

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 25, 2011

CHRISTMAS DAY

11:15 a.m.

“Glory to God in the Highest!”

PRELUDE – Trio on “Hark! The Heralds Angels Sing” Lasky
INTROIT – “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ADESTE FIDELES

Stanza 1: Solo

Stanza 2: Choir

* Stanza 3: Congregation

“Yea, Lord we greet Thee, Born this happy morning

Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!

O Come, Let us adore Him! O Come, Let us adore Him!

O Come, Let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Glory to God in the highest.

People: Thanks be to God for the wonderful gift.

Leader: We praise the Prince of Peace.

People: Thanks be to God for the wonderful gift.

Leader: Come! Let us worship God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

George & Susan McLarty and Ellis

On Christmas Day, we relight the Advent and Christ candles, celebrating the coming of God’s Son into our world.

* CAROL – No. 53 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” IN DULCI JUBILO

* CHRISTMAS LITANY

Leader: Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.

People: God’s grace has appeared for the salvation of all.

Leader: For to us is born a savior, who is Christ the Lord.

People: God’s grace has appeared for the salvation of all.

Leader: And the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.”

People: God’s grace has appeared for the salvation of all.

Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore.

People: God’s grace has appeared for the salvation of all.

Leader: Therefore live sober, upright, and godly lives,

People: Awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

SERVICE OF GIVING

Offertory – Organ Chorale on Forest Green Woods

* Doxology

* Offertory Prayer

CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

THE PROPHECY OF A MESSIAH

Reading: Isaiah 7:14-15

* CAROL No. 53 – “What Child Is This” GREENSLEEVES

THE PROPHECY OF THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Readings: Isaiah 53:2-9

“Not Celebrate?”

Ann Weems

Solo “Welcome to Our World”

Rice

THE PROPHECY OF HOPE

Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7

“Light of Lights”

Thomas Aquinas

Anthem “Caroler’s Lullaby”

Rodriguez

THE MAGNIFICAT: MARY’S HYMN OF PRAISE

Readings: Luke 1:46-55

“The House of Christmas”

G.K. Chesterton

* Carol No. 44 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

FOREST GREEN

THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECIES

Reading: Luke 2:1-7 (Unison)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

“The Decree”

Ann Weems

“The Wise May Bring Their Learning”

Edward John Hopkins

Anthem – “Angel’s Carol”

Rutter

THE CONTINUATION OF GOD’S PROMISE

Readings: Isaiah 40:28-31

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” Henry W. Longfellow

* CAROL No. 29 – “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE – Fanfare and Chorale on Adeste Fidelis

Dicie

* *All who are able may stand*

USHER:

Carl Nuttall

GREETERS:

Midge Williams, Will Edwards

Anne Nuttall, Will Quinn

LITURGISTS:

Ludwig Weaver, Barbara Stoop,

Dave Sems, Fred Carpenter,

Jean Weaver

Visitors and members are invited to the Sanctuary Atrium following the worship service for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

STREAMING

The 11:15 a.m. Worship Services will be broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at www.wpc-online.org and click the link under Worship called “Watch the Service on Sunday Live.”

CHURCH NOTES

There will *not* be a Children’s Church this Sunday, December 25.

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Greg Campbell, guest organist

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The church’s offering envelopes are dateless and can be used until they run out. If you need more offering envelopes, please call the church office at 232-2424.

2012 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, December 20, we have received \$1,899,003 in pledges toward our 2012 budget goal of \$2,162,386.

For your convenience, pledge cards are in the pews, or you may mail in your pledge or send it by e-mail to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens at secretary@wpc-online.org.

YOUTH

We will *not* meet on Sunday, December 25 or Sunday, January 1. If you have any questions, call Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

YOUTH SIGN UPS

• **Summer Montreat for Senior Highs and present 8th Graders: July 21-28.** The cost for the week is \$400 if you sign up *by January 1*. Because Montreat raises the registration fee monthly, the cost will go up \$25 per month. Full and partial scholarships are available for both trips. If you have any questions, call Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

MEN’S MISSION TRIP

We invite all the men of the church to join us **March 21-25** for a trip to Glenwood, Florida. We will be working at the Duvall Home, which is a home for developmentally disabled children and adults. Specifically we will be working to upgrade the camp grounds where groups stay who are working with the home. The cost of the trip is \$50, which will help to cover the cost of food. If you have any questions, contact Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269 or sphillips@wpc-online.org. You can sign up in the church office.

EPIPHANY TEA

The Presbyterian Women Epiphany Tea will be held on Sunday, January 8, from 4:00-5:30. There will be a brief service in the Sanctuary, followed by a time of refreshments and fellowship in the Atrium. Please plan to join the women of our congregation as we celebrate this special day in the life of the church.

THE HARBINGER
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
December 25 - 31, 2011

SUNDAY
 11:15 a.m. Worship Service
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY
Church Office closed
 7:00 a.m. Alcoholics Anonymous
 5:15 p.m. NAMI
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY
 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon

WEDNESDAY
 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
 6:00 p.m. JustFaith
 The Flock

THURSDAY
 7:30 a.m. Alcoholics Anonymous
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

2011 BUDGET UPDATE

2011 Pledges	\$1,945,554
Amount Received	<u>\$1,632,754</u>
Pledges Outstanding	(\$312,800)

Our auditing firm has informed us that we must close our books on December 31. Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2011 statement in by December 31, 2011. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners. Thank you.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, January 8, 2012**, immediately following the 11:15 a.m. worship service. The order of business will be: (1) To elect twelve elders for the Class of 2015 and one for the Class of 2013, (2) To elect one trustee for the Class of 2018, (3) To act upon proposed changes in the ministers' terms of calls, (4) To answer questions concerning the 2012 budget.

SESSION NOMINEES

During the Congregational meeting on **Sunday, January 8**, the Nominating Committee will nominate the following to serve on the Session:

Class of 2015

<i>Roxanne Cromartie</i>	<i>Jon McKnight</i>
<i>Jay Culclasure</i>	<i>Jamie Moon</i>
<i>Kelly Gillespie</i>	<i>Pete Roe</i>
<i>Ashley Godwin</i>	<i>Dick Sargent</i>
<i>Cathy Grills</i>	<i>Catherine Stoddard</i>
<i>Jara Jones</i>	<i>John Taylor</i>

Class of 2013: Mike Hall Class of 2018 Trustee: Bill Algary

Others may be nominated from the floor. If you plan to do so, please contact the person beforehand to be certain he/she is willing to serve.



This year my mother gave our boys a Christmas countdown clock. As the name implies, this gadget has allowed the boys to see with glowing, digital precision a real-time display of how many days, hours, minutes, and seconds are left until Christmas morning. When my brothers and I were growing up, we had other ways of counting down. Each December day leading up to Christmas, we added a new ornament to a special tree decoration and we had a special countdown candle that got a little shorter each day as Christmas approached. We also lit purple and pink candles on our Advent wreath each Sunday until finally lighting the Christ candle in the center.

All of this counting, tracking, and waiting make for an exciting and wonderful time of year, both for children and adults. However, as we grow older and have more responsibilities, the season's anticipation can also be accompanied by anxiety. For some there is concern over a sick loved one, friends going through a tough time, or past strains on family relationships that only come out at the holidays. For others there are stresses of work, school, or home, with year-end projects and deadlines falling at just the wrong time. Even the happy gatherings, meals, programs, and traditions, however fun they are, can take scarce time away from all the things we feel like we need to do.

When the Reverend Billy Graham was once asked his guidance on how to navigate this often difficult situation, he responded by quoting the angel of the Lord: "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." It is a simple answer, but one that returns us to the true meaningfulness and excitement of the season, one that should comfort us and release us to be children of God free from worry or concern. Today is a sacred and wonderful day. The countdown clock has reached zero, the tree is filled with ornaments, and all the Advent candles are now lit. Do not be afraid, for to you a Savior has been born.

Tom Vanderbloemen