



The Order of Worship

December 29, 2024

10:00 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

Welcome to Westminster Church! We are a family of Christians gathered from many traditions and neighborhoods, worshiping 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 Voluntary on *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Craig Phillips

CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kathy Parsons

One: Children of God, Jesus Christ is born!

All: God has come to make a home among us!

One: Yet the story is not over. After birth comes the ordinary and mundane growing, maturing, and discovering, even for the Christ Child.

All: In the ordinary and mundane, God has come to make a home among us.

One: And sometimes, in the midst of the everyday, something surprising happens, and we discover anew just what God is up to in our midst.

All: In the surprising and spectacular, God has come to make a home among us.

One: Children of God, let us worship the God who dwells with us in all things and all seasons.

All: We come to make our home with God who makes a home among us. Amen.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 143 Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENTS SQUARE

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Most Loving God,
because you knew how twisted
and corrupted our humanity had become,
you sent us your Holy Son—

**We name him Jesus, our Savior,
for he has saved us from our sins.**

Because you have stood in our shoes
and understand how difficult it is to live
by the rule of law in an often cold,
unfeeling, and ruthless world—

**We name him Jesus, our Savior,
for he is this very day saving us from all our sins.**

Because you have given us a gracious spirit,
forgiving those who sin against us,
and you call us to a ministry of reconciliation
in a fractured world—

**We proclaim him Jesus, our Savior,
for he will save our world from its many sins.**

*RESPONSE

**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.

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 148

*HYMN NO. 123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (*stanzas 1 & 5*)

CAROL

As we sing the last verse, children are invited to come up for the Time with Children

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Melanie Lewis

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:41-52

SERMON

"The Conversation"

Rev. Gradye Parsons

*HYMN NO. 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

Written by Nathan Nettleton

**We believe in God,
the creator and giver of life,
who brought all creation to birth,
who mothers us and fathers us,
protecting, nurturing,
and cherishing us.**

**We believe in the reconciliation
of the world to God, through Christ.
Hunted at birth
and humiliated at death,
Christ entered our fearful darkness
so that we might enter his glorious light
and share the life of his resurrection.**

**And we believe that each new child
is a glimpse of the face of God,
a sign of the life to come,
and a call to live in peace
and celebrate living together.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
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

What Sweeter Music

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
the birth of this our heav'nly King?

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who with his sunshine and his showers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

So we will see him, and bequeath
This holly and this ivy wreath,
to do him honour, who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day
That sees December turn'd to May.

The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is to find a room
to welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here is the heart.

***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. 100** My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
STAR OF THE COUNTRY DOWN

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**

**A: As you leave this place,
may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.**
B: May you have the courage to hold onto hope,
the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,
and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.
**A: For in a world full of dead ends,
God invites us to begin again.**
B: So start here.
A: Start now.
B: Start with love and begin again.
**All: In the name of Christ,
our new beginning,
go in peace.**

***POSTLUDE** Toccata-Noel Christopher Tambling

*Please stand in Body or Spirit

**Call to Worship written by Dr. Lisa Hancock

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Lucy Johnson and Ed Babelay

CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER: CARE Team

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS/ HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

GREETERS: Ibbie Muntz and Renee Wiesehuegel

LITURGIST: Kathy Parsons

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Ruth Ann Bendy, Soloist

SHEPHERD'S TEAM: Andrew Gordon

SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel

USHERS: Judy Jorden, Shirley Wittman, Betty McKeehan, Rob and Susan McKeehan

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.

CHILDREN'S OFFERINGS AT WESTMINSTER

During 10:00 Hour - Nursery available for children ages 0-3 years old

FINAL 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS 2024 contributions as well as any 2025 prepaid offerings received in the church office through December 31 will be included in your final 2024 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!!!

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 partnering with 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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where Faith and Life Connect"

6500 Northshore Drive, Knoxville TN 37919

Telephone (865) 584-3957 Fax (865) 584-8840

E-mail westminsterpres@comcast.net

www.wpcknox.org

Rev. Dr. Richard Coble, Pastor/Head of Staff

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

Monday, December 30 - Wednesday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Thursday, January 2

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

THE SESSION

Class of 2025

Ed Babelay

Wendy Collins

Janet Drumm

Stephen Fortney

Barbara Froula

Youth Elder: Lucy Gilbert

Class of 2026

Bill Farnham

Lee Ingram

Lucy Johnson

Kathryn Oakes

Richard Ward

Class of 2027

George Barber

Mary Boyd

Allie Brewington

Emily Gustafson

Ken Hughes

Clerk of Session: Bitsy Ingram

TRUSTEES

Alice Mercer

John Smartt

Larry Tragesser