

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS ...

When the prelude begins let us quietly prepare for the Worship of God.

PRELUDE

(9:00) Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her Georg Böhm
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

(11:00) When Christ Was Born Reginald Jacques
trans. Peter Van Eenam

Handbell Choir

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

(9:00) Andy and Tricia Cheadle
(11:00) Scott, Angela, Ethan and Eric Partelow

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come once more, with eager longing, to receive the promises of God.
People: Out of the desert places of our lives, we gather with joy and gladness.
Leader: Come, believers and seekers and skeptics, to hear the story of God's greatest gift.
People: We celebrate the transforming love of God for all creation, through the one called Emmanuel, God with us.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 21 (blue hymnal) All My Heart Today Rejoices *Warum sollt' ich*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious God, we come before you this Advent season stressed and worried. Much of our disquiet is a reflection of the world around us, but most is a reflection of our hearts. We do not like the word "sin," but nothing better describes who and what we are before You. You know the imperfections of our lives in what we do and what we fail to do. Yet, you still come to us. With grace and forgiveness you come—to break the yoke that burdens us, to bestow peace upon us, to bring light to our darkness and to fill the earth with joy. Emmanuel, God with us, be with us as we confess our sin and our need of salvation. Amen.

*KYRIE ELEISON Healey Willan

(Congregation singing—music is found on the inside cover of the red hymnal)

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

(First part: women; second: men; third: all)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE Refrain from "Angels We Have Heard on High" Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)

Linda Judge-McRae

Children age 4 through 3rd grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children's Worship. A nursery is available during the entire service for infants through age 3.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

"Christmas Presence"

Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

*HYMN NO. 22 (blue hymnal) Angels, from the Realms of Glory *Regent Square*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

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 hell; 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 church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ... The Lord's Prayer

(During the Prayers of the People there will be a time of silence. You are invited to use this time for personal reflection, confession, thanksgiving, and prayer.)

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle. If you would like to receive our newsletter or more information about the church, include your address, phone number and email address. As many of us contribute electronically or by a check in the mail, your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(9:00) When Christ Was Born Reginald Jacques

(11:00) Lux Aurumque Eric Whitacre
Lux, calida gravisque pura velut aurum et canunt angeli molliter modo natum.

Light, warm and heavy as pure gold and the angels sing softly to the new-born baby.
Edward Esch
trans. Charles Anthony Silvestri

Meredith Mackay, Soprano
Chancel Choir

***AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology No. 591 (blue hymnal) *Tallis' Canon*
(Sung to the tune of Hymn No. 542 (blue hymnal))

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

***HYMN NO. 29** (blue hymnal) (11:00) Go, Tell It on the Mountain *Go Tell It*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** People, Look East French folk melody

***POSTLUDE** Partita XI (from the chorale partita on *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele*) Georg Böhm
O My Soul, Be Glad and Joyful

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP here today.

CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER: Janice Rawe

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK are Pam Potocik and Don Byerly

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES (11:00): Joseph Hutzenbiler, Max Yates

GREETERS (11:00): Eric and Amy Theiss

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

(9:00) Childcare through age 5

(11:00) Cameron Sears, Nancy Duckles, Delaney and Aiden Sears

LITURGIST: (11:00) Jean Bonnyman

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

(9:00) Handbell Choir

(11:00) Chancel and Handbell Choirs

SENIOR USHER: Tim Ryan

USHERS:

(9:00) Bill Wiesehuegel, David Woodall

(11:00) Rob McKeehan, Danielle Mathews, Matt Mathews, Trish Groves, Buz Johnson

THE FLOWER DEDICATION CHART FOR 2011 is posted in the Schilling Gallery. Please stop by and sign up for your flower dedications for next year. The cost is \$60, payable on the date of your dedication.

ADVENT FELLOWSHIP will be held in the Schilling Gallery immediately after the 11 a.m. worship service.

ERIC WHITACRE is quickly gaining recognition among choral directors and singers as one of this country's finest young composers. His style is instantly inviting, often marked by clusters of pitches that seem to shimmer and that captivate the ear. A graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, he studied with Pulitzer Prize winner John Corigliano, a composer heard in Knoxville Symphony Orchestra concerts. This morning's motet is a setting of Edward Esch's poem (Whitacre describes it as having a "genuine, elegant simplicity"), originally in English, but subsequently translated to Latin! Undoubtedly the purity of the Latin vowels works better with the chord structures and the ethereal, timeless nature of the writing.

Christmas Caroling!!

Join us today at 4:00 for our annual Westminster Family Christmas Caroling!! Everyone is invited! We'll meet at the church, practice our tunes (but not too much!), and divide into groups. Then we'll "spread the love" all over town when we carol for our friends who need a lift at Christmas time. (We may even do some phone caroling for our out-of-town friends and families that need our own brand of Westminster cheer.) After our songfest, we'll return to WPC for some hot cocoa and cookies!

THE YOUTH GROUPS (WAMS and SHOW) will have a Christmas Party after the caroling from 6-7:30. Bring a fun, funny, or silly gift to play "Sneaky Santa" (\$5-10 or less- or "regift" a white elephant!). We'll be dining on Jet's Pizza. Everyone who can, bring a dessert or fruit or veggie to share. (Does plum pudding go with pizza?!!) We'll have lots of fun, and start planning for our Youth Groups fabulous future! See you there!!!

CDS OF THE SONGS & CAROLS CONCERT that was performed at Westminster on November 30th are available in the church office. If you missed the concert and would like to have a CD, stop by the office and we can exchange gifts! For a \$10 gift of water to Living Waters for the World, you will receive a gift of music. What a deal! There are more CDs coming, as needed so make your plans today. You can call the office to reserve extra copies for friends' gifts too. If you were at the concert, you know how the music was, and you can now have a recording of the music for your holidays. Same deal as above, a \$10 gift will get you the CD.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT for next year's LeConte hike! Please send your \$50 deposit to the church office, noting "LeConte reservation" on your check. The hike will take place July 23, 2011.

FOYER GROUPS SHUFFLE in January. It is a great way to make new friends or renew old friendships at Westminster. New groups will be forming in January. Please call Sue Murrian (524-5638) or email her (suebobintn@aol.com) if you would like to join a group, drop out for a while, or with questions or requests.

THE 2010 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING is collected throughout the Advent season. Fifty percent of your gift goes to the Board of Pensions to support retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian related racial and ethnic education through the General Assembly Council. Please see the bulletin insert for more information about the offering and to read a story about a minister who personally benefitted from this offering.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL (www.heifer.org) uses a holistic approach in working toward the mission of ending world hunger and poverty and caring for the earth. Gift cards are available in the church office during the Advent season. Give the gift that keeps on giving!

KNOXVILLE'S NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY is December 21. This first day of winter and the longest night of the year was chosen to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness, and to remember our homeless friends who died in Knoxville in 2010. A candle light walk will begin at 6:00 p.m. at 518 Broadway (VMC building) and progress to St. John's Lutheran Church at 544 Broadway. Inside this church there will be a brief service and reading of the names of those who died. A candle will be lit and a chime sounded for each name. The service will be conducted entirely by our homeless or formerly homeless friends. The public is invited.

WPC Adult Sunday School Classes for Winter 2011

Faith Topics (McKinnon Room)

Losses of Our Lives, by Dr. Nancy Copeland-Payton

"Based on her experience as a physician, hospital chaplain, and pastor, Dr. Nancy Copeland-Payton invites us to awaken to the losses of our lives – big and small – and embrace the wisdom each has to teach us about the deep mystery of God and the nature of living." In this 8 week course we will look at losses that come our way: leaving the womb as a child, leaving home, losses of loved ones, and many other losses, big and small, that are part of the human condition. Anne Dungan and Tim Crais will be the facilitators for the class and books may be purchased for \$10 at the church office starting on December 20.

Special Topics (Library)

What Kids Really Want That Money Can't Buy: Tips for Parenting in a Commercial World by Betsy Taylor. "At a time when many parents worry that they are raising the 'I want' generation, this book offers a helping hand - and a remarkable dose of the truth. Drawing on the touching, honest words of thousands of children who were asked 'What do you want that money can't buy?' it helps parents peer into their kids' hearts, hear what really means the most to them, and learn to help them get it. Author Betsy Taylor shows us ways to reinstall a love of life's simple pleasures, teach the difference between friendships and popularity, build family rituals, appreciate nature, and find a quiet time together. This must needed book is a dynamic, real-world guide to reshaping our busy lives and giving our children more joy with less stuff - and plenty of what truly matters most." Linda Judge-McRae will be the facilitator for the class and the books will cost \$10 and will be available in the church office starting on December 20.

Bible Experience (Prayer Room)

Corinthians

We will look at St. Paul's advice to a globalized congregation in the ancient city of Corinth. Ellen Anderson and Scott Brunger will lead the class. All are welcome. Come join us.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 19.....	Christmas Breakfast - 10 a.m.
December 19.....	Christmas Caroling - 4 p.m.
December 24.....	Christmas Eve Services - 5 and 11 p.m.
December 26.....	Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
December 27-30.....	Church offices closed for the holiday
December 31.....	Church office open from 9 to 1 p.m.
January 2.....	Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.