

WESTMINSTER  PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

**Service for the Lord's Day
Holy Baptism and Holy Communion**

**First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020**

“The world is not fated to either evil or unambiguous good. ... We believe, as disciples of the crucified one, that the essential goodness of the world ... cannot be thwarted, for God is committed to it in longsuffering love. The God of the exodus and the cross has goodwill toward, and good intentions for, the world. ... Yet we are not and cannot be complacent or passive in relation to this assurance; for the measure with which we are grasped by that divine blessing is the measure with which we ourselves are made active participants in its promise”

(Douglas John Hall, *The Cross in Our Context: Jesus and the Suffering World*).

GATHERING

(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)

PRELUDE

Winchester New
Wachet auf, BWV 645

Christopher Tambling
J.S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*As the light is brought into the Sanctuary,
and the candle on the Advent wreath is lighted,
the congregation is invited to sing the following:*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

These days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfill the promise:

I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David;
and he shall execute justice and righteousness.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**We come to this day
with our ears inclined toward your Word.
May it be a guiding light
as we enter this season of Advent
that calls us to stay alert
and wait with anticipation
for your return. Amen.**

***HYMN 367**

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

CALL TO CONFESSION

What does the Lord require of us
**but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God?**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us come to confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Eternal God, you taught us
that the night is far spent, and the day is at hand.
Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,
and make us strong in faith,
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,
we may joyfully give him praise;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Silent confession)

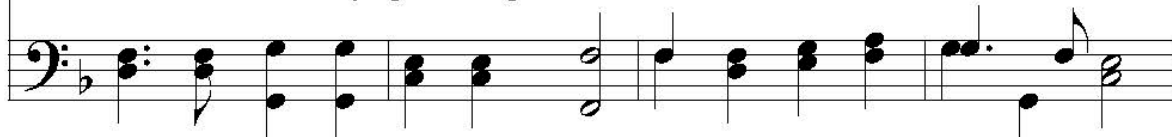
367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har-vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har-vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!



Kyrie (*Sung responsively by the choir and congregation*)

James MacMillan

Choir: Lord, have mer - cy. Congregation: Lord, have
mer - cy. Choir: Christ, have mer - cy. Congregation: Christ,
have mer - cy. Choir: Lord, have
Congregation and Choir: mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(The liturgist pours water, which reminds us of our baptism.)

Friends, believe the Good News: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

***The Peace**

Since God in Christ has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

***ACT OF PRAISE**

WINCHESTER NEW

**All praise to You, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

I Corinthians 1:1-3

Choir: Lord Jesus, come soon! *Congregation:* Lord Jesus, come soon!

Capo 1: (Bm) (D) (A) (C) (Em) (Bm)
 Cm Eb Bb Db Fm Cm

1 O hear our cry, O Lord; now hear us as we pray.
 2 En-throned a-bove all worlds, you shine with ho-ly light.
 3 O Lord, the God of Hosts, turn not your face a - way.
 4 O Lord, our God, re - turn; bring peace in - to each home.

(F#m) (D) (Bm) (F#m) (B7) (E)
 Gm Eb Cm Gm C7 F

You guide us as a shep-herd leads, so keep us in your way.
 Lord, pour your power up - on us all and save us with your might.
 Our tears have been both food and drink; foes mock us night and day.
 So let your face shine on us all; re - store us as your own.

(A) (Dm) (G) (C) (F) (B) (F#) (B)
 Bb Ebm Ab Db Gb C G C

O come; Lord, come; re - store and save us now.

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ “But in those days, after that suffering,
 the sun will be darkened,
 and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,
 and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power
 and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from
 the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender
 and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when
 you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very
 gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these
 things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my
 words will not pass away.

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven,
 nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not

know when the time will come.³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

SERMON

“Children, Don’t Get Weary ...”

Guy D. Griffith

“Stay at your post. Keep watch.” (Mark 13:37b, The Message)

(A moment for meditation)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Obeying the word of our Lord Jesus,
and confident of his promises,
we baptize those whom God has called.

**In baptism God claims us and seals us
to show that we belong to God.**

**God frees us from sin and death,
uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.**

**By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the Church,
the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry
of love, peace, and justice.**

**Let us remember with joy our own baptism,
as we celebrate this sacrament.**

Questions to the Parents, Congregation and Children of the Church

***Profession of Faith**

Through baptism we enter the covenant...

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended to the dead.

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven;
he is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal and gracious God...lives and reigns forever. **Amen.**

The Baptism

Welcome

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into the body of Christ.

Live as a child of the light and let your light shine before others. Amen.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Anthem O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide William Miller

O Savior, rend the heavens wide; come down, come down with mighty stride;
unlock the gates; the doors break down; unbar the way to heaven's crown.

O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, when will our hearts behold your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without your light we grope in gloom and dark of night.

Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh come, lead us with mighty hand, from exile to our promised land.

O Dayspring, dew from heaven send, as gentle dew, O Son, descend.
Drop down, you clouds, and torrents bring, to Jacob's line rain down a King.

There shall we all our praises bring ever to you, our Savior King;
there shall we laud you and adore forever and forever more.

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PREPARATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE**

***INVITATION**

***GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**


Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy...
and peace shall reign over all the earth.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the celestial choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

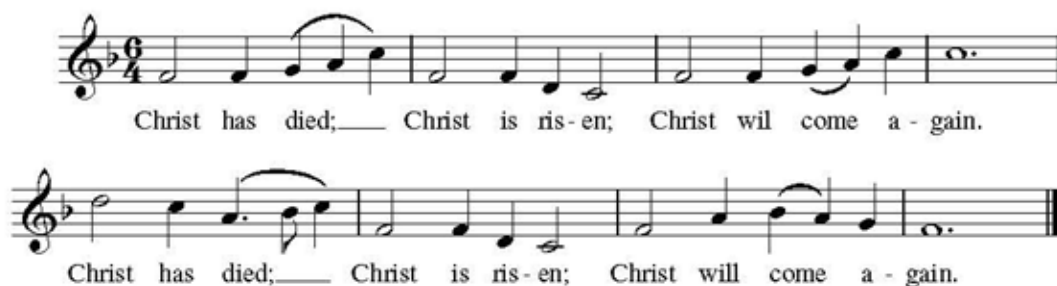


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, _____
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
san - na in the high - est, ho san - na in the high - est.

(The congregation may be seated.)

You are holy, O God of majesty...
dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ wil come a - gain.
Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Prayed in unison*)

**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.**

SENDING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Gather communion elements of bread and wine, such as crackers, pita, or bagels; and juice, water, or soda — all are fine. Set out worshipful elements such as a white cloth, cross, candle, and Bible. If you are gathered with others, please serve one another communion, offering the elements with words such as, “This is the bread of life” and “This is the cup of salvation.” If you are alone, know that others are sharing this meal with you, and that we are all part of the body of Christ whether we receive in solitude or with others.

Music during Communion

Anthem Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.
Christian journey soon be over,
the time is drawing nigh.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

*HYMN 348

Lo, He Comes with Cloud Descending

HELMSLEY

1 Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand,
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near; all the
high on thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior,

thou - sand saints at - tend - ing join to
saints this world re - ject - ed thrill the
take the power and glo - ry; claim the

sing the glad re - frain: Al - le -
 trum - pet sound to hear: Al - le -
 king - dom as thine own. Come, Lord

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Je - sus; come, Lord Je - sus; come, Lord

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 Je - sus. Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

***BENEDICTION**

Choir: Lord Jesus, come soon! *Congregation:* Lord Jesus, come soon!

POSTLUDE

Proclamation on Wachet auf

A.D. Miller

*(Those who are able may stand.)

SERVICE NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS: Liturgist: Donovan Drake, Pastor; Presenting Elder for Baptism: Frank Wade.

MUSICIANS: Garrett Doo, soloist; Chamber Choir; John W. Semingson, Director of Music Ministries; Polly Brecht, Organist.

LORD JESUS, COME SOON! “Lord Jesus, come soon!” which we sing responsively in our worship services during Advent, comes directly from 1 Corinthians 16:22. It is one of the oldest prayers of the Christian Church. It expresses the deepest longing of the Christian – that the Lord will come to us and to our world, bringing the fullness of the peace, joy and healing that God has promised.

THE BAPTISMAL RITE

The Apostles' Creed: The oldest surviving baptismal liturgy, dating from around the year 200 C.E., describes the candidate for baptism standing in water and affirming the faith by responding to three questions. Each question corresponds to one person of the Trinity. The Paschal Candle is symbolic of Christ's death and resurrection. The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, is our Paschal sacrifice. The Paschal Candle also symbolizes the light of the risen Christ, shining in the world. The use of this symbol dates from the early days of the Church. New Christians were given a lighted candle, symbolic of their having died and been raised to new life in Christ through baptism. Each family is given a Paschal Candle to use annually on the anniversary of the baptism as a symbolic reminder of God's gift of redemption and new life in Jesus Christ.

*The sacrament of baptism will be administered today
at the 8:30 a.m. worship service to*

*George Nelson Swanson,
the son of Laura and George Meeker*

COMMUNION: The Presbyterian Church (USA) practices “open Communion” without regard to denominational affiliation. All who are truly sorry for their sins and seek to become more faithful to Christ are welcome at the Lord’s Table. Westminster celebrates the “Eucharist,” meaning “thanksgiving,” on the first Sunday of each month, on the first Sunday of each liturgical season, and on every Sunday during the Season of Easter, except Baptism Sundays.

ADVENT: Advent is the first season of the liturgical year, consisting of four Sundays in which the church prepares for the celebration of the Incarnation. The seasonal color is royal blue, symbolic of kingship and of hope. Each Sunday an additional candle on the Advent wreath is lighted, symbolic of the dawning of the light of God's Kingdom, inaugurated in the birth of the infant of Bethlehem. As we approach Christmas, the Sanctuary will change in appearance. Each Sunday decorations will be added as the Church's hopeful joy increases.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 Update:

- The Church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and closed on Friday. Meetings with Staff are by appointment only. Please call 615.292.5526 to schedule as we are limiting the number of people in the office.
- Please contact the church office for up-to-date information on reserving outside and indoor space.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: For Sunday, November 29, 2020 the 8:30 a.m. worship service will be LIVE streamed. There will not be an outdoor worship service at 11:00 a.m. If you aren't able to view the service at 8:30 a.m., you can watch it later in the day or later in the week. Simply click the top button of the Quick Links on our home page, nashvillewpc.org. This takes you to our Vimeo page where all the services are archived on the right side of the page. The newest service will not yet be dated. Simply click the service you would like to watch. Midweek services also will continue to be LIVE streamed on Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m.

WELCOME: Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes you to share our common journey to become more faithful disciples of Christ. If you are interested in learning about membership, please contact Melissa Threatt (864.506.0267; melissa.threatt@gmail.com) or Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (615.292.5526; hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org).

2020 POINSETTIA MEMORIALS AND HONORARIA: This year, Christmas Eve worship services may be different, but we will continue our treasured tradition, albeit on a smaller scale, of gracing our Sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent season. Proceeds will benefit the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to provide assistance to many in our community who are in great need. To purchase a poinsettia (\$10 each) in memory or in honor of a friend or family member, click here <https://bit.ly/3noEVil> or email Terri Eckert at teckert@nashvillewpc.org. *The deadline for submitting names is Sunday, December 13, 2020.*

THE 2020 ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT MARKET IS NOW OPEN!

Give Christmas gifts to friends and family while also giving to those in need – all from the comfort of your own home. This year, the Hands-On Mission Committee has chosen to feature sixteen local and international non-profit agencies and WPC missions. Also look for a special section created in connection with Children’s Ministry to guide children and families through the market. Your gifts will enhance the quality and faith-based nature of your gift giving this holiday season. Please visit http://nashvillewpc.org/Alternative_Gift_Market/ for more information and to access the giving website.

WPC MONTHLY FINANCIAL OPERATING SUMMARY: Each month the Finance Committee provides a summary of the church operating income and expenses. If any members wish to have more information about church finances, please contact: Jo Ann McFarlin, jmcfarlin@nashvillewpc.org or 615-292-5526; Mike Koban, Finance Committee Chair at mkoban@prodigy.net; or Suzanne McLemore, Treasurer at suzannegm58@gmail.com.

October 31, 2020

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income:	\$206,784	\$2,777,909
Expense:	\$364,428	\$2,457,435
Net Income (loss):	<u>\$(157,644)</u>	<u>\$ 320,475</u>

HE HIMSELF IS BEFORE ALL THINGS, AND IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER. *Colossians 1:17* In this time of uncertainty and fear, we continue to share the word of God to bring you strength and hope, and to keep us all connected. Your pledge payments and donations are instrumental in sustaining our ability to move forward with all the ministries of WPC. **To make a general donation or your pledge payment, please click here <https://bit.ly/3dcoSzD>** for all options, or scan the QR code to take you directly to the Donations/Payments webpage.



To make your 2021 Generosity Pledge, click here <https://bit.ly/2GUERXm> or scan the QR code below to take you directly to the 2021 Pledge webpage. We hope you will continue your support.



A SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING: Sunday, November 29, 7:00 p.m. LIVE STREAMED ONLY While the Advent and Christmas season is full of joy and anticipation for many, for others the season can bring sadness, alienation, and pain. This year, all of us are impacted by the COVID pandemic and the changes and losses it has caused. There are many among us dealing with loss and grief, uncertainty, and confusion. Our Service of Hope and Healing offers a time for scripture, prayer, music, and the lighting of candles. It will affirm our hope in God, acknowledge the reality of our pain, and seek to discover the Light that shines in the darkness. The service will be pre-recorded and available to view the evening of the first Sunday in Advent on the WPC website, and anytime thereafter. We encourage you to create a worship center when you share in this service; perhaps a cloth to grace your table, an open Bible, nature objects, a cross, photos or symbols of who or what you are carrying upon your heart this Advent season. Do include a candle to be lit at a special time in the service. “O Come, O come, Emmanuel.” God-with-us.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION: The music used in the service this morning is copyrighted under Christian Copyright Licensing International, Inc., No. 11221525.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Purpose Statement

*Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light
found in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

“For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*3900 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205-1899
615.292.5526
www.nashvillewpc.org*