
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Public Service of Worship

December 3rd, 2017

The First Lord's Day of Advent



"He who made man was made man."

- ANONYMOUS

Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church. We are grateful to have you join us today, as we offer worship to God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A few notes to help you fully participate:

Our worship will keep you busy! We often think of worship as “singing songs” and “hearing a sermon,” but there is greater depth available to us. We pray and read together, we use our bodies, we hear, and eat, and respond, and all from the heart.

Please note that when the congregation is to read, the type will be boldfaced and indented:

[Leader] The Lord be with you!

[Congregation] And also with you!

Please note the * and § symbols to indicate standing or raising hands.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: Also known as “communion”, the Lord’s Supper is rite of fellowship between Christ and His people. We invite all who have been initiated into the family of God by baptism, and admitted to table fellowship by the leadership of this or some other church, to join in the communion service by faith. If you haven’t been baptized, please speak with the pastor or elders before the service if you would like to come to join in the Holy Supper.

CHILDREN: You will notice many children in our service today. Jesus welcomed little children to Himself, and so we welcome them in our worship service! We understand that this means baby noises and wiggly children, and we're fine with that. If your child is fussy or needs a little time to quiet down, we have a mother's nursery in the side room. We're happy to accommodate your family in any way we can.

TODAY’S WORSHIP: Today is a great day of joy and celebration, as we remember the first Advent of our Lord Jesus, and as we wait for His return. We examine two women and two babies, Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth, who were each with child. Mary, Elizabeth, and John all rejoiced to be in the presence of their savior, and we will see that being with Jesus has a great effect on our lives as well.

APOSTOLIC GREETING AND WELCOME

SILENT MEDITATION: MATTHEW 1:23

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”
(which means, God with us)

Please take this time of silence to prepare your hearts before the Lord.

PRAISE THE LORD: *OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN*

***CALL TO WORSHIP: ISAIAH 12:5-6**

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

§DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***HYMN: COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS, NO. 196**

** Please stand if you are able. § Please stand and raise your hands.*

A HOLY NATION: *THY KINGDOM COME*

***RESPONSIVE READING:** LUKE 1:46-55

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

KINGDOM PRAYER

At the conclusion of each request, we implore the Lord's mercy to hear our prayers, as follows:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer.

We pray for the following:

- *The Kingdom of Christ to reign in the world, and in our own hearts.*
- *The Leaman family, working to reach Brazilians with the Gospel.*

- *Our friends at the Tacoma Bible Presbyterian Church, who have recently had to sell their building and relocate.*
- *The candidates of the Presbytery now preparing for ministry.*
- *For the federal government to work well and make wise decisions.*
- *Our commitment to holiness and sanctification.*

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN: *THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOR, NO. 230*

BREAD FROM HEAVEN: GIVE US THIS DAY...

We give thanks for the Word of God with the following statement after each reading:

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

***OLD TESTAMENT READING: ISAIAH 11:1-11**

***NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 JOHN 1:1-4**

***GOSPEL READING & SERMON TEXT: LUKE 1:39-45**

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE *FORMULARIO

On the Fellowship among the Members of the Church

All the graces and the gifts made to the church are shared by all those who are truly incorporated; and although He confers His graces to some particular members (to one more than another), nevertheless they are all for the common good and for the benefit of all so that everyone might share in them, since each one must communicate and dispense to the others the gift which he has received, as the organs of the same body do, providing their own capabilities and functions which each one in particular possesses; it is especially for this reason that the church is called the communion of the saints.

***PRAYER FOR THE SERMON**

SERMON: *TOGETHER IN JOY AT THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD,*

REV. JERID KRULISH

BE HEALED: *FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS*

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into Hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

***HYMN:** *LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE*, NO. 193

EXHORTATION TO CONFESSION: EXODUS 14:13

“Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today.

PUBLIC CONFESSION: PSALM 6

O Lord,

Rebuke us not in your anger, nor discipline us in your wrath.

Be gracious to us, O Lord, for we are languishing; heal us, for our bones are troubled.

Our souls also are greatly troubled. But you, O Lord – how long?

Turn to us, Lord, and deliver our lives; save us for the sake of your steadfast love.

In judgment there is no remembrance of you; if we bear the weight of our sin, how could we give you praise?

We are weary with our rebellion, and our hearts are downcast within us.

Save us from our defiance against You.

O Lord, you have heard our plea; you have accepted our prayer.

Make all those who would have us stumble be put to shame, for our hope is in you.

Amen.

†SILENT REPENTANCE

† *The congregation is permitted to kneel.*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:** LUKE 1:76-77

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins.

DECLARATION OF ABSOLUTION:

After the declaration, let the congregation respond, "Amen."

GOD BE WITH US:
LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

***HYMN:** O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL, NO. 194

EXHORTATION AT THE TABLE

You are welcome to the Lord's Table if you are a baptized Christian who has been received into communal membership by this or any other church.

Our communion is served "in the round." At the Pastor's direction, we ask that all would move to the perimeter of the sanctuary in a closed circle. The elders will come and serve you; please hold your bread or wine until all have received, and then we will pray and eat together. Those not communing may present their hands for a blessing; parents may also present non-communing children as well.

SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is very good and right and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, through Christ our Lord.

Therefore, with the Angels and Archangels and the whole company of the church triumphant, we praise and magnify Your glorious Name:

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen, Amen.

***DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD**

***PRAYER OF THANKS AND INTERCESSION**

***DISTRIBUTION OF THE WINE**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

CHRIST THE LORD: THINE IS THE KINGDOM

***HYMN:** *LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES! NO. 198*

*BENEDICTION & THREEFOLD AMEN



FOR FAMILY AND PRIVATE WORSHIP:

HYMN OF THE MONTH: *LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES! NO. 198*

CHILDREN'S LESSON: VALDÉS'S CATECHISM.

Valdés's Catechism was titled Instructions for Children. It was published in 1549, with earlier drafts. The intention is not to have children memorize the statements, but for parents to instruct their children.

7. That this man, by disobeying God, lost the image of God and was expelled from the earthly paradise. He was thus left like brute animals as to passibility and mortality and like the evil spirits as to injustice, impiety, malice, and malevolence. His condition being such, he was expelled from the earthly paradise (Gen. 3; Ps 48 [Ps. 49]).

8. Let them know for certain that all this man's descendants, born in exile, are born like him, so that they all must recognize the enmity they have with God derived from the disobedience of the first man. They are treated by God as enemies, in that he executes against them the sentence issued against the first man, and they treat God as an enemy, because of all animals, only man offends God (Ps. 50 [Ps. 51]; Rom. 5; Eph. 1 [Eph. 2]).

9. That the depravity of man increasing in the world, God sent a flood drowning them all. He saved Noah, with his wife and children and a great number of brute animals in an ark, not because the ark was adequate to save them but because Noah believed that God, who promised to save him therein, was indeed able to save him. Trusting in God's word, he placed himself with his family and the animals in the ark, so that it was not the ark that saved him but the faith with which he placed himself in the ark (Gen. 7).

WPC BIBLE READING PLAN:

12/3	Psalms 119:89-104	1 John 4	2 Chronicles 36
12/4	Psalms 119:105-128	1 John 5	
12/5	Psalms 119:129-152	2 John 1	
12/6	Psalms 119:153-176	3 John 1	
12/7	Psalms 120-121	Revelation 1	
12/8	Psalms 122-123	Revelation 2:1-17	
12/9	Psalms 124-125	Revelation 2:18-3:6	

PRAYER

Pray for the Leaman family in Brazil:

- For grace and strength to complete a course being developed in Portuguese on the doctrine of sanctification.
- That God would provide a home and property that meets their family's needs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALENDAR

CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

Children's Christmas Choirs will meet immediately following the worship service for the next several Sundays. Kids ages 3-6 will be led by Chelsea Berkompas (in the nursery). Kids ages 7-12 will be led by Michaela and Andra Mack (by the piano).

GOSPEL OF JOHN BIBLE STUDY:

All are welcome. Meeting at the Jonathan VanGelder house. Contact the church for directions.
Wednesdays at 7pm.

YOUNG MEN'S PROVERB'S STUDY BIBLE READING PLAN:

A study for younger men. Dinner is provided. Meeting at the Sturtevant's home. Please contact the church for directions.

December 12th, 6:30pm for dinner, 7:00PM for the study.

(Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday)

FELLOWSHIP MEAL AND ADVENT WREATH-MAKING:

Today: our regular fellowship feast will be followed by the opportunity to make advent wreathes to take home.

WPC ADULT CHRISTMAS DINNERS:

Aria Krulish has the schedule and line-up.

Friday, December 8th and Saturday, December 9th

WPC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

Sunday, December 17th at 6:00pm

