



The Order of Worship

December 31, 2023

10:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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.

PRELUDE The Holy Boy John Ireland
OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION
CALL TO WORSHIP Eric Adamcik

One: We gather together to praise the Lord with our whole selves,
All: Giving thanks to our Creator who woke us up this morning and gave us food to eat, clean water to drink, and a community to love.
 One: We gather together to show our love for God and neighbor,
All: Knowing that we are all made in God's image, even the parts of ourselves we'd rather hide away.
 One: We gather together to live right in this moment, to know that we have set this time for God aside, and to be the church throughout our week,
All: Acknowledging that, as our Bulletin says, "Now the service begins."

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 134 (Glory to God hymnal) Joy to the World Antioch
 *CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, help us to recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory. As we look back, we know we have missed opportunities to share your love. We are often silent when we could have spoken up for what was right. We lack gratitude for your amazing grace. A grace by which you save us and call us to be your people.

Lord, forgive us.
 As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking only about ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead. Show us how to be your children and how to be a helpful, caring presence in a troubled world. Open our hearts to live for you and for one another in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*KYRIE ELEISON

Healey Willan

Women

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Men

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

All

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE Gloria Patri No. 581 (Glory to God hymnal) Henry W. Greatorex

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 4:4-7
A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Melanie Lewis
Children age 4 through 3rd grade are invited to go downstairs for Children's Church.
SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:22-40
SERMON "Wrapped Up" Barbara Adamcik
 *HYMN NO. 110 (Glory to God hymnal) Love Has Come Bring a Torch

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

We gather today to commit ourselves to following you, O God.
 To affirm that every breath we take comes from you,
 A reminder that we have 24 hours in our day to serve you.
 We come together to admit that we fall short,
 And that you stay with us in those moments.
 Therefore, we remember we are never alone in your work,
 For you go with us every step of the way.
 Let us feel connected to you and our siblings in Christ,
 Let us feel motivated to make a change,
 Let us never be completely satisfied with the work we have done for you.
 Amen.

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.

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 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come J. S. Bach

*AT THE PRESENTATION Doxology No. 608 (Glory to God hymnal) Tallis' Canon
 (Sung to the tune of Hymn No. 748 (Glory to God hymnal))
 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

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

*HYMN NO. 143 (Glory to God hymnal) Angels, from the Realms of Glory Regent Square

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
 *CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Amen Danish melody

A - men. A - men. A - men.

*POSTLUDE Improvisations on Antioch
 *Please stand in Body or Spirit

OUR THANKS to Theresa Pepin for serving as organist this morning while Peter and Anne Van Eenam are on vacation.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Melanie Lewis and Lee Ingram
CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER: All of Care Team

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES: Caroline Anglin and Sirah Smith
GREETERS: Buz and Lucy Johnson
LITURGIST: Eric Adamcik
SHEPHERD'S TEAM: Bryan and Rachel Powell
SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel
USHERS: Colleen and Ehren Manrod, Shawn Owens, David Owens, Mark Potocik, LoAnn Price, Jan Gross

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

Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster

Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries, CLP

Sophia Manrod, Director of Children's Ministries

Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Joanna Warren, Administrative Assistant

Linda Judge McRae, Parish Nurse

Debbie Bendy, Abbey Editor

Arthur Collins, Worship Tech

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 31

10:00am - Sanctuary Worship

Monday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2

10:00am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 3

7:45pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 4

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

6:00pm - Recorder Ensemble

7:00pm - Handbells

7:45pm - Chancel Choir

THE SESSION

Class of 2024

Josh Birdwell

Gloria Borum

Melanie Lewis

Lisa Oros

Chris Van Beke

Youth Elder: Arthur Collins

Class of 2025

Ed Babelay

Wendy Collins

Janet Drumm

Stephen Fortney

Barbara Froula

Clerk of Session: Bitsy Ingram

Class of 2026

Bill Farnham

Lee Ingram

Lucy Johnson

Kathryn Oakes

Richard Ward

TRUSTEES

Ron Alexander

Alice Mercer

John Smartt

RESOLUTIONS:

The youth had their annual Christmas party where we enjoyed a Sneaky Santa gift exchange. The most popular gift... a gallon and a half jar of giant pickles! After our wild and crazy exchange, we got a bit more serious. I asked the youth to think of things they would like to give the world, if there were no limits. Here is what they said:

- Peaceful and just resolution in Gaza
- Pets not suffer- get the medical attention they need
- Cure cancer
- End Homelessness
- Safe water (esp. in Africa)
- Wish that everyone has friends, and no one is lonely
- Cure for Leukemia
- Everyone gets along and chooses not to be mean
- Help ease drug abuse and addiction
- World peace- no more warzones- end conflicts
- Medical care to EVERYONE who needs it
- Simply, be nice to each other
- All kids have means to live healthy lives
- Clean plastic out of the ocean
- Everyone has a home and food to eat
- Listen to and respect each other
- Find a cure to covid and other viruses (like yellow fever)
- All world leaders be honest
- End gun violence
- Stop climate change
- Stop de-forestation
- End abuse. (suffered by both people and animals)
- Stop natural disasters (due to climate change)
- No more animal testing

Some of these issues are huge, and seemingly too big to tackle alone. There are groups we can join or create to try to help those problems. Some of these things, we can make an immediate change or difference right now, right where we are. We hope to start changing the things we can. For instance--

It's as simple as being nice, or taking time to be helpful (like helping at the FISH Warehouse, Angel Tree, acolyte, sing, and volunteer.)
That's a good start.

