



The Order of Worship January 12, 2025
9:00 & 11:00 AM

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

Welcome to Westminster Church! We are a family of Christians gathered from many traditions and neighborhoods, worshipping here with the goal of connecting faith and life. If you are a visitor, we pray you will feel welcome and blessed by our worship. We invite you to consider making Westminster your church home. Please let us have your contact information so we may be in touch. When the prelude begins let us quietly prepare for the worship of almighty God.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRELUDE Christ, Our Lord, to Jordan Came Dietrich Buxtehude
CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The voice of the Lord is over the waters,
All: and in the temple God's people say: Glory!
One: The heavens opened, the Spirit descended,
All: and a voice sounded: This is my Beloved Son.
One: Do not fear, therefore, for the Lord has spoken:
All: I have called you by name; you are mine.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 484 Out of Deep, Unordered Water RUSTINGTON
*CALL TO CONFESSION Mary Sophia Hawks
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, It is hard to see your promise with fresh eyes. The memories we carry in our bodies, the patterns we know from the lives we have lived, and the stories we have told cloud our vision. We are weighed down by the fears of all the years, the old fables, the generational wounds, the trusty and cautious hopes that got us through this far. As we look to a new year, we ask that you dispel the ghosts we conjure and fear. Meet us again with genuine

newness. We are so tired of what has been, so afraid of what may come again.
Stay with us as we wait for what will be.
*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 Gloria in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis deo. GLORIA

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00) Amanda Fox

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

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 43:1-7
SERMON "Faith is a Plural Word" Rev. Dr. Richard Coble
*HYMN NO. 479 Ho, All Who Thirst JACOB'S WELL

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
(9:00) What Star Is This arr. Thomas Keesecker
(11:00) 11:00 Do Not Be Afraid Christopher Willcock SJ
Arranged by John Barnard

Refrain Do not be afraid I am with you;
I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have called you by your name, you are mine.

The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strong-hold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?
Refrain

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.
Refrain

I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Be strong, hold firm and take heart, and wait for the Lord.
Refrain

Text from Isaiah 43 and Psalm 27
Chancel Choir

*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 AND LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

In the beginning, darkness covered the deep,
and God said: Let there be light.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Through the words of the prophet, the Lord said:
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Do not fear, says the Lord; I am with you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

When Jesus was baptized by John,
suddenly the heavens were opened.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

And as Jesus was coming out of the water,
the Spirit of God rested on him like a dove.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

And a voice said: You are my beloved Son;
With you I am well pleased.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Almighty God...who taught us to pray, saying, 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. 475 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing NETTLETON
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE Christ, Our Lord, to Jordan Came Johann Sebastian Bach

*Please stand in Body or Spirit
** Prayer of Confession adapted from Rev. Karen Rohrer and the Presbyterian
Outlook.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Emily Gustafson and Ed Babelay
CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR JANUARY: Janet Tortorelli
SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES: (11:00) Mason Carley and Monroe Carley
GREETERS: (11:00) Bill and Renee Wiesehuegel
LITURGIST: Mary Sophia Hawks
MINISTRY OF MUSIC: (11:00) Chancel Choir
SHEPHERD’S TEAM: Andrew Gordon
SENIOR USHER: Barbara Froula
USHERS: (9:00) Daniel Berry and Scott Brunger
(11:00) Janet Drumm, Lindsey Williford, Mark Potocik, Buz Johnson, Judy Jorden

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given by Rick and Janice Rawe in honor of all our amazing staff!

THE BIRTH CANDLE is lit today in celebration of Elliot Alberto Owens born to James and MacKenzie Owens on January 3rd, 2025. Proud grandparents are David and Shawn Owens.

Also, in celebration of Skye Aurora Faña Harrison born to Nicola Harrison and Pablo Faña on January 3rd, 2025. Proud grandparents are John and Margaret Harrison.

MUSIC NOTES The prelude and postlude for today’s services are based on the chorale, *Christ, Our Lord, to Jordan Came*. Martin Luther composed the text and tune for this Baptism chorale in 1541 and the tune has been used in settings for many organ and vocal works. The prelude by Buxtehude presents the melody in the top voice on a solo sound with florid ornamentation. Bach uses the chorale tune in a more straightforward style, as it is played simply on a trumpet sound in the pedal. The interest in Bach’s setting comes in the manuals, as a continuous moving motive represents the flowing water at Christ’s baptism.

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, Jonah McCollum, Karen and her son Brian, Anne Hector (Mary Jo Mann’s niece), Janice Jennings, Salma Alami, Becky and Cathy Cagle (Gloria Borum’s dear friends), Rob Elliot (Brenda Seip's brother), Rhys “Bebes” Claiborne (Julia Whipple’s mother), Rev. Dan Park, Kaye Davis, Ivan Beltz, Ava (Mike and Deb McGaugh’s daughter).

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am
Adult Bible Study: The Sunday Bible Class is studying the gnostic Gospel of Thomas, comparing it to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in order to determine which of its teachings were recognized in the official gospels and which reflected gnostic beliefs that were eventually rejected by the Christian Church. (McKinnon Room)
Feasting on the Word: Studies scriptures used in Worship (LKH)
The Wired Word: Discusses current events with a theological eye (Library)

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.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES
WAMS (Westminsters Awesome Middle Schoolers) - 6th Grades in the WAMS room.
Confirmation Class - 7th & 8th Grades in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.
SHOW (Senior Highs of Westminster) - 9th-12th Grades in the SHOW room.

MEN’S CRAFTING THEOLOGY GROUP will meet Sunday, January 19 at 6:00pm at Alliance Brewing Company (1130 Sevier Ave). The starting point for our conversation will be David J. Morris's recent op-ed in the New York Times, "The Disappearance of Literary Men Should Worry Everyone." All men of the church are invited to join. Contact Jeff Gilbert, Daniel Lewis, or Richard Coble for a copy of the article or any questions.

CONGREGATIONAL LISTENING SESSION As you may have noticed, we're bursting at the seams with children and youth! What a blessing they are to us, but how can we continue to be a blessing to them in their faith and life journeys? The Intergenerational Programming Task Force has been asked to gather our congregation's thoughts on how we can continue to grow and enrich our children, youth and family programming to meet the needs of this growing segment of our church family. We will be holding our final listening session immediately following the January 19th 11:00 service. These creatively designed sessions typically last an hour, and we'll be serving lunch and offering childcare. If you have thoughts to share and haven't already attended a listening session (or you just have more to share) please join us! Please RSVP the church office if you plan on attending and if you'll need childcare.

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB Our new year begins on January 21, 2025 when we will discuss *Lark Ascending*, a new novel by Silas House, New York Times best-selling author of several novels including this most recent book, which was a winner of the 2023 Southern Book Prize and the 2023 Nautilus Book Award. He will also be the featured speaker at the Lunch for Literacy in March in Oak Ridge. Janice Rawe will lead our discussion.

CURRENT SNOW/INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY With the beauty that Winter brings, it also gives us inclement weather. The staff will try to make every possible form of communication when we feel it necessary to change our gathering times. We will strive to post any changes to our Facebook page, website, and email the congregation. Renee plans to change her greeting on her extension 100 if plans change.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Rev. Gradye Parsons, Parish Associate
Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus
Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries, CLP
Dr. Edie Johnson, Music Director/Organist
Allie Brewington, Interim Director of Children's Ministries
Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
Joanna Warren, Administrative Assistant
Linda Judge McRae, Parish Nurse
Debbie Bendy, Abbey Editor
Sawyer Warren, Worship Tech

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE
Sunday, January 12
9:00am - Worship
10:00am - Sunday School
11:00am - Sanctuary Worship
Noon - Cast Party
3:45pm - Treble Choir (LKH)
5:00pm - Treble Choir Dinner (McK)
5:00pm - Youth Group
Tuesday, January 14
10:00am - Staff Meeting and Epiphany party (off-site)
6:30pm - Ministry Team Night
Wednesday, January 15
4:30pm - Companions
6:30pm - Sectionals (LKH)
7:00pm - Chancel Choir
Thursday, January 16
4:30pm - Brass Choir
6:00pm - Handbell Choir
Friday/Saturday, January 17-18
6:30pm - Lock-in with confirmation

THE SESSION

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Ed Babelay	Bill Farnham	George Barber
Wendy Collins	Lee Ingram	Mary Boyd
Janet Drumm	Lucy Johnson	Allie Brewington
Stephen Fortney	Kathryn Oakes	Emily Gustafson
Barbara Froula	Richard Ward	Ken Hughes
Youth Elder: Lucy Gilbert		Clerk of Session: Bitsy Ingram

TRUSTEES
Alice Mercer John Smartt Larry Tragesser