

**Order for the Celebration of Public Worship
and Holy Communion**

*The Third Sunday in Advent
December 14, 2014*

◆ **Welcome and Announcements**

◆ **Preparation for Worship**

Lara Youngblood

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

◆ **Corporate and Responsive Call to Worship***

Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be evident to all.
The Lord is near.

We rejoice in the hope of Christ’s coming.

Let us worship the Lord!

-Phillipians 4:4-5 NIV

◆ **Invocation***

◆ **Hymn of Praise***

The Hymnal, p. 131

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

* Congregation Stands

◆ **Intercessory Prayer**

Mr. Romney Entrekin

◆ **Advent Scripture Lesson**

The Alexander Family

*In celebration of the season of Advent, the third candle (pink) is lit representing
“love.” God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.*

◆ **Hymn of Hope***

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, All for love’s sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, All for love’s sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, All for love’s sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising, heavenward by Thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, All for love’s sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, Make us what Thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship Thee.

◆ **Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

◆ **Offertory**

Lara Youngblood

“Emmanuel Comes”

◆ **Doxology***

Old Hundredth

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.

◆ **Offering Prayer**

◆ **Anthem**

Choir

“In the First Light”

◆ **Scripture Lesson***

Genesis 6:18; 7:1-16

◆ **Prayer for Illumination**

◆ **Sermon**

Rev. Kory Duncan

“From Fig Leaves to Faith - The Lord Shut Him In”

◆ **Corporate Confession of Sin**

Father, You give us Your good news,
and call us into a covenant relationship with You.
Help us to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Let the valleys be lifted up!

**Draw us away from degrading thoughts and actions,
and lift from us depressions and worry.**

Through humble people, prepare Your world, O God.
Let the mountains be leveled off!

**End our pride and take away our arrogance:
save us from false hope and unwarranted presumption.**

Through faithful people, prepare Your world, O God.
Let the crooked be made straight!

**Forgive our sin, and pardon our wrongdoing;
defeat evil and overcome the power of death.**

Through saved people, prepare Your world, O God.
Let the rough be made smooth!

**Help us grow in understanding,
and give us wisdom to discern that which is good and true.**

Through sanctified people, prepare Your world, O God.
Let all people see the salvation of our God.

**Redeem Your world, and make all things new,
and bring us into Your holy and perfect presence,
now and for all eternity.**

Keep us humble and faithful. Save us and sanctify us, O God.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

(Hear now our silent prayers of confession)

◆ **Divine Assurance of Pardon and 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.

◆ **Holy Communion**

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Invitation to the table and Words of Institution

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

(the outer ring is wine, the inner rings are juice)

*(Elements will be served by the elders. Please hold the elements
as they will be taken together after all are served.)*

◆ **Benediction & Hymn of Reflection***

The Hymnal, p.136

The First Noel

The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winters night that was so deep.

{Refrain}

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please join us tonight as Westminster’s Adult Choir and instrumentalists present “The First Noel.”** Come and enjoy this celebration filled with classic carols, hymns and favorite Christmas songs. Listen as the violin, viola, cello, string bass, flute, clarinet and piano join the voices of our wonderful choir as we exalt Christ, the Lord! Also, look forward to hearing our own “His Kids” children’s choir join in the celebration.
- **Congregational Meeting:** We will have a congregational meeting today immediately following the morning worship service for the purpose of electing officers. This years nominees are: Steven Morgan (Elder), Josh Jones (Deacon), Robert Burdette (Deacon), Danny Martin (Deacon), Chuck Bell (Deacon) and Scott Alexander (Deacon). Please be in prayer for these men and their families.
- **Westminster’s Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service** is next Wednesday, December 24th, at 5:30 PM.
- **Men’s Trip to New Orleans:** On Friday, January 2nd, men and boys of ALL ages are invited to join us on a trip to New Orleans to see a Pelican’s basketball game and dinner. The tickets to the game are \$20 and the deadline to sign up is Monday, December 22nd. If you would like go please check the box on the welcome insert or you can call Lisa at the church office.
- **The 4th Sunday School Quarter is in session. The following classes are available for adults:**
 1. “Revelation” is taught by Phil Buehler & James Holston and meets in the Family Life Center, Room 33.
 2. “Young Couples” is taught by Kory and Sorrel Duncan and meets in the Fellowship Room.
 3. “The Word Speaks” is taught by David & Barbara Holt and meets in the Family Life Center, Room 35.

Church Staff

Gale Alexander.....**Nursery Director**
Portia Alexander.....**Children’s Ministries**
Rev. Mike Allen.....**Pastor**
Jeremy Britt.....**Youth Director**
Lisa Corley.....**Office Manager**
Rev. Kory Duncan.....**Assistant Pastor**
Dave Graeser.....**Music Ministries**
Eric Parker.....**Pastoral Intern**
Lara Youngblood.....**Pianist**

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 14

9:00 AM.....Sunday School
 10:00 AM.....Fellowship
 10:30 AM.....Morning Worship, Congregational Meeting
 4:30 PM.....Choir Rehearsal
 5:15 PM.....”His Kids” Rehearsal
 6:00 PM.....Christmas Presentation

Monday, December 15

No Activities Planned

Tuesday, December 16

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM.....Mother’s Morning Out

Wednesday, December 17

7:00 AM.....Men’s Prayer Group
 11:00 AM.....Ladies Prayer Group

Thursday, December 18

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM.....Mother’s Morning Out

Friday, December 19

No Activities Planned

Saturday, December 20

6:00 PM.....WPC Officer’s Dinner

Elder/Deacon of the Week:

December 15 - December 21	<u>Elder</u> James Holston	<u>Deacon</u> Dwayne Walters
December 22 - December 28	Hardie Perritt	Darron Dodd

Church Officers

Elders:	Class of 2014 Romney Entrekin James Holston Hardie Perritt	Class of 2015 Phil Buehler Rick Youngblood	Class of 2016 Robert Hayes Victor Jones, Jr.
Deacons:	Class of 2014 Mike Ishee John Lowery John Piazza Dwayne Walters	Class of 2015 Darron Dodd Luke Hammonds Grant Kennedy Larkin Simpson John Tucker	Class of 2016 Kline Estess

Consistent with our Lord’s institution, Westminster Presbyterian Church uses wine (WCF 29.3) to celebrate communion which will be found in the outer ring of each communion tray. For those who have a medical concern or an issue of conscience in this matter, grape juice is provided in all the inner rings of each tray. For those with dietary concerns gluten free bread will be provided in the center of each tray of bread.

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 Website: www.wpclaurel.com
 Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 3:00



**WESTMINSTER
 PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH
 (EPC)**

Westminster Presbyterian Church is a covenant family of believers called by God to fulfill His purposes here in Laurel, and as a staging ground for worldwide kingdom growth where we seek to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ - to fill the earth with disciples, subdue it redemptively for God’s glory, and worship Him joyfully. We are being redeemed and equipped by the Spirit to build up one another until the Lord returns.