

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 1, 2019

9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Above the clamor of our violence your Word of truth resounds, O God of majesty and power. Over nations enshrouded in despair your justice dawns. Grant your household a discerning spirit and a watchful eye to perceive the hour in which we live. Hasten the advent of that day when the weapons of war shall be banished, our deeds of darkness cast off, and all your scattered children gathered into one. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

9:00 a.m. – *David & Anna Hanor*

11:15 a.m. – *Philip & Beth Land, Elizabeth and Sarah Margaret*

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Weaver

* CALL TO WORSHIP *Jeremiah 33:14a, 15*

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

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

All: **Let us worship God!**

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 357 LLANGLOFFAN

"The Days Are Surely Coming"

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that we are a people filled with small wishes and feeble hopes. We have lived with the wrong sense of urgency, for we have been anxious about creature comforts and have been casual about that which matters most to you. Forgive us for our petty jealousies, our silly grudges, our selfish desires, and our fearful faith. Help us to learn again what it means to wait expectantly for your Son. Grant us new eyes to see our neighbor, new minds to imagine our future, and new hearts to welcome our Lord's love into our lives. We ask it all in Christ's holy name. Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 581)

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.

Children in K5-first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5 O.T., p. 550

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 1:1-17 N.T., p. 783

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Ben Dorr

"Family History"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Nicene Creed *Hymnal, p. 34*

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 on 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 SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

OFFERING

Solo 9:00 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" DeFord

Anthem 11:15 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" arr. Shepperd

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

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

* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN No. 93 TRURO

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

* CHARGE & BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel" Weaver

* POSTLUDE

**All who are able may stand*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEAD USHERS: 9:00 a.m. Butler Mullins
11:15 a.m. Al Norris
SPONSOR: Freddie Williams
GREETERS: 9:00 a.m. Anna Hanor, Jon McKnight
Grier Mullins
11:15 a.m. Gaye Sprague, Ashley Gettys
Elizabeth McElveen
LITURGIST: Leigh Stuckey
LAY READERS: 9:00 a.m. Kim Kent
11:15 a.m. Kathryn Rowan

PARKING

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

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

STREAMING

All worship services at Westminster are broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at www.wpc-online.org and click the link "Worship via Live Streaming."

CHURCH NOTES

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Nancy Smith, organist

9:00 a.m.

Jim Wilkins, soloist

11:15 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir

Hunter Ditsch, flute

Cigi Curry, bassoon

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.

During worship, children in K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children's Church in Room 206.

HEALTH MINISTRY

We are offering free blood pressure screenings this **Sunday, December 1**. The screenings will take place in the **Friendship Court** following the **9:00 a.m.** and **11:15 a.m.** services. If you have any questions or if you are a healthcare professional and would like to help, please contact *Tim Miller* (627-0725).

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. Specific envelopes for your contributions may be found in the Ritual of Friendship booklets. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

2019 ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

The 2019 Daily Advent Devotionals will be delivered by email beginning this **Sunday, December 1**. If you prefer to receive a paper copy, contact the church office at 232-2424. We invite you to take a moment out of your day to read and meditate on this daily devotion that will lead us through the Advent season.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The new church directory is available to members who participated in the picture taking process. You may pick up your copy in the church office. The MyWPC option available at the bottom of Westminster's website (www.wpc-online.org) offers an up-to-date version of this directory. Also, the church office can supply an online version to you upon request. To request an online version of the directory, email Wendy Bagley in the church office at wendy@wpc-online.org.

2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, November 26, we have received \$2,129,747 in pledges toward our 2020 budget goal of \$2,513,715.

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

“How a Rose E’er Blooming: Pastors Reflect on the Christmas Story”

Join us this Advent for a **combined Sunday School** to explore the stories of Jesus’ birth. This discussion and lecture based class will probe old stories for new insights into the relevancy of the Christmas story for a modern age. “How a Rose E’er Blooming” will meet in **Room 209**.

- December 1:** Leigh Stuckey on Herod and the flight to Egypt
- December 8:** Lauren Slingerland on the prophecies
- December 15:** Ben Dorr on Jesus at the Temple
- December 22:** Mary Kathleen Duncan on the Magnificat

SHUT-IN COMMUNION

For those who are homebound and would like to receive communion, please contact Amos Workman (423-0070).

WESTFEST

Join us in the **Green Lot** this **Sunday, December 1**, from **5:30-7:30 p.m.** for this year's *WestFest*, our annual Advent Celebration. We'll have live music from the West End String Band and food from Thororoughfare, The Chuck Truck, and (new this year) We've Got the Beets (vegan). Per usual, there will be s'mores, a bonfire, and koozies galore. If there is rain, we will move to the Fellowship Hall.

ADULT GROUPS

- **Needle Arts Group:** Will meet **Wednesday, December 4**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the **Entrance Pavilion**. Group Leader: *Terry Gentry* (tgentry@charter.net).
- **Hiking Group:** Will meet **Saturday, December 7**, for a hike at Paris Mountain State Park. Hike Leader: *Durden Collins* (durden.collins@gmail.com).

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a fellowship group for those in their fifties (very loosely defined), will meet at the church on **Thursday, December 5**, at **6:00 p.m.** to decorate a Chrismon tree. Watch your e-mail for more information, or, if you don't hear from us, contact *Susan Grier* (susan@grierfamily.org). We hope to see you!

**UNITED MINISTRIES
FOOD PANTRY**

The food pantry is in need of peanut butter, dry milk, and other non-perishable food items. Donations may be left in the labeled cabinets in the Friendship Court.

CONNECTIONS

The Connections group will meet for our annual Christmas Brunch on **Sunday, December 8 at 12:45 p.m.** Join us at the **Westin Poinsett Hotel's Spoonbread Restaurant**. We will gather in the lobby at the round tables next to the Christmas tree. **Reservations are needed by Friday, December 6.** Please respond to *Edna Ruth Miller* (288-8645 or rgvduo@bellsouth.net). First time attendees are welcome.

**YOUNGISH
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Young...or at least *Youngish*? It's all a state of mind. Come celebrate Christmas at Leigh's (208 A Anderson St.) on **Friday, December 13**, at **6:30 p.m.** Wear your ugliest sweater, or at least your most festive.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet **Monday, December 16**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Charter Room**. This will be a seasonal gathering - a time of fellowship and the sharing of light refreshments and a Christmas memory, poem, story, or more. All are invited.

RETIREMENT GIVING

For those 70 and 1/2 years of age or older, you can make a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Though you will not get a charitable deduction, the withdrawal can serve as your required minimum distribution. The money will not be taxed and will not count toward your adjusted gross income. If you have any questions, please contact Sherri Owens, the church's Financial Secretary.

**THE HARBINGER
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

**2310 Augusta Road
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424**

www.wpc-online.org

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CHURCH STAFF

Church 232-2424	Weekday School 232-5766
Pastor	Ben Dorr
	bdorr@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Leigh Stuckey
	lstuckey@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Mary Kathleen Duncan
	mkduncan@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Lauren Slingerland
	lslingerland@wpc-online.org
Parish Associate for Older Adults	Amos Workman
	aworkman@wpc-online.org
Music Director	Mark Kemp
	mkemp@wpc-online.org
Children's Choir Coordinator	Kathryn Knauer
	kknauer@wpc-online.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Jennifer Dillard
	jdillard@wpc-online.org
Youth Intern	Lauren Ghighi
	lghighi@wpc-online.org
Organist	Nancy Smith
	nls1949@aol.com
Weekday School Director	Cara Puntch
	cpuntch@wpc-online.org
Financial Secretary	Sherri Owens
	sherri@wpc-online.org
Office Manager	Michelle Little
	michelle@wpc-online.org
Secretary	Wendy Bagley
	wendy@wpc-online.org
Director of Nurseries	Janell Pitman
	jpitman@wpc-online.org
Director of Hospitality	Lisa Ridge
	lisa@wpc-online.org
Building Supervisor	Steve Phillips
	stevep30@bellsouth.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 1 - 7, 2019

SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m. One Adult Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m. Worship Service
- 5:30 p.m. *WestFest*
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

- 6:15 p.m. NAMI
- 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. Women of Westminster Advent Luncheon
- 12:00 p.m. Administrative Committee Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. AI-Anon
- 1:00 p.m. Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

- 9:30 a.m. Weekday Chapel
- 9:45 a.m. Weekday Chapel
- 3:00 p.m. It's Elementary
- 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal
- 4:30 p.m. Junior & Senior Choristers
- 6:30 p.m. Needle Arts Group Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Bible Study
- 12:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

SATURDAY

- 8:30 a.m. Hiking Group (Paris Mtn.)

LIBRARY/POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in two ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for \$15.00, or money may be given to buy library books. Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary at the Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve Services. Please fill out the slip below or contact the church office, 232-2424. Donors may pick up their poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service you choose to attend. Orders must be placed by **Sunday, December 15**.

Donor _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

Library Amount \$ _____ OR Poinsettias x \$15.00 = \$ _____



The season of Advent is here! I love the symbolism in the lighting of the Advent wreath. The candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, reminding us that Jesus came as the light in our dark world. Each week as another candle is lit, the light shines brighter and brighter, growing stronger, much like our growing anticipation for Christmas day.

Today we light the first candle – the Prophet’s Candle – and recall the prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus. This first candle symbolizes hope – the hope that the Old Testament prophets spoke of as they waited for the coming of the Messiah.

When the prophet Isaiah wrote of the coming of the Messiah, it was 700 years before the birth of Jesus. Can you imagine? Centuries of people, hoping and waiting for something they would never see. Which, as Hebrews 11:1 tells us, is the definition of faith: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

This week, let’s take some time to honor the incredible faith of the prophets and our ancient ancestors who held tight to God’s promise and believed in – and hoped for – the coming of Jesus.

“Come, thou long expected Jesus born to set thy people free
from our fears and sins release us let us find our rest in thee”
– Charles Wesley

Jennifer Shurley

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
ANNUAL ADVENT LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 3 in the Fellowship Hall

Women of Westminster will hold their annual Advent Luncheon on **Tuesday, December 3**, in the **Fellowship Hall**. We are excited to have Lauren Slingerland and the Weekday School K5 class join as part of this year's program. The social will begin at **11:30 a.m.**, followed by lunch and the program beginning at **noon**. The cost is \$10. Childcare will be provided. Menu: Chicken salad on a bed of baby spinach, pasta salad, croissant, and red velvet cake. RSVP on the website or call the church office. *Sign up deadline is Sunday, December 1.*

We are partnering with the Greenville office of Thornwell Children's Home this year as our mission focus. We will continue our support of this program by accepting donations of therapy games, books, and miscellaneous items that Thornwell's Building Families programs use for activities in their sessions. Visit <https://thornwell.org/building-families-program/> for information AND <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/20f0c4caea922a2fc1-thornwell> to sign up for donations. All donations should be brought (unwrapped) to the Advent Luncheon or dropped off in the church office prior to the event. As always, we are grateful for your support of this incredible program.

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CHURCHWIDE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 15 6:30 p.m.

\$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 3-11

Join us at our annual Christmas dinner, on **Sunday, December 15**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall**. Menu: turkey, dressing, gravy, green beans, sweet potato casserole, salad, and dessert. To keep the check-in lines moving on December 15, we ask that you sign up and pay online by going to <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/>. *Sign ups end on Monday, December 9.*

At **7:30 p.m.** the Sanctuary Choir, joined by orchestra, will present John Rutter's *Magnificat*, the canticle of Mary, mother of Jesus. The *Magnificat*, Luke 1:46-55, has been set to music more often than any other biblical text. In his typical writing style, Rutter couples exciting rhythmic elements and beautiful melodies in a forty-five minute setting of the traditional text with the addition of the 15th century poem *Of a Rose*. Join your church family for this modern expression of timeless faith.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION TODAY

If you are seated in the main section of pews, you will proceed up the center aisle to receive communion. Please wait for an usher to prompt your row. Please take communion from one of the two serving stations at the front of the chancel located on the same side as your pew, and return to your pew via the side aisle.

When you come to a serving station, take a piece of bread from the plate, dip the bread in the cup, and eat. All cups contain grape juice.

If you are seated in the transept pews at either side of the sanctuary, you will take communion from the servers at the front of the transept. The section of pews closest to the chancel will go first. Please wait to be prompted by the usher. When prompted, please proceed up the center aisle of the transept, take communion at the front of the transept, and walk down the center aisle to the back of the transept, returning to your pew via the side transept aisle closest to your pew.

Please remain quiet during communion so that those who wish to pray may do so.

If you would like to receive communion but are unable to come forward, or if you would simply prefer to remain seated, there are two pairs of rovers to provide you with communion, one on each side aisle. When the rovers approach your pew, simply raise your hand to indicate that you would like to receive communion in your seat.

The bread we are offering at today's communion is labeled by the manufacturer as gluten, nut, egg, and dairy free, and includes the following ingredients: water, sourdough (rice flour, water), rice starch, corn starch, agave syrup, psyllium seed husks (vegetable fiber), sunflower oil, modified cellulose, soy protein, yeast, millet flour, citrus fiber, rice flour, sugar, quinoa flour, salt, corn flour, honey, guar gum, calcium citrate, niacin, iron, thiamin, riboflavin. Contains soy.

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