

 WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE of
HOLY WORSHIP

The sovereign and utterly good God created a good universe. We human beings rebelled; rebellion is now so much a part of our make-up that we are all enmeshed in it. Every scrap of suffering we face turns on this fact.

- D. A. Carson

The Second Lord's Day of Advent
December 4th, 2016

Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church. We are thankful that you have joined us today as we offer worship to God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There may be some elements of our worship today that are unfamiliar to you, but please don't worry about that, you will catch on soon enough. If you have any questions about our church, or about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the pastor, elders or deacons would be happy to help you find answers.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Standing and raising hands

Because we are whole people with bodies as well as souls, we use our bodies in worship, as the Bible commands. We raise our hands to look to God for help and bless God (Ps. 28:2, 63:3), and we stand to hear the Word out of reverence for God (Neh. 8:5).

The Lord's Supper

The Sacrament of communion is a 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 are unbaptized, or not a church member, please speak with the pastor or elders before the service if you would like to come to join in the Holy Supper.

Liturgical response

Please note that when the congregation is to read, the type will be **boldfaced and indented**:

The Lord be with you! [*Leader*]

And also with you! [*Congregation*]

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 believe that children naturally love those whom their parents love, and so the best way to help children grow in their love for the Lord Jesus is to have families worship together.

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 back room. If your children have never been in worship before, don't worry at all. We realize this is unusual for many people, and we would be happy to offer you help, tips and encouragement.

Hearing Assistance

Hearing assistance devices are available. Please visit the sound table in the back of the sanctuary.

PRELUDE

Please be seated, silence electronic devices, and prepare your hearts for worship.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

*CALL to WORSHIP

Lamentations 3:40-41

Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!

Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven.

*GLORIA PATRI

N^o. 734

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.

*PRAYER of INVOCATION

*HYMN of PRAISE

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates! p. 13

CALL to CONFESSION

James 5:7-9

Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door

PRIVATE CONFESSION

A time of silence is provided for private, individual confession before the Lord.

* *Please stand as you are able*

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

From Augustine's Confessions X, ii

O Lord, all that we are is laid bare before You.

What could be hidden within us, even if we were unwilling to confess it to You? We would be hiding You from ourselves, not ourselves from You.

And we make our confession not in words and sounds made by the tongue alone, but with the voice of our soul and in our thoughts which cry aloud to You.

When we are evil, making confession to You is simply to be displeased with ourselves. When we are good, making confession to You is simply to make no claim on our own behalf, for without You, O Lord, we can do nothing.

And so we make confession to You of our many sins of thought, word, and deed. We love You and so we are ashamed of ourselves and cast ourselves aside and, once again, choose You and your will.

Forgive us and help us to seek no pleasure for ourselves, except that which is also pleasure for you.

In Jesus name, Amen.

ASSURANCE of PARDON

Romans 6:4-7

For if we have been united with [Christ] in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.

DECLARATION of ABSOLUTION

At the conclusion of the declaration, let the forgiven respond with one voice: Amen!

HYMN OF SALVATION *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*, N^o. 168

PRAYER, and GIVING of TITHE *and* OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

N^o. 731

**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.**

*OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *and* SERMON TEXT

2 Samuel 20

Now there happened to be there a worthless man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite. And he blew the trumpet and said,

“We have no portion in David,
and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse;
every man to his tents, O Israel!”

² So all the men of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah followed their king steadfastly from the Jordan to Jerusalem.

³ And David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten concubines whom he had left to care for the house and put them in a house under guard and provided for them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up until the day of their death, living as if in widowhood.

⁴ Then the king said to Amasa, “Call the men of Judah together to me within three days, and be here yourself.” ⁵ So Amasa went to summon Judah, but he delayed beyond the set time that had been appointed him. ⁶ And David said to Abishai, “Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord’s servants and pursue him, lest he get himself to fortified cities and escape from us.” ⁷ And there went out after him Joab’s men and the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men. They went out from Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. ⁸ When they were at the great stone that is in Gibeon, Amasa came to meet them. Now Joab was wearing a soldier’s garment, and over it was a belt with a sword in its sheath fastened on his thigh, and as he went forward it fell out. ⁹ And Joab said to Amasa, “Is it well with you, my brother?” And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. ¹⁰ But Amasa did not observe the sword that was

in Joab's hand. So Joab struck him with it in the stomach and spilled his entrails to the ground without striking a second blow, and he died.

Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri. ¹¹ And one of Joab's young men took his stand by Amasa and said, "Whoever favors Joab, and whoever is for David, let him follow Joab." ¹² And Amasa lay wallowing in his blood in the highway. And anyone who came by, seeing him, stopped. And when the man saw that all the people stopped, he carried Amasa out of the highway into the field and threw a garment over him. ¹³ When he was taken out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹⁴ And Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Beth-maacah, and all the Bichrites assembled and followed him in. ¹⁵ And all the men who were with Joab came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maacah. They cast up a mound against the city, and it stood against the rampart, and they were battering the wall to throw it down. ¹⁶ Then a wise woman called from the city, "Listen! Listen! Tell Joab, 'Come here, that I may speak to you.'" ¹⁷ And he came near her, and the woman said, "Are you Joab?" He answered, "I am." Then she said to him, "Listen to the words of your servant." And he answered, "I am listening." ¹⁸ Then she said, "They used to say in former times, 'Let them but ask counsel at Abel,' and so they settled a matter. ¹⁹ I am one of those who are peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city that is a mother in Israel. Why will you swallow up the heritage of the Lord?" ²⁰ Joab answered, "Far be it from me, far be it, that I should swallow up or destroy! ²¹ That is not true. But a man of the hill country of Ephraim, called Sheba the son of Bichri, has lifted up his hand against King David. Give up him alone, and I will withdraw from the city." And the woman said to Joab, "Behold, his head shall be thrown to you over the wall." ²² Then the woman went to all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and threw it out to Joab. So he blew the trumpet, and they dispersed from the city, every man to his home. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king.

²³ Now Joab was in command of all the army of Israel; and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was in command of the Cherethites and the Pelethites; ²⁴ and Adoram was in charge of the forced labor; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder; ²⁵ and Sheva was

secretary; and Zadok and Abiathar were priests; ²⁶ and Ira the Jairite was also David's priest.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** **Westminster Confession of Faith (1563)**

Chapter XXV – Of the Church (*Sections 1-3*).

The catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

The visible church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.

Unto this catholic visible church Christ hath given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints, in this life, to the end of the world: and doth, by his own presence and Spirit, according to his promise, make them effectual thereunto.

PASTORAL PRAYER

*RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 62

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO JEDUTHUN. A PSALM OF DAVID.

For God alone my soul waits in silence;

from him comes my salvation.

He alone is my rock and my salvation,

my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

How long will all of you attack a man to batter him,

like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.

They take pleasure in falsehood.

They bless with their mouths,

but inwardly they curse.

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,

for my hope is from him.

He only is my rock and my salvation,

my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my salvation and my glory;

my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

Trust in him at all times, O people;

pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

Those of low estate are but a breath;

those of high estate are a delusion;

in the balances they go up;

they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery;

if riches increase, set not your heart on them.

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this:

that power belongs to God,

and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.

For you will render to a man according to his work.

*NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Titus 3:1-11

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. ⁹But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 15:6-15

Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹²And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵So Pilate,

wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

*PRAYER for the MINISTRY of the WORD

SERMON

The Thorn King, Rev. Jerid Krulish

*COMMUNION HYMN

One There Is, above All Others, N^o. 186

The SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

You are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper if you are a baptized Christian who has been admitted to the Lord's Table. Our communion elements are wine and bread. If you are unable to take regular bread and wine, please signal one of the elders (with the trays), and we can provide you with gluten-free bread; non-alcoholic grape juice is found in the innermost ring of the communion trays for those who need to abstain from alcohol.

*HYMN of COMMISSIONING

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People, N^o. 197

*BENEDICTION and THREEFOLD AMEN

N^o. 740



HELPS for FAMILY and PRIVATE WORSHIP

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 12/4 | Psalms 49 | 2 Kings 23:1-20 | 2 John 1 |
| 12/5 | Psalms 50 | 2 Kings 23:21-35 | 3 John 1 |
| 12/6 | Psalms 51 | 2 Kings 23:36-24:20 | Revelation 1 |
| 12/7 | Psalms 52 | 2 Kings 25 | Revelation 2:1-17 |
| 12/8 | Psalms 53-54 | Isaiah 1 | Revelation 2:18-3:6 |
| 12/9 | Psalms 55 | Isaiah 2 | Revelation 3:7-22 |
| 12/10 | Psalms 56 | Isaiah 3-4 | Revelation 4 |

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM ON PRAYER

Q. 100. *What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?*

A. The preface of the Lord's prayer, which is, Our Father which art in heaven, teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

Q. 101. *What do we pray for in the first petition?*

A. In the first petition, which is, Hallowed be thy name, we pray that God would enable us and others to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known; and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.

Q. 102. *What do we pray for in the second petition?*

A. In the second petition, which is, Thy kingdom come, we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

Q. 103. *What do we pray for in the third petition?*

A. In the third petition, which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven, we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

Q. 104. *What do we pray for in the fourth petition?*

A. In the fourth petition, which is, Give us this day our daily bread, we pray that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

Q. 105. *What do we pray for in the fifth petition?*

A. In the fifth petition, which is, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

Q. 106. *What do we pray for in the sixth petition?*

A. In the sixth petition, which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

Q. 107. *What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us?*

A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer, which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen, teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power and glory to him. And in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.

HYMN OF THE MONTH: Lift up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates. (following page).

NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS *and* CALENDAR

PRAYER STUDIES

Some small-sized groups will be forming to study John Smed's *Journey in Prayer...* and of course, to pray together! They will begin in the new year, and continue for about 8 weeks. If you're interested in learning and practicing moving prayer from the outskirts to the center of life and faith, please contact the Pastor. We'll get you signed up!

ALL-CHURCH GOSPEL OF JOHN STUDY

12/14 Meeting at the Fomichenkos. *Starting in 2017, this study will be weekly.*

WPC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

12/18 (Sunday) at 6pm. Please join us for our annual Christmas celebration of readings and carols!

WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Meeting at: Clark County Square Dance Center
10713 NE 117th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98662

Times: Sunday School: 9:30AM 🍀 Fellowship: 10:30AM 🍀 Worship: 11:00AM

Contact us: (360) 602-1501 🍀 admin@solochristo.org
Audio sermons, the order of worship, and the church directory are available at our website.

Elders: Mr. Tom Berkompas Rev. Jerid Krulish (Pastor)
Mr. Mark Sturtevant (Clerk)

Deacons: Mr. Christopher Berkompas Mr. Dave Buhrmaster
Mr. Terry Craig Mr. Dylan Gollehon
Mr. Roy Martin (Chairman) Mr. Dan Seifert
Mr. Joseph Sturtevant