

WESTMINSTER  PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Service for the Lord's Day

Holy Communion

Epiphany of the Lord

January 3, 2021

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Dietrich Buxtehude

Chorale Fantasia on "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star", Bux WV 223

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

Come, hear the Christmas news:

Jesus Christ is Born!

Come, sing the Christmas story:

Jesus Christ is born!

Come, worship the Christmas child.

Jesus Christ is born!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Almighty God,

your Son Jesus Christ was presented in the temple

and acclaimed the glory of Israel

and the light of the nations.

Grant that in him we may be presented to you,

and in the world may reflect his glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

CALL TO CONFESSION

The gift of God's grace
is lavished upon us
poured out like water –
through the life and death of the risen Lord.

Trusting in the love and goodness of God,
let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Holy One,
forgive us when we fail to live in the
good news
of your Christmas story:
when we hear the choir sing, "Rejoice!"
but we do not join their chorus;
when we know the angels say, "Do not fear,"
yet fear is all we can muster;
when we see a star rising in the east,
but we turn away from its light.
Forgive us, O Lord, of the sins of our lives
and the sins of the systems we fail to disrupt.
Convict us with the cry of a child from
a manger,
and free us to try again.**

(Silent confession)

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

Hal H. Hopson

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*(The liturgist pours water, which reminds us of our baptism,
and then speaks words of pardon.)*

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.")

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

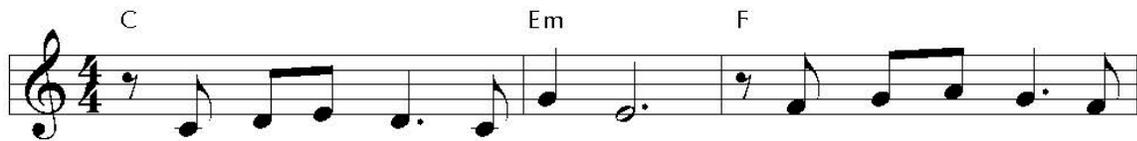
Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

Ephesian 1:3-14

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 29 (Hymn 259)

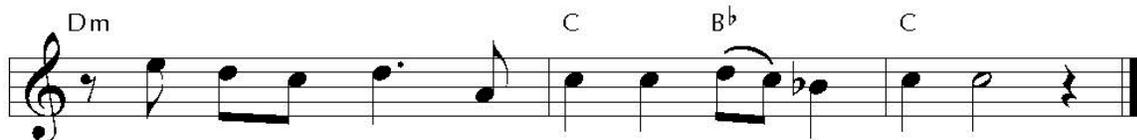
GLORY



1 The God of heav - en thun - ders, whose voice in stri - dent
2 The des - ert writhes in tem - pest; wind whips the trees to
3 The might - y God e - ter - nal is to the throne as -



ech - oes re - sounds a - bove the wa - ters,
fu - ry; the light - ning splits the for - est
cend - ed, and we who are God's peo - ple,



and all the world sings, "Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry!"
and flame dif - fus - es glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry!
with - in these walls cry, "Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry!"

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SERMON

"2021"

Donovan Drake

(A moment for meditation)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Anthem

The Word Made Flesh

Philip Wilby

I sing the birth was born tonight, the author both of life and light;
The angels so did sound it, And, like the ravished shepherds said,
Who saw the light, and were afraid, Yet searched, and true they found it.

The Son of God, the eternal King. That did us all salvation bring,
and freed our soul from danger, He whom the whole world could not take.
The Word, which heaven and earth did make, Was now laid in a manger.

The Father's wisdom willed it so, the son's obedience knew no No;
Both wills were in one stature, And, as that wisdom had decreed,
The Word was now made flesh indeed. And took on him our nature.

What comfort by him we do win, Who made himself the price of sin,
To make us heirs of glory! To see this babe, all innocence,
A martyr born in our defence, Can we forget, forget the story?

DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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 right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth . . . who forever sing
to the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord...
 God of pow - er and might... Heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na
 in the high - est! Bles - sed is he who comes, he who
 comes in the name of the Lord... Ho - san - na, ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

(The congregation may be seated.)

We praise you, most holy God, ... to live for him in joy and grateful praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us... until we feast with him in glory.

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

ALL:

[organ] A - men, A - men, A - men.

THE LORD'S 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Gather communion elements of bread and wine, such as crackers or pita and juice or water. 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 “This is the bread of life” and “This is the cup of salvation.” If 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

The Wise Men and the Star

Oliver Tarney

Sovereign scholars, weary of waiting,
startled by starlight that kindles the sky.
Eager for answers, destiny drives them
watching with wonder, watching with wonder,
watching with wonder, they follow the star.

Passing by palaces, greedy and golden,
threading the byways of winter and cold,
come to a doorway, low-built and lamplit,
eagerly enter, eagerly enter, eagerly enter under the star.

Source of all starlight, simply they see him,
laid in a manger and haloed with hay.
Bright in his beauty, shrouded with shadows.
Steady the star shines, steady the star shines,
steady the star shines. Follow the star.

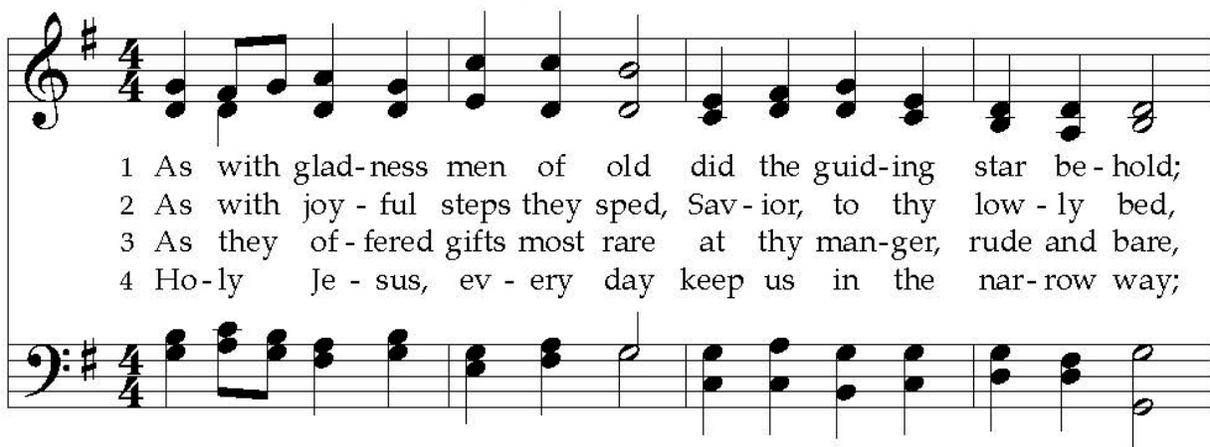
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

HYMN 150

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heaven and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In Thee is Gladness, BWV 615

J.S. Bach

**(Those who are able may stand.)*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
and in gratitude and love for the staff and members of Westminster
and the many ministries of this church
by Cathey and Wilford Fuqua.*

SERVICE NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS: Liturgist: Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care.

MUSICIANS: Hannah Sims, soloist; John W. Semingson, Director of Music Ministries; Polly Brecht, Organist.

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.

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, January 3, 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 miss the service at 8:30 a.m., you can watch it later in the day or week. Go to nashvillewpc.org and in the Quick Links box, click on WPC Live Stream Services. The newest service may not yet be dated. Midweek services also will continue to be LIVE streamed on Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m. However, there will not be a midweek service on December 30.

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).

SANCTUARY AND PARLOR FLOWERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021:

Please note that beginning January 1, 2021, the cost of flower arrangements will increase to \$150 for Sanctuary flowers and \$75 for Parlor flowers. This increase will ensure continuation of the highest quality arrangements and supplies. If you would like to provide flowers for the Sanctuary or Parlor during 2021, please contact Terri Eckert by email at teckert@nashvillewpc.org to select your Sunday. As well, reservations for flowers do not carry over from year-to-year. Arranged by members of Westminster's talented Flower Guild, this is a wonderful way to celebrate your loved ones or honor those who have died.

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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.

November 30, 2020

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income:	\$247,036	\$3,024,947
Expense:	<u>\$201,332</u>	<u>\$2,658,767</u>
Net Income (loss):	<u>\$ 45,704</u>	<u>\$ 366,180</u>

**CHRIST HIMSELF IS BEFORE ALL THINGS,
AND IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER.**

Colossians 1:17

We go out into the world sharing the good news and return praising God for what we have seen and heard.

As of this week, 409 families have contributed \$2,614,678 toward our pledge campaign.

Our 2021 Budget goal is \$2,958,900, and we need \$344,222 to make the goal a reality.

Though in-person worship is limited, the work of Westminster has continued - Fellowship and Bible study gatherings on Zoom, streaming Sunday and mid-week worship services, online book studies, film reviews, choir recordings, knitting circles, and more. By contributing to Westminster, we are using what God has given us to share the good news of Jesus by serving others - through our many ministry partners - Home Connection, Room in the Inn, and Habitat, to name just a few. Westminster has an amazing ministry. We hope you will be a part of it by making your pledge.

To make a general donation or your pledge payment, please click here <https://bit.ly/3dcoSzD> or scan the QR code below 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.



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Westminster Presbyterian Church
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