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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Public Service of Worship*

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*The Fourth Lord's Day of Advent*

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*"A new commandment I give to you, that  
you love one another: just as I have loved  
you, you also are to love one another."*

-JOHN 13:34

Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church. We are grateful to have you join us today, as we offer worship to God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*A few notes to help you fully participate:*

Our worship will keep you busy! We often think of worship as “singing songs” and “hearing a sermon,” but there is greater depth available to us. We pray and read together, we use our bodies, we hear, and eat, and respond, and all from the heart.

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

*[Leader]* The Lord be with you!

**[Congregation]** And also with you!

Please note the \* and § symbols to indicate standing or standing and raising hands.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: Also known as “communion”, the Lord’s Supper is 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 haven’t been baptized, please speak with the pastor or elders before the service if you would like to come to join in the Holy Supper.

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 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 side room. We're happy to accommodate your family in any way we can.

**TODAY’S WORSHIP:** Our Christmas sermon this year is from 1 John 4. Christmas is the celebration of the Incarnation of the Son of God, which was a revelation of God’s love for us. We’ll see what that love means for us as people of faith.

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING AND WELCOME**

### **SILENT MEDITATION: LUKE 3:4B**

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight."

*Please take this time of silence to prepare your hearts before the Lord.*

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 118:1**

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

### **§DOXOLOGY**

**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.**

### **\*PRAYER OF PRAISE**

### **\*HYMN: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL, NO. 208**

### **\*RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 132**

A SONG OF ASCENTS.  
Remember, O Lord, in David's favor,  
**all the hardships he endured,**  
how he swore to the Lord  
**and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,**  
"I will not enter my house  
**or get into my bed,**

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*\* Please stand if you are able. § Please stand and raise your hands.*

I will not give sleep to my eyes  
    **or slumber to my eyelids,**  
until I find a place for the Lord,  
    **a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”**

Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah;  
    **we found it in the fields of Jaar.**

“Let us go to his dwelling place;  
    **let us worship at his footstool!”**

Arise, O Lord, and go to your resting place,  
    **you and the ark of your might.**

Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,  
    **and let your saints shout for joy.**

For the sake of your servant David,  
    **do not turn away the face of your anointed one.**

The Lord swore to David a sure oath  
    **from which he will not turn back:**

“One of the sons of your body  
    **I will set on your throne.**

If your sons keep my covenant  
    **and my testimonies that I shall teach them,**  
their sons also forever  
    **shall sit on your throne.”**

For the Lord has chosen Zion;  
    **he has desired it for his dwelling place:**

“This is my resting place forever;  
    **here I will dwell, for I have desired it.**

I will abundantly bless her provisions;  
    **I will satisfy her poor with bread.**

Her priests I will clothe with salvation,  
    **and her saints will shout for joy.**

There I will make a horn to sprout for David;

**I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.**

His enemies I will clothe with shame,

**but on him his crown will shine.”**

**Amen.**

## **KINGDOM PRAYER**

*At the conclusion of each request, we implore the Lord’s mercy to hear our prayers, as follows:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our Prayer.**

*We pray for the following:*

- *The Destruction of the power of Satan, and tremendous growth in the spread of the Gospel.*
- *Our Global Church Ministries supported pastor.*
- *All Saints (PCA) in Boise, ID, pastors Brad Cheney and Brian Douglas.*
- *Govs. Jay Inslee (WA) and Kate Brown (OR).*
- *The pure and holy use of the sacraments.*
- *Christ’s rule in our hearts.*
- *Our giving for the sake of the Gospel.*

**\*HYMN: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NO. 201**

## **\*SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*We give thanks for the Word of God with the following statement after each reading:*

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ZECHARIAH 9:9-17**

NEW TESTAMENT READING & SERMON TEXT: I JOHN 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 1:18-25

**\*CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE FIRST CONFESSION OF BASEL (1534)**

Of the Person of Christ, His Mission into this World, and the Incarnation

**We firmly believe and confess that Christ was given to us by the Father at the right time, according to the promise of God: and thus the eternal Word of God was made flesh: that is, this Son of God joined human nature in one person (We have one Father, namely God in Christ), was made our brother; through whom we are made participants in the inheritance of God.**

**\*PRAYER FOR THE SERMON**

**SERMON: LOVE BORN IN BLOOD, AND REVEALED AMONG THE LIVESTOCK, REV. JERID KRULISH**

## **\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into Hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

**HYMN:** *WHAT CHILD IS THIS*, NO. 213

**EXHORTATION TO CONFESSION:** MARK 4:22

For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light.

**PUBLIC CONFESSION:**

*FROM THE CONFESSIONS OF ST. AUGUSTINE*

O Lord, what evil have we not done? Or if there is evil that we have not done, what evil is there that we have not spoken? If there is any that we have not spoken, what evil is there that we have not thought to do? But you, O Lord, are good. You are merciful. You saw how deep we were sunk in death, and it was your power that drained dry the well of corruption in the depths of our hearts. All that You have asked of us was to deny our own wills and accept yours. Forgive us for every failure to do so and help us to follow You in every way and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## † SILENT REPENTANCE

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON: ISAIAH 9:2

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.

## DECLARATION OF ABSOLUTION

*After the declaration, let the congregation respond, "Amen."*

### \*HYMN: SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!, NO. 210

## EXHORTATION AT THE TABLE

*You are welcome to the Lord's Table if you are a baptized Christian who has been received into communal membership by this or any other church.*

*Our communion is served "in the round." At the Pastor's direction, we ask that all would move to the perimeter of the sanctuary in a closed circle. The elders will come and serve you; please hold your bread or wine until all have received, and then we will pray and eat together. Those not communing may present their hands for a blessing; parents may also present non-communing children as well.*

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† *The congregation is permitted to kneel.*



## **SURSUM CORDA**

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is very good and right and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, because you gave us Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born at this time for us, who by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother, and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

Therefore, with the Angels and Archangels and the whole company of the church triumphant, we praise and magnify Your glorious Name:

## **§ GLORIA PATRI**

**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.**

## **\*DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD**

## **\*PRAYER OF THANKS AND INTERCESSION**

## **\*DISTRIBUTION OF THE WINE**

## **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

**\*HYMN: ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY NO. 218**

**\*BENEDICTION & THREEFOLD AMEN**



**FOR FAMILY AND PRIVATE WORSHIP:**

**HYMN OF THE MONTH:** *LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES!* NO. 198

**CHILDREN’S LESSON:** VALDÉS’S CATECHISM.

*Valdés’s Catechism was titled Instructions for Children. It was published in 1549, with earlier drafts. The intention is not to have children memorize the statements, but for parents to instruct their children.*

16. That this incarnate Word is the Messiah, promised to the Hebrews in the Law and in the Prophets, whom we call Christ, which is the same as Messiah or Anointed (John 3, 4).

17. That upon this Word of God incarnate, upon this Son of God, upon this Christ, God placed all the iniquities, all the rebellions, and all the sins of all men, he being most innocent and free from all sin. God chastised them all in him with the same rigor as if he had committed them all, even to taking from him on the cross his life as a son of Adam and as a passible and mortal man. God afterwards resurrected and glorified him for his obedience, giving him absolute power in heaven and on earth (1 Pet. 2; Mt. 28; Col. 1).

18. That Christ, having ascended into heaven, sent the Holy Spirit upon his disciples, upon those he had elected and taken for his own while he conversed among men (Acts 1).

**WPC BIBLE READING PLAN:**

12/24	Psalms 89:1-29	Micah 4:1-5,5:2-5a	Luke 1:67-79
12/25	Psalms 132	Isaiah 59:15-21	Philippians 2:5-11
12/26	Psalms 144	Revelation 17	
12/27	Psalms 145	Revelation 18	
12/28	Psalms 146	Revelation 19	
12/29	Psalms 147	Revelation 20	
12/30	Psalms 148	Revelation 21	
12/31	Psalms 149-150	Revelation 22	

**PRAYER**

Pray for the Stoms family:

- Pray for safe travels as they are planning a trip to the US very soon.
- Pray for God’s blessing upon the ministry: for new souls to be brought to Christ, and for believers to remain faithful to their calling.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALENDAR

### GOSPEL OF JOHN BIBLE STUDY:

*All are welcome. Meeting at the Jonathan VanGelder house. Contact the church for directions.*  
Wednesdays at 7pm, but taking a break for the holidays. Resuming soon: to-be-announced!

### YOUNG MEN'S PROVERB'S STUDY:

*A study for younger men. Dinner is provided.* Meeting at the Sturtevant's home. Please contact the church for directions.

December 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm for dinner, 7:00PM for the study.

(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)

### MISSIONS COMMITTEE

**WPC's Missions Committee is looking for additional members.** Please prayerfully consider this, and if you are interested, please contact Brian Vandenburg, Terry Craig, Kristine Ozaine, or Dave and Sabina Buhrmaster. Members of the committee meet together once a month or once every-other-month to pray for our missionaries, and to discuss/plan ways that the congregation can specifically minister to their needs.

*"Brothers, pray for us." – 1 Thessalonians 5:25*

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

<i>Meeting at:</i>	Clark County Square Dance Center 10713 NE 117th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98662	
<i>Times:</i>	Sunday School: 9:30AM / Fellowship: 10:30AM / Worship: 11:00AM	
<i>Contact us:</i>	(360) 602-1501 / admin@solochristo.org <i>Audio sermons, the order of worship, and the church directory are available at our website.</i>	
<i>Rights:</i>	All musical rights secured via <i>The Trinity Hymnal</i> and CCL License #111127153. All printed Scriptures are from the ESV. Used by permission.	
<i>Elders:</i>	Mr. Tom Berkompas Mr. Mark Sturtevant (Clerk)	Rev. Jerid Krulish (Pastor)
<i>Deacons:</i>	Mr. Christopher Berkompas (Chairman) Mr. Terry Craig Mr. Dan Seifert	Mr. Dave Buhrmaster Mr. Dylan Gollehon Mr. Joseph Sturtevant