

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Advent 4, Year B, December 20, 2020
Sunday Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Sheila Smith

One: Look! The young woman is with child;

All: she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us. (Isaiah 7:14)

One: A ruler will come from Bethlehem,

All: and he will be the shepherd of peace. (Micah 5:2, 5)

One: The mystery of the ages is now revealed.

All: To God be the glory forever! Amen. (Romans 16:25-27)

***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

Romans 16:25-27

16:25 Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages

16:26 but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith --

16:27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

One: The inspired Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON READING

Luke 1:26-38

1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

1:27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

1:28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

1:29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

1:30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

1:31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

1:32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

1:33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

1:34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

1:35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

1:36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

1:38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

One: The inspired Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“The Faith of a Young Girl”

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**

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday (December 20)

10:55 Worship (Virtual Online Worship)

1:30 Stated Session Meeting

Tuesday (December 22)

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

Thursday (December 24)

6:30 Christmas Eve Service (Will be a zoom meeting or an online video, we will send an email or you are welcome to call Pastor Chris)

Sunday (December 27)

10:55 Worship (Virtual Online Worship)

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 ethnic 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.

GIVE your CANS! & SHARE your FAITH! & SPREAD the GOSPEL!

[OBJ]

THE PRESBYTERIAN FOOD PANTRY FEEDS THE HUNGRY & SO

CAN YOU!

Each and every SUNDAY just put YOUR donations of NON-perishable 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***