

# Westminster At Worship

*A Celebration of Worship*  
*3rd Sunday after Epiphany*

January 26, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

*†Those who feel comfortable standing may do so.*



## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

**PRELUDE**

**SETH CUNNINGHAM**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. The Word of God is our joy.

Those who are comfortable standing, are invited to do so, as we all rise in body or spirit to join in our opening response:

God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

**God calls us to be builders as well.**

God calls us to build our lives:

**to restore broken places and continue to grow.**

God calls us to build our faith:

**to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.**

God calls us to build our community:

**to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.**

God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:

**to preach the good news of God's love and liberation for all people.**

Let us worship God together.

## +HYMN

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

DIX

*For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:*

*Refrain:*

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)*

*For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)*

*For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)*

*For thyself, best gift divine  
to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sin as an offering of our trust in God's love and forgiveness for us.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Let us pray:

**Merciful God, as we seek to know your ways,  
may we be more ready to receive the gifts of others  
than to trumpet the gifts we have received.  
Lay your call to Christian unity on our hearts,  
as we listen to your precepts and seek to live them each day.  
As the heavens proclaim your praise,  
and the day and the night reveal your truth,  
open our hearts to those who need our care.**

*— A Time of Silent Confession —*

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

This is the good news of the Gospel:

**We are loved. We are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God for a love like that!**

## **†RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE**

*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.*

## **†SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Take a moment to greet those around you.

## **TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Just as we see your wisdom and glory in nature around us, God, may we hear your Word for us in the words of these readings, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may be drawn closer to you. Through your great preacher, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.  
**Amen.**

## **READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

**Gospel Lesson**  
**Luke 4:14-21**

**Hebrew Lesson**  
**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

## **SERMON**

*"Blessed for Good"*  
Rev. Jamie Milton

## **†HYMN**

*"Live into Hope"*

TRURO

*Live into hope of captives freed,  
of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see  
the year of God's own jubilee!*

*Live into hope! The blind shall see  
with insight and with clarity,  
removing shades of pride and fear,  
a vision of our God brought near.*

*Live into hope of liberty,  
the right to speak, the right to be,  
the right to have one's daily bread,  
to hear God's word and thus be fed.*

*Live into hope of captives freed  
from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release  
to faith and hope and joy and peace.*

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us join together in our affirmation of faith.

**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 at 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

## MUSICAL OFFERING

CHANCEL CHOIR

*“One Step He Leads”*

*~ Please record your presence on the “Friendship Pad”*

## †DOXOLOGY

*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.*

## †UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Will you join me in the prayer of dedication:  
**God of our ancestors, Caretaker of our future,  
thank you for your faithful love.**

**May the gifts we bring before you this day  
honor the many ways you bless this church.  
And may our offering reflect our commitment  
to lead lives of love, as we continue Jesus’ mission  
to bring good news to the poor,  
release to the captives, sight to the blind,  
and freedom to the oppressed.  
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

†HYMN      *“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”*

KINGSFOLD

*Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.*

*God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud;  
we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.*

*Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.*

*May we in service to our God  
act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.*

## **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

**SETH CUNNINGHAM**



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Mary Scifres. *Abingdon Worship Annual* 2025.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 26, 2025

- **The FLOWERS on the altar** for today's service are given by Janet and Jack Smylie in loving memory of her mother, Mary Jeane Gasbare, whose 100th birthday would have been on January 30th.

- **NURSERY CARE** is available for infants and toddlers during the worship service. Our nursery is equipped with a paging system. Quality childcare is provided by Elaine Edwards who is infant/CPR trained.

- This year's **ANNUAL MEETING** will be held **Sunday, February 2** as a part of our 10:30 a.m. worship service. The **2025 Congregational Budget** will be presented, and we will be invited to consider the ways in which we can help support God's work through Westminster. After the service and the annual meeting, join us for our annual **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

**CELEBRATION!** Each year following the Congregational Meeting, we gather in the fellowship hall for a soup lunch and receive a special offering for the Food Pantry. **We're looking for 12 crockpots of soup** to fill out our lunch. You can sign up using the QR code (below), or on the volunteer board in the Wenona Street lobby. The same day, the youth will be hosting a bake sale to raise funds for some of their activities. If you'd like to donate baked goods for them to sell, you can drop them off that morning. Please package your items ready to sell!

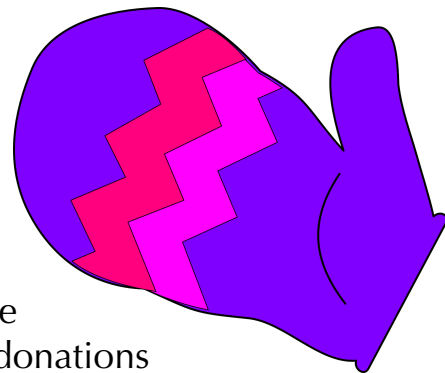
- **RIDES TO CHURCH NEEDED:** we have a few church members that need rides to church. If you are able to help, please call the church office. Thank you!



- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY** classes are offered at two different times to accommodate various schedules. Join us **Sundays at 9:00 a.m.** in the Session Room or **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom. The same study materials will be used at both gatherings. Please visit our Adult Bible Study page on our website at [www.wpcbc.org](http://www.wpcbc.org) or see Rev. Linda or Pastor Jamie with any questions. Over the next several weeks here at Westminster our theme and invitation will be **"Living with Joy"** as we wrap up the Advent/Christmas readings and then move into the lectionary cycle study.

- **THE SAGINAW SPIRIT** are hosting the annual **Faith Night on Sunday, February 2, 2025** at the Dow Event Center. Tickets will be \$13. The game against the Soo Greyhounds begins at 5:30 p.m. Please let Leah Sneller know **TODAY** if you plan to attend because we are hoping to give the Spirit a final count of our group size Monday morning.

- Have any old **HATS, MITTENS OR COATS** laying around that you haven't worn in a while? We have noticed that some of our **food pantry clients are in need of warm winter clothing**, and are now collecting donations of warm clothing items that can be given away to those who visit the Westminster Community Pantry. Donations may be left on the cart outside the pantry or in the church office.





• **WAYS TO SUPPORT THE WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY PANTRY:**

If you would like to sign up to work our **Westminster Community Pantry**, Wednesday evenings, 4 to 6 p.m. or Thursday mornings, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., please see the sign up sheets on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. The **JANUARY ITEM OF THE MONTH** is **CHUNKY SOUP**. This is one of the pantry's most popular items, AND it can especially be enjoyed during these cold months. However, it is also an item that we cannot get from the Food Bank. If you would like to leave a donation of chunky soup when the pantry isn't opened, please just leave it by the door. We know how much this will be appreciated.

• **PER CAPITA FOR 2025** is \$30.69. This is per active, confirmed member.

• **TV AND SOUNDBOARD:** We're looking for individuals who can run the soundboard and help in the TV room on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping, please call the church office. Thank you!

• **BULLETIN BOARDS:** Check out the Church bulletin board just outside the sanctuary for upcoming church events and happenings, **plus sign-up sheets for volunteer opportunities for:**

- **Westminster Community Pantry**
- **Food of Faith**
- **Matthew 25 Cafe**
- **Fellowship Time Host**

In addition, the Community bulletin board in Fellowship Hall has information on health

## **Giving to Westminster**

There are many ways to share your gifts with Westminster.

Cash and checks are welcome. Please use your offering envelopes or the envelopes found in pew backs and place your gift in the offering plate when it is passed.

Visit our website [www.wpcbc.org](http://www.wpcbc.org) and click on the "Give Now" button at the top of the page. This will direct you to our Online Giving Portal or simply scan the QR Code below.

Contributions can also be sent through the mail to the attention of the Church Treasurer.

We're grateful for your gifts, however you choose to give. THANK YOU!



## **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

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989-686-1360

email: [office@wpcbc.org](mailto:office@wpcbc.org)  
website: [wpcbc.org](http://wpcbc.org)

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

screenings, grief groups and other events in the area.

• **JOIN US ON FACEBOOK:** Westminster Presbyterian Church-Bay City

• **YOUTH GROUP DINNERS:** Our Youth Group meets from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday nights. This time includes a meal together. If you are able to prepare and serve a meal (foods that young people like, such as Mac and cheese, chicken tenders, make-your-own sandwiches, etc.) or donate money towards dinner, please scan the QR code to sign up. Or call the church office.



• **JANUARY SERIES CONTINUES THIS WEEK:** You can still sign up and attend the online lectures Monday-Friday of this week. Each session is one hour long, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. You can register at <https://calvin.edu/january-series> to receive the link for each day's session right to your email.

We'll gather again on Thursday, January 30 in the Session Room to watch that day's speaker together and then have the opportunity to discuss the week's speakers and presentations.

Still ahead this week:

- (Monday) Peter Sagal, host of the weekly NPR comedy news quiz show, Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me.
- (Thursday) Michaela O'Donnell - Life in Flux - will teach us the

practical skills needed to navigate constant change: a life in flux. She'll show us how to face the pain and longings that come with change, embrace the unknown with confidence, and listen to God's guiding voice.

- (Friday) Hunter Woodhall, who may be a familiar name to some after he won a gold medal at the 2024 Paralympics. He is an inspirational speaker – "They told me I couldn't walk, so I decided to run."

Any questions about the series, please call the church office or Rev. Linda with any questions.

• **LUNCH AND LAUGH** - Join us this Tuesday, January 28, for our next delightfully fun get together in the Fellowship Hall. We're having a game afternoon! Bring your favorite game, or learn a new one. Bring your own lunch, or we'll be placing a group order from the Wanigan, if you'd like to join. Contact Rev. Linda or the office by 2pm on Monday to place your order.

• **Karen Mitchell will be out of town** until February 13, 2025. If you have anyone that you would like to be added to the **Wings of Prayer List**, please contact Patti Wesenick at 989-737-6844.

MINISTERS  
PASTOR  
PARISH ASSOCIATE  
LITURGIST  
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES  
NURSERY SUPERVISOR  
CHOIR DIRECTOR  
HANDBELL DIRECTOR  
YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR  
ORGANIST  
PIANIST  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
SECRETARY  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR  
FACILITIES MANAGER

All the People  
Rev. Jamie Milton  
Rev. Linda Williams  
Jeff Rogers  
Leah Sneller  
Elaine Edwards  
Dawn Auger  
Seth Cunningham  
Judy Harrelson  
Seth Cunningham  
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