



**The Order of Worship** **December 28, 2025**  
**11:00 A.M.**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**PRELUDE** Noel Étranger Louis-Claude Daquin  
**CALL TO WORSHIP** Gloria Borum

Leader: Magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

**All: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have come to worship Jesus the Messiah: the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

Leader: When the Magi saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down, paid him homage, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**All: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, O God.**

Leader: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

**All: Glory to God in the highest heaven!**

**TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...**

**\*HYMN NO. 143** Angels, from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

**God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would**

have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests.  
Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**\*RESPONSE** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO  
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**  
Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!  
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**  
**\*RESPONSE** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO  
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ is born to save!

**TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 63:7-9  
**ANTHEM** Carol of the Birds arr. John Jacob Niles

Oh a many a bird did wake and fly, curoo. Oh a many a bird did wake and fly to the manger bed with a wandering cry On Christmas day in the morning, curoo.  
The lark, the dove, the redbird came, curoo. The lark, the dove, the redbird came And worshipped there in Jesus' name, On Christmas day in the morning, curoo.  
The owl was there, his eyes so wide, curoo. The owl was there, his eyes so wide As he did sit at sweet Mary's side On Christmas day in the morning, curoo.

The shepherd knelt upon the hay, curoo. The shepherd knelt upon the hay, As angels sang the night away And God proclaimed the holy day, curoo.

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN** Text by John Jacob Niles  
Jennifer Manrod  
*Children age 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to go downstairs for Children's Church.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 2:13-23  
**SERMON** "Angels and Flight" Mary Boyd, CLP  
**\*HYMN NO. 154** Jesus Entered Egypt KING'S WESTON  
**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from The Confession of 1967)

**In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all.  
Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.  
He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women.  
But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people.  
His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes.  
Many rejected him and demanded his death.**

In giving himself freely for them,  
he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted.  
God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.  
The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

**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** I Wonder as I Wander arr. John Jacob Niles  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all. But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

**\*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. 347** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence PICARDY  
**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**  
**\*POSTLUDE** Praeludium in A Major, BuxWV 151 Dietrich Buxtehude

**NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS**

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\*Please stand in Body or Spirit

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY**

**PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK:** Lucy Johnson and Richard Ward  
**CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER:** CARE Team  
**LARGE PRINT HYMNALS/ HEARING DEVICES** are available from the ushers.

**SERVING TODAY**

**ACOLYTE:** Cecila Collins  
**GREETERS:** Josh and Elizabeth Birdwell  
**LITURGIST:** Gloria Borum  
**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** Ruth Ann Bendy, Soloist; Nicholas, Stigall, Organist  
**SHEPHERD’S TEAM:** Michael Betz  
**SENIOR USHER:** Bill Wiesehuegel  
**USHERS:** Betty McKeehan, Bonny and Doug Naugher

**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), Dean Aldridge (Allison Aldridge’s father), Debbie Pio (the mother of one of Jacqui Whittemore’s nurses) and her daughter, Gabby Pio, Norman McRae (for the loss of his mother), Pat Guthrie.

**MUSIC NOTE** Today we are grateful to our guest organist, Nicholas Stigall. Nicholas is a graduate student at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, where he studies organ performance, improvisation, and choral conducting. A Knoxville native, he began organ lessons with Edie Johnson in high school before attending Indiana University for his undergraduate degree. Nicholas has held organ scholar positions throughout the country, currently serving at Trinity on the Green in New Haven. He has also received numerous organ performance awards, having recently been awarded Yale's prize for excellence in organ accompanying. Aside from music, Nicholas enjoys fitness and drinking oolong tea.

**FINAL 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS** 2025 contributions as well as any 2026 prepaid offerings received in the church office through December 31 will be included in your final 2025 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel (renee@wpcknox.org or 865-584-3957 ext 100.) Thank you!!!

**CHURCH STAFF HOLIDAY:** The staff appreciates your gift of time away so that staff can be with our families, December 29 through January 2. The church office will be open on December 31 from 9:00am to noon.

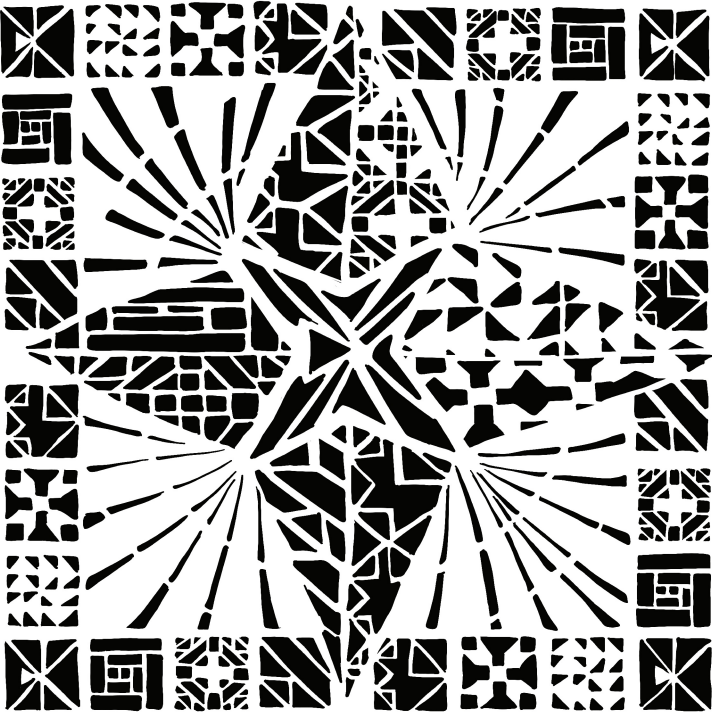
**YOUTH JANUARY 4TH** Youth Group: Senior Highs Only 5 - 7 PM.  
Senior High Kick Off Party at the Brewington's!!!! More details to come.

**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](http://wpcknox.org/retreat-registration)  
• Printable form: [wpcknox.org/wp-content/uploads/WPC-Retreat-Registration.pdf](http://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.



**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](mailto:office@wpcknox.org)  
[www.wpcknox.org](http://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 28**  
11:00 - Sanctuary Worship  
**December 29 - January 2**  
Church Office Closed  
**Wednesday, December 31**  
9:00am -1:00pm Church Office Open  
**Sunday, January 4**  
9:00am - Sanctuary Worship  
10:00am - Sunday School  
5:00-pm - Youth Fellowship  
5:00 pm - *Abbey* deadline  
**Tuesday, January 6**  
10:00am - Staff Epiphany party  
10:00 - Staff Meeting  
11:00am - Program Staff  
**Wednesday, January 7**  
4:30pm - Companions  
7:00pm - Chancel Choir  
**Thursday, January 8**  
8:30am - Men’s Breakfast Fellowship  
10:30am - Women’s Bible Study  
1:00pm - FISH  
6:00pm - Handbell Choir  
6:30pm - Wine and the Word (LKH)  
**Saturday, January 10**  
10:00am - Yoga with Gail Corey

**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
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