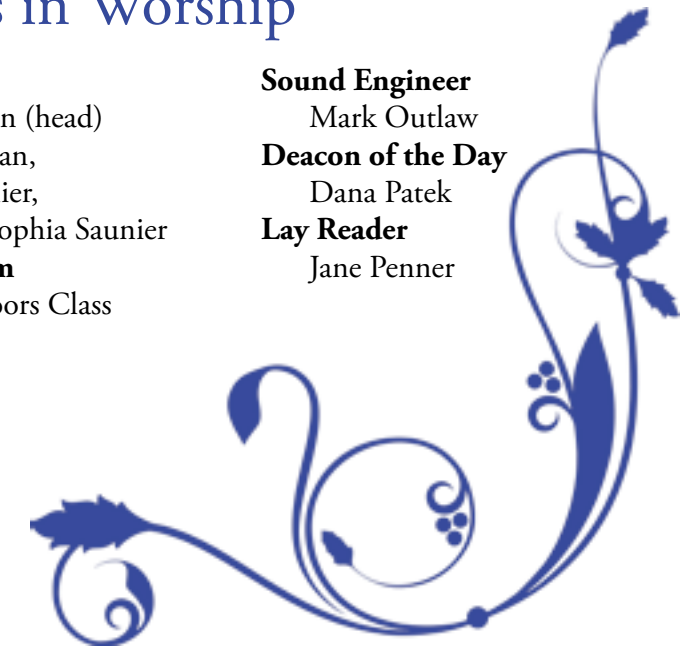
Mark Outlaw

Deacon of the Day

Dana Patek

Lay Reader

Jane Penner



Coming Up

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

Tuesday, January 15

4 p.m., Rugby Entrance Comm., lounge
 7:30 p.m., Organ Concert Series Comm., lounge

Wednesday, January 16

1:30 p.m., Green Team, lounge

Thursday, January 10

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

Sunday, January 20

11 a.m., Worship with Reception of New Members
 12:15 p.m., Annual Meeting, followed by Congregational Lunch and welcoming new members

Staff

Ken Henry, *Pastor*

khenry@westminsterva.org

Lynne Clements, *Associate Pastor*

lclements@westminsterva.org

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry — Join us on Monday, January 21, from 6:30 to 7 p.m., in the lower lounge for a time of sharing, praying and knitting/crocheting. Perhaps this is one of your New Year's resolutions...we hope you will be part of this special ministry. Call Beth Hochstetler, 978-1674, if you have any questions.

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>.

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!

PACEM — This year Westminster will host the PACEM (People and Congregations Engaging in Ministry) men's homeless shelter, March 9-23, and, based on previous years, we will likely host 40-50 guests each night in Fellowship Hall. Cold winter nights are a life-threatening challenge to our homeless population, and this ministry is one of the best ways that we can fulfill our Christian commitment to love all our neighbors. If you haven't joined us as a volunteer in the past, please consider how you can help. It's a pleasure to get to know our guests and share time with them. To learn more, visit <http://bit.ly/PACEM2019>.

Hanah Clark, a friend of Westminster, is spending four weeks in her hometown of Marietta, Ohio, away from her two-month-old son and her mother, who is caring for the baby in Hanah's absence. Hanah is very lonely and has little support. She would greatly appreciate a cheerful, loving card or short letter. Her address is Mrs. Hanah Elizabeth Clark, c/o 101 West View Drive, Marietta, OH 45750. Questions may be referred to David Strider, 434-996-0497.

