

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Advent 3, Year B, December 13, 2020
Sunday Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Sheila Smith

One: Jesus says: I am coming soon.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:20)

One: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

All: God sends good news to the oppressed. (Isaiah 61:1)

One: Rejoice in the Lord; again, rejoice!

All: Be gentle to all: the Lord is near. (Phil. 4:4-5)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

(Personal and Silent Prayers of Confession.)

FIRST READING

Psalm 126

126:1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

126:2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

126:3 The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

126:4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

126:5 May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

126:6 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. The inspired Word of the Lord.

One: The inspired Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON READING

Mark 1:1-8

1:1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1:2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

1:3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

1:4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

1:5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

1:6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

1:7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

1:8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

One: The inspired Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“An Unusual Gospel Story”

Rev. Chris Turner

***STATEMENT OF FAITH**

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.

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

OFFERTORY

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

NEXT SUNDAY’S LECTIONARY READING :

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 • Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 • Romans 16:25-27 • Luke 1:26-38

The Session and the Westminster Shepherds have decided that we should be praying for the
members/friends of our church. Each newsletter and bulletin will have a list of members/friends to
pray for each week. **These members are not necessarily sick or in need of specific prayer, and we
just want all of our members to be prayed for regularly.**

Margie Dawley Robert Gaines, Kirk Garson, Connie Gill

Prayer Concerns (alphabetical order):

(The list needs updated. Please contact Pastor Chris to add or remove people from the list.)

- Barbara Backus (health issues).
- Cary Cooke (general prayers)
- Mary Cooke (memory care), (health issues).
- Jim Halford (health issues).
- Heather Harvey (Rebekah Chenevert’s half sister, general prayers).
- Barbara Hermanson (Mona Rood’s sister) (Health Issues).
- Abby Parham (health issues).

- Charlie Parham (health issues).
- Polly Porter (health issues).

- Bill Rood (health issues).
- Farren Sadler (health issues).
- Candace Samuelson (health issues).

- Marvin Turner (Broken Hip) and Family (Pastor Chris' family) (health issues).
- The Church and members of Westminster Presbyterian Church.
- The unchurched and those who do not know Jesus Christ.
- Those dealing with Covid and their families.

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday (December 13)

10:55 Worship (Virtual Online Worship)

1:30 Worship Committee,

Tuesday (December 15)

6:00 Bible Study Zoom (Canceled until late December or early January.)

Sunday (December 20)

10:55 Worship (Virtual Online Worship)

1:30 Stated Session Meeting

To join the work and ministry of this congregation, please speak to the pastor (Rev. Chris Turner) at 325-864-7601 or email wpcabilene@gmail.com.

Liturgist: Shelia Smith • Music Director: Dr. Clara Richardson • Organist: Charles Shelton

Westminster's **MISSION EMPHASIS** for the month of **December** is

the **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The ***Christmas Joy Offering*** enables the Presbyterian Community to **join together** during the season of **Advent and Christmas** to deeply reflect not only on our **great blessings**, but also on the **great needs** of others.

The ***Christmas Joy Offering*** is distributed equally to **support** the

(1) **Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions** and

(2) **Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges**. The portion given to the **Assistance Program**

helps to assist **pastors and other church workers**, both active and retired, who find themselves in positions of **financial** need.

The **transformative** power of the historic **Presbyterian-related racial ethic schools and colleges** is remarkable.

These colleges, schools, and ministries have been at the **forefront** of building a **just and equitable** society; and, since their inception they have been **creating** countless **good-Samaritan** physicians, teachers, nurses, and clergy.

The ***Christmas Joy Offering*** provides a **way** for **ALL** of us at **Westminster**

to **touch** the **lives** of both those who are our **greatest hope** and those who have the **greatest need**.

Contributions to the ***Christmas Joy Offering*** can be made by making out **your** checks to "**Westminster**,"

writing "**Christmas Joy Offering**" on the **memo** lines, and then putting **your** checks in the **offering plates**

on a Sunday morning. **Checks** also can be **mailed** to the Church Office, **or to** the Church's **Treasurer**, **TIM ADCOCK**, at 2401 S. Willis St., **Ste. 108**, Abilene, Texas 79605.

All of the **offerings** received at a **Christmas Eve service** at Westminster will go to the ***Christmas Joy Offering***.

THANK YOU! & **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

DONATIONS TO WESTMINSTER FOR THE CHURCH, AND/

OR FOR THE CHURCH'S

**MISSION EMPHASES, CAN BE MADE BY MAK-
ING YOUR CHECK OUT TO "WESTMINSTER,"**

by writing the "reason" on

the memo line, and by putting YOUR check in the offering plate,

or by MAILING it to the CHURCH, or to the Church's Trea-

surer, TIM ADCOCK,

at 2401 S. Willis St., Ste. 108, Abilene, Texas 79605.

These DONATIONS really are NEEDED!

BUFFALO GAP PRESBYTERIAN CAP

Westminster STILL is collecting ALUMINUM CANS for the

BUFFALO GAP PRESBYTERIAN ENCAMPMENT --

A PLACE FOR GROWING !

These CANS are sold, and the MONEY raised is used

to help defray the COSTS of running the Encampment

and to help KEEP it OPEN .

***Just put your SACKS of cans in the HALLWAY down from the
Church Office.***

***DONATIONS also can be MADE by making out a CHECK to "West-
minster",***

and writing "BUFFALO GAP CAMP" on the MEMO line.

***G I V E your CANS! & S H A R E your FAITH! & S P R E A
D the GOSPEL!***

[OBJ]

THE PRESBYTERIAN FOOD PANTRY FEEDS THE HUNGRY & SO

CAN YOU!

***Each and every SUNDAY just put YOUR donations of NON-perish-
able FOOD items, CASH***

***money (including SAVED change), and TOILETRY items, in
the grocery CART in the Narthex.***

DONATIONS also can be MADE by making out a CHECK to "West-minster",

and writing "FOOD PANTRY" on the MEMO line.

THANK you for Y O U R support of THIS vital ministry.

***G I V E your MONEY! & S H A R E your FOOD! & F E E
D the HUNGRY***