



The Order of Worship

December 7, 2025
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRELUDE

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord and My Spirit Hath Rejoiced in God My Savior
Marcel Dupré
Jaclyn Beeler

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

One: Family of faith, God is at work!
All: **God is healing and creating,**
One: redeeming and dreaming,
All: **calling and sending,**
One: listening and loving.
All: **Yes, indeed, God is at work!**
One: So may we worship our God who never gives up.
All: **May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.**

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

On-the-move God,
we have every reason to hold onto hope.
We have every reason to believe that spring will come,
that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise.
And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers.
With anxious hearts we cry out to you,
“Will change ever come? Will things ever get better?
Will I ever make a difference?”

Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining.
Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray,
Amen.

*RESPONSE

Kyrie Eleison

St. James Advent Service
arr. Richard Shephard

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (Responsive)**

One: Family of faith,
in our honesty,
All: **we are heard.**
One: In our worries,
All: **we are held.**
One: In our failings,
All: **We are forgiven.**
One: In our fear,
All: **We are not alone.**
One: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!
All: **When we're running out of hope, God is still at work.**
One: Thanks be to God!
All: **Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*RESPONSE Prepare the Way of the Lord (*sing twice*) Jacques Berthier

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Luke 1:46-55

Children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to go downstairs for Children's Church.

Luke 1:26-38

Jennifer Manrod

(9:00) Niceley Family

(11:00) Stewart Family

HOMILY

Rev. Dr. Richard Coble

*HYMN NO. 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*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

The Angel Gabriel Richard Shephard

The angel Gabriel from Heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail”, said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God”, she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world
Will ever say—“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Text from *Basque Carol* para. Sabine Baring-Gould

*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**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Gradye Parsons

One: The Lord be with you.
Many: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
Many: We lift them to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
One: With-us God...And you give us a new song to sing.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (Sanctus) St. James Advent Service
arr. Richard Shephard

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION and THE LORD’S 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF BREAD

*Congregation will come forward to receive the elements.
The bread and cup can be consumed as they are received.
All pre-cut bread is gluten free.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

How Beautiful Are the Feet from *Messiah* George Frideric Handel
(11:00) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Alice Parker/Robert Shaw
Praeludium on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Marilyn Biery

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

***HYMN NO. 106** Prepare the Way, O Zion BEDEDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**
***POSTLUDE** Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella Keith Chapman

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

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

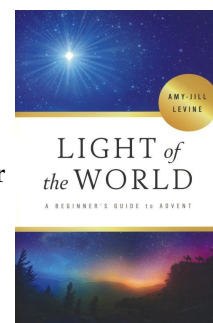
PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Emily Gustafson and Lee Ingram
CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER: CARE Team
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS/ HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.
SERVING TODAY
ACOLYTES: (11:00) Sariah and McKenzie Beeler
GREETERS: (11:00) Shirley Wittman and Renee Wiesehuegel
LITURGIST: Jaclyn Beeler
MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Ruth Ann Bendy, Soloist; 11:00 Chancel Choir
SHEPHERD’S TEAM: Peter Tortorelli
SENIOR USHER: Barbara Froula
USHERS: (9:00) Dan Berry and Scott Brunger
(11:00) Nancy Lowe, Betty McKeehan, Rob and Susan McKeehan, Janet Drumm

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, Bonny Naugher, 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 Whittemore’s nurses) and her daughter, Gabby Pio.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00am

1) Adult Bible Study is reading the Book of Acts. (Prayer Room)
2) Advent Sunday School Class This special Sunday school class during Advent is held in the McKinnon Room. 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. The book is available from Amazon. Today we will be reviewing Chapter 2 - Welcome!



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.

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 5rd grade

Children will be walked to Children’s Church classes following the Time with Children during the 11:00 worship service

Advent Opportunities

- December 7 - Alternative Christmas Bazaar in the Schilling Gallery
- December 10 - Grace Filled Christmas at Ascension with WPC, 5:30pm
- December 12 - Crafting Theology and The Wine & the Word Christmas Party, 6:30pm
- December 14 - Christmas Youth Drama, 6:00pm
- December 21 - Christmas Breakfast 10:00am (during Sunday school hour)
- December 21 - Service of Lessons and Carols 11:00am
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Services 5:00 & 8:00pm. Prelude by Choirs and String Quartet begins at 7:30pm.



We hope you make plans to attend Westminster's Alternative Annual Christmas Bazaar **TODAY in the Schilling Gallery**. Participants include: Heifer International; Fish Pantry; WPC arts and crafts (profits going to AKIN-Allies of Knoxville Immigrant Neighbors);

PEO wreaths; Olive Branch olive oil; Khatija’s purses; UKirk; Vanilla Feeds; and a RELAUNCH table where you can actually donate items for those who are un-housed. The bazaar is helpful to all! Please plan on coming!

VMC HOLIDAY DRIVE Please join us in collecting needed items as we strive to brighten the holiday season for those that VMC directly serves to either achieve or sustain their housing. Collections through December 14 will be taken in the church office. The ornaments hanging on the Christmas tree in the church office list the gifts needed.

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST We will meet this Thursday, December 11, at 8:30am in the McKinnon Room. Our speaker will be Heather Haley, former meteorologist at WVLT-TV. She is now assistant professor of practice at U.T. and a meteorologist and climate reporter for WUOT 91.9 FM in Knoxville. She will present a program titled “Meteorology in Today’s Climate.” Our delicious breakfast will be provided by Ron Alexander. Ladies are welcome.

STEWARDSHIP As we continue with Stewardship season, thanks to all of who have pledged your financial support for 2026. So far we have had 144 pledges from our 265 households with a total of \$917,386.00. The Financial goal is \$1,180,800. Together, we can reach our goal. We appreciate all of you & your many gifts!





December 3rd: CHRISTMAS CRAFT NIGHT at 5 PM! We will have supper then the youth can assist with helping the younger kids with crafts (and do some of their own, of course!) Following, the Knox YOUTH Jazz Orchestra will be performing in the Lisa Kauffman Hall at 7 PM. It would be great if youth could be there to support fellow Knoxville youth!

December 6th: The flower guild is looking for 2-4 youth at 10AM to help with hanging Christmas decorations. Please let Amanda know if you're interested!

December 7th: TOY DRIVE SHOPPING! We will go shopping for toys for the FISH pantries toy drive. We will leave after play practice at 2 PM. Pick up from the church at 4 PM. We also need 2-3 chaperones to help drive.

December 14th: CHRISTMAS PLAY 6 PM. No Youth! We could use the youth's help with herding kids, make-up, props, costumes, etc. We will begin needing help starting at 2 PM, let Amanda know if you're interested.

December 20th: We are attending FISH Pantry to pass out food along with the toys we raised as a church. We will meet at the church at 10:15 AM and will return around 2:15 PM. Please pack a lunch. Let Amanda know if you can come ASAP, as there are limited volunteer slots!

December 21st: Youth Holiday Party and white elephant 5 - 7 PM! If you are willing to host, please let Amanda know!

December 28th: No Youth!

✌️❤️, Amanda and Daniel

**GRACE FILLED CHRISTMAS
AT ASCENSION**

December 10 at 5:30pm

Come for a time to reflect and remember those family members that have passed. It is a time when all people, regardless of where they are in life, can experience the holiness of the season in quiet, contemplative manner.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where Faith and Life Connect"

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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

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 7

9:00am - Worship

10:00am - Sunday School

10:00am - Alternative Christmas Bazaar

11:00am - Worship

12:00pm - Play Practice

2:00pm - Youth Fellowship

5:00pm - Choir party at Ellis' home

Monday, December 8

4:30pm Brass Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 9

10:00am - Staff Meeting

11:00am - Program Staff

6:00pm - Handbell Choir

Wednesday, December 10

4:30pm - Companions

5:00pm - Treble Choir

5:30pm - Grace Filled Christmas (Ascension)

7:00pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 11

8:30pm - Men's Breakfast Fellowship (McK)

9:30am - Men's Book Club (Prayer Room)

1:00pm - FISH Ministry

5:30pm - Play Rehearsal

Friday, December 12

6:30pm - Wine and the Word Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13

10:00am - Flowerguild (Sanctuary)

5:30pm - Play Rehearsal

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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. 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: _____
