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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Public Service of Worship*

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

*The First Lord's Day of Christmas*

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*"I want words at my funeral. But I guess  
that means you need life in your life."*

— MARKUS ZUSAK

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 standing and 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:** “Teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom.” These words from Moses were surely on the mind of Solomon, as the wise Teacher helps us live the best life “under the sun” ... a life that leads to a good eulogy. Dark? Not at all. Learn to die, and you'll learn to live.

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING AND WELCOME**

### **SILENT MEDITATION: PSALM 4:8**

In peace I will both lie down and sleep;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

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

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 51:15**

O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

### **§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: HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!, NO. 10**

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

**\*RESPONSIVE READING:** PSALM 90

A PRAYER OF MOSES, THE MAN OF GOD.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place

**in all generations.**

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
**from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You return man to dust

**and say, "Return, O children of man!"**

For a thousand years in your sight  
are but as yesterday when it is past,

**or as a watch in the night.**

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,

**like grass that is renewed in the morning:**

in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;

**in the evening it fades and withers.**

For we are brought to an end by your anger;

**by your wrath we are dismayed.**

You have set our iniquities before you,

**our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

For all our days pass away under your wrath;

**we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

The years of our life are seventy,

**or even by reason of strength eighty;**

yet their span is but toil and trouble;

**they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

Who considers the power of your anger,  
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

**So teach us to number our days**

**that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

Return, O LORD! How long?

**Have pity on your servants!**

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
**that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**  
Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,  
**and for as many years as we have seen evil.**  
Let your work be shown to your servants,  
**and your glorious power to their children.**  
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
**and establish the work of our hands upon us;**  
**yes, establish the work of our hands!**  
  
**Amen.**

## **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 our own hearts, so the gospel might be effectively proclaimed.*
- *An effective ministry to the Russian peoples through the Fomichenko and Shiva family and the Slavic Reformation Society.*
- *That the churches of the northwest presbytery might effectively minister to the Soldotna, Alaska mission church.*
- *For the educational institutions of our land to abandon falsehood and suppression and return to the truths of the Christian religion.*
- *For our perseverance in the faith as many grow tired and weary.*
- *The blessing of God upon our tithes and offerings.*

## **OFFERTORY**

**\*HYMN: COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING, NO. 101**

## **\*SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*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 LESSON & SERMON TEXT: ECCLESIASTES 6:1-7:22**

Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he. <sup>11</sup> The more words, the more vanity, and what is the advantage to man? <sup>12</sup> For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

<sup>7:1</sup> A good name is better than precious ointment,  
and the day of death than the day of birth.

<sup>2</sup> It is better to go to the house of mourning  
than to go to the house of feasting,  
for this is the end of all mankind,  
and the living will lay it to heart.

<sup>3</sup> Sorrow is better than laughter,  
for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.

<sup>4</sup> The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,  
but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

<sup>5</sup> It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise  
than to hear the song of fools.

<sup>6</sup> For as the crackling of thorns under a pot,  
so is the laughter of the fools;  
this also is vanity.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Surely oppression drives the wise into madness,  
and a bribe corrupts the heart.

<sup>8</sup> Better is the end of a thing than its beginning,  
and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

<sup>9</sup>Be not quick in your spirit to become angry,  
for anger lodges in the heart<sup>of</sup> of fools.

<sup>10</sup>Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?"  
For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

<sup>11</sup>Wisdom is good with an inheritance,  
an advantage to those who see the sun.

<sup>12</sup>For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money,  
and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him  
who has it.

<sup>13</sup>Consider the work of God:  
who can make straight what he has made crooked?

<sup>14</sup>In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God  
has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything  
that will be after him.

<sup>15</sup>In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who  
perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life  
in his evildoing.<sup>16</sup>Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise.  
Why should you destroy yourself? <sup>17</sup>Be not overly wicked, neither be a  
fool. Why should you die before your time? <sup>18</sup>It is good that you should take  
hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God  
shall come out from both of them.

<sup>19</sup>Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a  
city.

<sup>20</sup>Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

<sup>21</sup>Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant  
cursing you. <sup>22</sup>Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed  
others.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING: JAMES 4:1-12**

**GOSPEL READING: LUKE 7:11-17**

**\*CONFESSION OF FAITH: VALDÉS'S CATECHISM (1549)**

It is the Christian's duty to imitate Christ, especially in those things he wants us to imitate: in meekness, by which he did no wrong to anyone; in humility, by which he humbled himself by assuming human flesh, and even the vilest and most abject condition among men; in charity, by which he died for his enemies; in obedience, by which he was obedient to his eternal Father, even unto death on the cross, to restore by his obedience what the first man destroyed by his disobedience. So it behoves the Christian to do what Christ did, and not to do anything that Christ would not have done. This should be the rule peculiar to Christian life.

**\*PRAYER FOR THE SERMON**

**SERMON:** *OBSEQUY*, REV. JERID KRULISH

**\*HYMN:** *HERE, O MY LORD, I SEE THEE FACE TO FACE*, NO. 378

**\*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.

**EXHORTATION TO CONFESSION: ECCLESIASTES 7:20**

Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

## **PUBLIC CONFESSION: PSALM 25**

To you, O Lord, we lift up our soul; in you we trust, O our God. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame. Show us your ways, O Lord, teach us your paths; guide us in your truth and teach us, for you are God our Savior, and our hope is in you all day long. Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth and our rebellious ways; according to your love remember us, for you are good, O Lord.

For the sake of your name, O Lord, forgive our iniquity, for it is great. Look upon our affliction and our distress and take away all our sins. Guard our lives and rescue us; let us not be put to shame for we take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness protect us, because our hope is in you. Redeem Israel, O God, from all her troubles!

Amen.

## **† SILENT REPENTANCE**

### **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON: ISAIAH 12:2**

Behold, God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid;  
for the Lord God is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.

## **DECLARATION OF ABSOLUTION**

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

### **\*HYMN: MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS, NO. 252 I**

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† *The congregation is permitted to kneel.*

## **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.*

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, because you gave us Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born at this time for us, who by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother, and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

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.

**\*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.*

19. That this Holy Spirit is a divine favor by means of which God quickens our minds, maintaining them in spiritual life, just as this air we feel animates our bodies, maintaining them in bodily life (John 3).

20. That at the coming of the Holy Spirit, God began to fulfill what he had promised Abraham, for in Christ, born of the seed of Abraham, according to the flesh, all the nations that accept the Gospel are blessed. Thus they only are Abraham’s posterity, and to them only belongs the inheritance of the world after the resurrection of the righteous (Rom. 4).

21. That some of Christ’s disciples who received the Holy Spirit, possessing the gift of apostleship, began to publish this most happy news to man. They told in what manner God, having already chastised all our sins in Christ, has liberally pardoned us all in general, entreating us on behalf of God and in the name of Christ to consider ourselves as reconciled with God. The office of the Apostle, which means “sent forth,” consists in the publication of this news (Acts 1 [Acts 2]; 2 Cor 5).

**WPC BIBLE READING PLAN:**

	<u>Topic</u>		
1/1	The Word of God	Col. 3	Psalm 119:1-16
1/2		Deut. 6	Psalm 119:17-40
1/3		2 Tim. 2	Psalm 119:41-64
1/4		Neh. 8	Psalm 119:65-88
1/5		Acts 18	Psalm 119:89-104
1/6	Ephiphany	Isaiah 52:7-10; Romans 15:8-21; Psalm 46	

## **PRAYER**

Pray for the Stoms family:

- Pray for safe travels as they are planning a trip to the US very soon.
- Pray for God's blessing upon the ministry: for new souls to be brought to Christ, and for believers to remain faithful to their calling.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALENDAR**

### **GOSPEL OF JOHN BIBLE STUDY:**

*All are welcome. Meeting at the Jonathan VanGelder house. Contact the church for directions.*  
Wednesdays at 7pm, but taking a break for the holidays. Resuming soon: to-be-announced!

### **YOUNG MEN'S PROVERB'S STUDY:**

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

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm for dinner, 7:00PM for the study.

(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)

### **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

**WPC's Missions Committee is looking for additional members.** Please prayerfully consider this, and if you are interested, please contact Brian Vandenburg, Terry Craig, Kristine Ozaine, or Dave and Sabina Buhrmaster. Members of the committee meet together once a month or once every-other-month to pray for our missionaries, and to discuss/plan ways that the congregation can specifically minister to their needs.

*"Brothers, pray for us." – 1 Thessalonians 5:25*

## NOTES

