



The Order of Worship December 14, 2025
9:00 and 11:00AM

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRELUDE God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen arr. Matthew Prinz
CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)** Michael Yates

One: Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."
All: Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"
 One: Mary said, "How can this be?"
All: We often say, "But God, I am afraid."
 One: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.
All: So may we trust the Inviter.
 One: May we heed God's invitation.
All: May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.
 One: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

***HYMN NO. 93** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO
***CALL TO CONFESSION**
***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)**

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call.
You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.
Instead of responding with a resounding "yes,"
we often hide our face.
We dig our heels in.
We look for someone else to volunteer.
Spark courage in us.
Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.
Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone.
You invite us forward.
With baby steps we hope,
we pray, Amen.

***RESPONSE**

Kyrie Eleison St. James Advent Service
arr. Richard Shephard

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (Responsive)**

One: Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

All: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.
May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call.
Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**
***RESPONSE** Prepare the Way of the Lord (*sing twice*) Jacques Berthier

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00) Jacqueline Whitemore
LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY (9:00) Lucy and Doug Tyler
(11:00) Gloria Borum and Mary Jo Mann
Isaiah 11:1-6
Children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to go downstairs for Children's Church.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7
SERMON "The Advent Crowd" Rev. Dr. Richard Coble
***HYMN NO. 104** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison)**

We have seen the valley.
We have seen a sky without stars.

We have seen the longest night,
and still we believe.
We believe in a with-us God.
We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news is louder than fear.
We believe this good news is for all people.
So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other.
We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy.
We will proclaim:
Unto us, love is born.
We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.
So still, we believe.
Amen.

THE OFFERING

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle. Your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hope and Peace: Advent Reflection Cathy Moglebust
***AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

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**
***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.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

***HYMN NO. 88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL
Stanzas 1, 2, 6, and 7

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** Toccata on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Andrew Carter

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS
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*Please stand in Body or Spirit
 **All liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Mary Jo Mann and Ken Hughes
CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER: CARE Team
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS/ HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

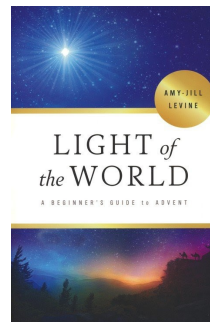
ACOLYTES: (11:00) Jo Niceley and Marguerite MacDonald
GREETERS: (11:00) Gloria Borum and Mary Jo Mann
LITURGIST: Michael Yates
MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Handbell Choir
SHEPHERD’S TEAM: David Owens
SENIOR USHER: Melissa Everett
USHERS: (9:00) Jack Carley, Reed Ellis
 (11:00) Judy Jorden, Janet Drumm, Melissa Everett, Barbara Froula, Buz Johnson

THE BIRTH CANDLE is lit today in celebration of Everett Jeffrey Hughes born to Leah and Tyler Hughes on November 26. Proud grandparents are William and Darlen Milam.

PRAYER LIST (Please keep the following names in your prayers this week)
 Juanita Campbell, Sonja Jones, Judy and Joseph Moon, Lalla Phillips, Kitty Rasa, Doris Solomon, Vicki Chapman, Barbara McNew, Breeze Blankenship, Lucinda Albiston, Cile Mathews, Betty Collins, Joann Cowan (the mother in law of Tom Byerley Jr. and mother to Jennifer), JJ Duenas (Leslie Hull’s grandson), Dean Aldridge (Allison Aldridge’s father), Debbie Pio (the mother of one of Jacqui Whittlemore’s nurses) and her daughter, Gabby Pio Norman McRae (for the loss of his mother), Pat Guthrie.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00am

- 1) Adult Bible Study is reading the Book of Acts. (Prayer Room)
- 2) Advent Sunday School Class in the McKinnon Room, continues this week. The class is based on Dr. Amy-Jill Levine’s book, *Light of the World*. Even if this your millionth Advent, there is always more to learn. Gradye Parsons is the class facilitator.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING The Christmas Joy Offering opens doors of opportunity for the leaders who are shaped and supported through our gifts - doors that lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our gifts open doors that lead to relief for church workers and their families when emergency needs arise. You will find offertory envelopes in the Narthex for cash donations. If you donate by check, please note “Joy Offering” on memo the line. Thank you!!

STEWARDSHIP As we continue with Stewardship season, thanks to all of who have pledged your financial support for 2026. So far we have had 153 pledges from our 265 households with a total of \$954,446. The Financial goal is \$1,180,800. Together, we can reach our goal. We appreciate all of you & your many gifts!



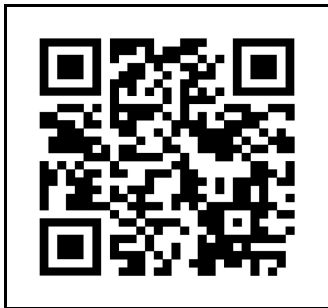
CHILDREN’S OFFERINGS AT WESTMINSTER

During 10:00 Hour - Nursery available for children ages 0-3 years old
 Sunday School for Preschool through 5th grade
 During 11:00 Hour - Nursery available for children 0-3 years old
 Children’s Church for children Preschool through 5th grade
Children will be walked to Children’s Church classes following the Time with Children during the 11:00 worship service

Advent Opportunities

- December 14 - Christmas Youth Drama, 6:00pm
- December 21 - Christmas Breakfast 10:00am (during Sunday school hour)
- December 21 - Service of Lessons and Carols combined service at 11:00am
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Services 5:00 & 8:00pm. Prelude by Choirs and String Quartet begins at 7:30pm.
- December 28 - 11:00am Service only

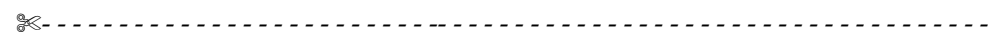
CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST Please mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Breakfast Sunday, December 21 at 10:00am. Our big potluck breakfast will be served in the Schilling Gallery before the 11:00 worship service. **We need your help!** Please sign up in the Schilling Gallery or use this QR code.



WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP - CHRISTMAS GATHERING

If you live in the 37909 zip code area, you are invited to attend the upcoming Christmas Gathering for our West Hills neighborhood group. We will meet on Friday, December 19, 2025 from 5-7:00pm at the Buckingham Clubhouse, 7303 Manderly Way. Please bring a finger-type appetizer to share. Drinks and paper products will be provided! Hope you can come!

WEST VIEW ELEMENTARY is looking for soccer balls and basketballs. If you have any laying around in your garage bring them into the church office to donate to West View!



ADVENT FLORAL DONATIONS are being accepted until December 18. There is no set amount for each dedication. A list of donations will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins as well as the Abbey on January 7. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the office. I would like to contribute to the Flower Guild for Advent: \$_____

In memory of/honor of (circle one):

 Given by:

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where Faith and Life Connect"
 6500 Northshore Drive, Knoxville TN 37919
 Telephone (865) 584-3957 Fax (865) 584-8840
 E-mail office@wpcknox.org
 www.wpcknox.org
 Rev. Dr. Richard Coble, Pastor/Head of Staff
 Rev. Gradye Parsons, Parish Associate
 Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus
 Amanda Fox, Interim Youth Director
 Dr. Edie Johnson, Music Director/Organist
 Jennifer Manrod, Assistant Children’s Director

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Sunday, December 14**
 9:00am - Sanctuary Worship
 10:00am - Sunday School
 10:00am - Handbell Choir Breakfast - LKH
 11:00am - Sanctuary Worship
 3:00pm - Play Rehearsal
 5:00 pm - *Abbey* deadline
 6:00pm - Christmas Drama
Monday, December 15
 4:30pm - Brass Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 16
 10:00am - Staff Meeting
 11:00am - Program Staff
Wednesday, December 17
 4:30pm - Companions
 4:30pm - Brass Rehearsal
 5:00pm - Treble Choir
 7:00pm - Chancel Choir
Friday, December 19
 5:00pm - West Hills Neighborhood Group Gathering at Buckingham
Saturday, December 20
 9:00am - Youth volunteering at Second Harvest
 10:00am - Lessons and Carols Rehearsal
 10:00am - Yoga with Gail Corey
 12:00am - Flowerguild (Sanctuary)

THE SESSION

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Bill Farnham	George Barber	Amanda Fox
Lee Ingram	Mary Boyd	Mary Jo Mann
Lucy Johnson	Allie Brewington	Tim Ryan
Kathryn Oakes	Emily Gustafson	Ginger Williams
Richard Ward	Ken Hughes	Michael Yates
Youth Elder: Bobby Powell	Clerk of Session: Bitsy Ingram	

TRUSTEES

John Smartt Larry Tragesser Bill West

CHURCH RETREAT

April 17-19, 2026 • Tremont Lodge, Townsend

Plans are underway for a meaningful and joy-filled weekend as we gather for our 2026 All-Church Retreat. With the theme Come Closer: Curiosity. Courage. Community., the retreat team is crafting an intergenerational experience designed to help us grow in faith and in connection with one another. Tremont Lodge, freshly renovated and ready to welcome us, will again serve as our home for the weekend.

Registration is open now through March 15, 2026. Register online or submit a hard-copy form to the church office along with your fee.

- Online form: wpcknox.org/retreat-registration
 - Printable form: wpcknox.org/wp-content/uploads/WPC-Retreat-Registration.pdf
- Room reservations open January 1-March 15, 2026 through Jan Barber or Renee Wiesehuegel. A block of 70 rooms has been set aside for our group at a reduced rate. Need assistance? Registration questions: Jaclyn Beeler 615-568-3929; Room reservations: Jan Barber 865-765-0437.



December 14th: CHRISTMAS PLAY 6 PM. No Youth! We need the youth's help backstage, though! Come at 3PM to help out!

December 20th: We will be volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank from 9 -12PM! Meet at the church at 8:15AM for donuts and a prayer before we head out. We have lunch and de-brief after our time serving. Pick up from the church at 1 PM.

December 21st: Youth Holiday Party and White Elephant Challenge 5 - 7 PM!
 Only rule: YOU CANT SPEND MONEY ON THE GIFT!
 That's right - No spending money. No buying. No ordering. Zero dollars.
 You CAN:

- Bake something
- Make a craft
- Bring something you don't use
- Offer a service
- Anything free and creative
- Your gift can be funny, serious, or full skibidi-sigma-brain-rot energy.

Be creative. Be chaotic. Have fun.

*****We still need someone to host the youth for this! You wouldn't have to worry about dinner, we have that part covered! If you are willing to host, please let Amanda know

December 24th: Christmas Eve!! We need the youth to come at 4:15 help the little's with their costumes and help usher as well!

December 28th: NO YOUTH! Christmas Break!

