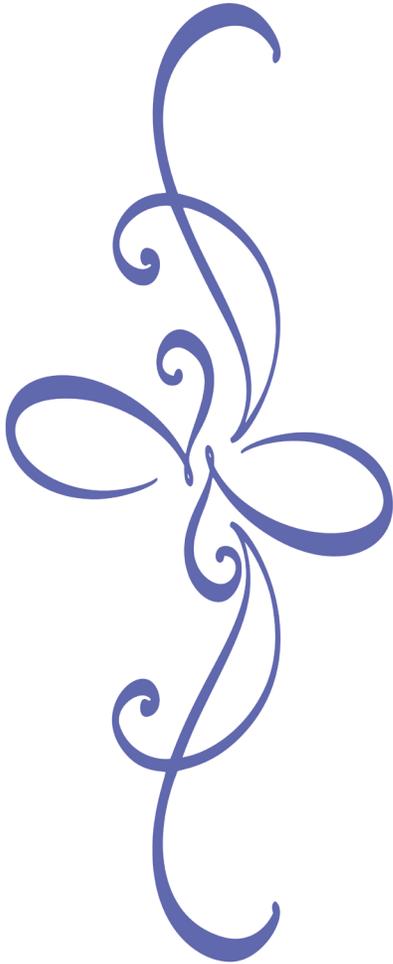


Service for the Lord's Day

Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2020



*It is appalling that the
most segregated hour of Christian America
is 11 o'clock on Sunday morning.*

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1963

*W*elcome visitors, newcomers, and friends worshipping with us 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

Christ, Our Lord, to Jordan Came

J. S. Bach

◆ Call to Worship

*Come, worship the Lord
in the beauty of holiness:*

**holiness present in the silent pulse
of the earth beneath us;**

*holiness present in the beating
of the sun and stars.*

**holiness present in the chorus of life,
breathing together, even here in this room.**

God of creation,

**open us to the beauty in and around us
in this hour of worship.**

◆ Hymn HS 53

O Day of Rest and Gladness

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

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

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy, have mercy.**

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

All glo - ry be to God in heaven, who un - to us the Son has given!
 With all the an - gel choir re - jice, 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

Gospel	Matthew 3:13-17	NT pg. 2
Old Testament	Psalm 1	OT pg. 463
Sermon	The Gospel Tree	Rev. Dr. Alvin Edwards

◆ 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.**

continued

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.

- ◆ Hymn 308 **O God in Whom All Life Begins** *Noel*
 Prayers of the Congregation and the Lord's Prayer hymnal, p. 35
 The Offering
 Offertory *The Waters of Life* James Biery
 The voice of God calls us above the waters, text: ancient Christian hymn
 The glory of the Son shines on us,
 The love of the Spirit fills us with life.
- ◆ Presentation of the Offering HS 81
 Praise God, the Source of life and birth;
 Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
 Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame:
 All glory, honor to God's name.
- ◆ Prayer of Dedication
- ◆ Hymn HS 9 **Jesus, the Light of the World** *We'll Walk in the Light*
- ◆ The Charge and Benediction
 Closing Voluntary *Allegro non troppo* William Mathias
- ◆ Please stand, as you are able.

The flowers today are given by Dick Haines in loving memory
 of Charity Haines and her son, Ken Gorrell.

Participants in Worship

Liturgists
 Lynne Clements
 Dorothy Piatt
Deacon of the Day
 Debby Garth

Ushers
 David Garth
 Jean Minehart
 Ralph Minehart
Lay Reader
 Mike Moore

Sound Engineer
 Elton Oliver
Fellowship Team
 Anne Andrews
 Ellen Hench
 Sally Telford

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 bulletin, *Glory to God* 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.

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



Support Our Flower Ministry!

Each Sunday we arrive at Westminster with certain expectations that everything will be ready for worship as it always has been. The pews will be tidy, the choir ready to sing, the communion prepared if it’s the first Sunday of the month, and that there will be flowers on the shelves at the front of the sanctuary. Unfortunately, because the flowers are not funded through the church budget but are donated by individuals within the congregation each week, we have reached a point at which we will see an increasing number of Sundays without any flowers in the sanctuary.

The Worship Committee, with the approval of the Session, would like to create a contingency fund that would be used to cover the cost of flowers for any unfunded Sunday. The weekly cost is \$80 for two arrangements. (The flowers can either be taken home by the donors or are left for the deacons to deliver to a parishioner in need.)

Donations in any amount would be gratefully accepted and much appreciated. These funds would help keep this ministry vital and vibrant. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check to the church office. Simply designate on the memo line that it is for the Contingency Flower Fund. If you have any questions or comments, contact me, ecm259@hotmail.com.

Liza Millett
Worship Committee



Coming Up

Sunday, January 12

11 a.m. Worship, with Dr. Alvin Edwards

9:30 a.m. Classes for Children, Youth, and Adults

12:15 p.m. Fellowship Hour
Singers rehearsal, choir room

12:30 p.m. Session Meeting, library

Tuesday, January 14

7 p.m. Tuesday Evening Study Group, lower lounge

Thursday, January 15

4 p.m. Choristers rehearsal, choir room

7 p.m. Adult choir rehearsal, choir room

Sunday, January 19

11 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Classes for Children, Youth, and Adults

12:15 p.m. Fellowship Hour
Singers rehearsal, choir room

Westminster Staff

Ken Henry, *Pastor*

khenry@westminsterva.org

Lynne Clements, *Associate Pastor*

lclements@westminsterva.org

Dorothy Piatt

Assoc. Pastor for Social Justice and University Mission

dpiatt@westminsterva.org

Megan Sharp

Director of Fine Arts

Jonathan Schakel

Organist

Sanford Wilcox

Church Administrator

Kate Brinkley

Office Manager

Steve Brown

Finance Administrator

Tom Mullen

Sexton

Alonzo Williams

Assistant Sexton

WESTMINSTER NEWS & EVENTS

We welcome the **Rev. Dr. Alvin Edwards** to our pulpit today. Pastor Edwards is preaching at Westminster today while Pastor Ken Henry preaches at Dr. Edwards' church, Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church. Dr. Edwards also founded The Charlottesville Clergy Collective in response to the shooting at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. The collective gathers regularly to discuss and address the challenge of race relations in the Charlottesville and Albemarle region of Virginia.

The Tuesday Evening Study Group will meet in the lower lounge at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14. If you need more information about TESHG or a ride to the gathering, please contact Lucy Burnette, lucybrntt@gmail.com.

Westminster will host the **PACEM men's shelter**, March 7-21. This will be our 15th year of hosting PACEM! If you have been looking for opportunities to serve your neighbors, join our ranks. Or if you are interested in serving as a volunteer in March, watch this space.

Souper Bowl of Caring begins next week! Beginning next Sunday, January 19, the youth of Westminster begin their annual canned food drive to benefit the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. And once again, they are challenging the congregation to see who can bring in the most donations. Bring your cans and non-perishable items to fellowship hall through February 2. Every single contribution helps families in our community. Together, let's tackle hunger!

All Westminster Church members are asked to attend **the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 26**, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship. Everyone is also welcome to a lunch in fellowship hall following the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate and elect trustees, receive annual reports, and review the 2019/2020 budgets. Please take this opportunity to participate fully in the life of the church.

If you would like to make a **donation** of bread, fruit, cheese and crackers for the **Annual Congregational Meeting** luncheon on Sunday, January 26, please contact Irene Townsend, 713-819-2932.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

January 19 at 9:30 a.m.

The Survival Value of Caring, Library

Genesis: A Living Conversation, Room 209

Faith and Family, Lounge

Opening Doors, Room 208

Pick up an Adult Education brochure and calendar in the narthex or gathering place to find a complete list of Adult Christian Education offerings this winter and early spring.