# WESTMINSTER

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 7, AD 2025



"THE GRASS WITHERS, THE FLOWER FADES, BUT THE WORD OF OUR GOD WILL STAND FOREVER."

- ISAIAH 40:8 -

5744 Oakwood Road NW Huntsville, Alabama 35806 256.830.5754 www.wpc-hsv.org office@wpc-hsv.org

#### Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Friday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Please silence your cell phones before the service begins.

Guest WIFI Password: matthew633 † *Those who are able, please stand.* 

# Morning Worship

**Prelude** Ms. Bertha Dykstra

Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Hearken (J. S. Bach)

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (Hymn #314, arr. Berry)

Welcome and Announcements Preparation for Worship

> Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor 324 TPH

Text: Frank Houghton, 1894-1972

Tune: QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGRÉABLE (French carol melody), Arr: Charles H. Kitson, 1939

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 heaven-ward by thine eternal plan. Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.

#### † Call to Worship

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Leader: Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

All: In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Leader: In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

All: And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

† Hymn of Adoration

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#311

† Invocation 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.

#### † Confession 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.

\*this refers to the realm of the dead, not the place of punishment.

\*\*"catholic" means "universal" church, the true church in all times and places.

† Gloria Patri

#572

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.

#### Call to Repentance

Romans 2:4, pg. 940

#### Silent Confession of Personal Sins

#### Corporate Confession of Sin

Our Father, we are sinful and you are holy. We know how often we have offended you in thought, word, and deed, not only by obvious violations, but by failing to conform to your law's perfect commands, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. There is nothing in us that gives us reason for hope. Where we thought we were well, we are sick in soul. Where we thought we were holy, we are unholy and ungrateful. Our hearts are filled with the love of the world; our minds are dark and assailed by doubts; our wills are often given to selfishness and our bodies to laziness and unrighteousness. By sinning against our neighbors, we have also sinned against you. Our Father, although you are a holy God who cannot look upon sin, look upon Christ our Savior and forgive us for his sake. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53:5-6, pg. 614

**Old Testament Reading** 

Isaiah 40:1-5, pg. 599

† Psalm

Sing a New Song to Jehovah

#98C

Prayer of Intercession and Dedication

Mr. Joe Steele

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

#### **Offertory**

Ding, Dong! Merrily on High\* (George Ratcliffe Woodward)

Ding, dong! Merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing! Ding, dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing. Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, And io, io, io, by priest and people sungen. Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers! May you beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

#### Prayer for Illumination

#### Proclamation of the Word of God

Mr. Joe Steele

"The Benedictus, Continued" Luke 1:76-80

pg. 856

† Communion Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#293, vv. 1-3

#### Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The purple cups contain wine and the clear cups contain grape juice. The bread is gluten free.

Please hold each element until all have been served so that we may partake together.

† Communion Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#293, vv. 4-5

† Benediction

† Doxology

#567

† Postlude

Ms. Bertha Dykstra

Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly (Keimann, Hammerschmidt)

<sup>&</sup>quot;Ding, Dong! Merrily on High" was originally a 16th-century dance tune, that was turned into a 19th-century Christmas carol (like many hymns we know and love). George Ratcliffe Woodward, inspired by his interest in church bell-ringing, made it the theme of this lively carol which he intentionally wrote using medieval-style vernacular. Many wonder about the words "io, io, io" sung in the second verse; this actually comes from a shortening of the Latin "jubilo", which means "to rejoice".



# Sing a New Song to Jehovah



#### **293**

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Latin antiphons, 12th cent. Latin hymn, 1710 Tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961 VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref. Plainsong, 13th cent. Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856

# Evening Worship

**Prelude** Ms. Bertha Dykstra How Lovely Shines the Morning Star (Hymn #296) And the Glory of the Lord (Handel's Messiah, arr. Berry) Welcome and Announcements † Call to Worship Psalm 100:4-5 Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his All: faithfulness to all generations. † Hymn of Adoration Of the Father's Love Begotten #268 † Invocation Encouraging One Another with Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs Hymn of Advent All My Heart This Night rejoices #307 † Hymn To Us a Child of Hope Is Born #306 **Confession of Faith** Westminster Larger Catechism Q. 44, pg. 944 **Prayer of Intercession** Mr. John A. Davis **Offertory** The People That in Darkness Sat (Hymn #269, arr. Walther) Proclamation of the Word of God Mr. Jim Roberts "Advent and John 3:16 – The Drive of Love" John 3:16; Mark 12:1-12 pg. 888; 848 † Hymn of Response How Deep the Father's Love for Us #351 † Doxology #567

> Sing We the Song of Emmanuel (Gettys, Boswell, Papa)

Ms. Bertha Dykstra

† Postlude



# 307 All My Heart This Night Rejoices



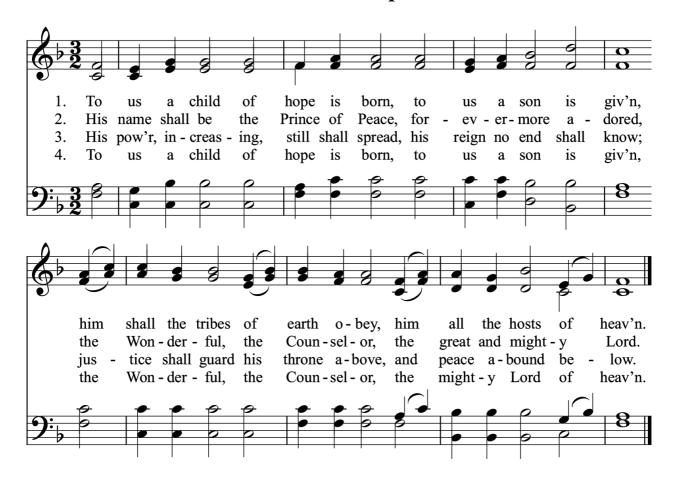
- 6. Come, then, banish all your sadness, one and all, great and small; come with songs of gladness.

  Love him who with love is glowing; hail the star, near and far light and joy bestowing.
- 7. Dearest Lord, thee will I cherish.

  Though my breath fail in death, yet I shall not perish,
  but with thee abide forever there on high, in that joy which can vanish never.

# To Us a Child of Hope Is Born

### **306**



John Morison, 1781; alt.

I DO BELIEVE C.M. Traditional English melody

#### 351 How Deep the Father's Love for Us



Welcome guests! We are delighted that you have come to worship with us here at Westminster. We pray that God will bless you richly through the service and the welcome of our congregation and that you will worship with us again soon. For more information about the church, please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Lobby.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Wednesday Evening Meal & Activities: Wednesday activities will resume on January 15.

<u>Christmas Services</u>: December 21, 9:30 am - A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, December 24, 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. *Pick up invitations on the table in the narthex to give to family, friends, and neighbors.* 

Annual Christmas Lessons & Carols Fellowship: Please join us for our annual Christmas Fellowship following the Nine Lessons and Carols morning worship service on Sunday, December 21. We request that every family bring a favorite dish to share, keeping in mind how our church family has grown! For families of more than 4, please bring 2 dishes. Sign up to bring a dish and to help receive food via the QR Code, link in the weekly email or on the Blue Sheet! Please drop your dish off in the Narthex before the morning worship service. We are looking forward to celebrating our Savior's birth as a church family! For more information, please contact Brian McFadden (mcfaddenbd@att.net) or Rachel Buhl

Reading Through the Bible Plans Available: The Scriptures are clear that God has given us his word to teach us what we are to believe about Him and to know what duty he requires of us to glorify him. Psalm 119 reminds us that the way to living a pure life is by guarding it according to His word. This requires storing up God's word in your heart and meditating on it with your mind. To do this, you must regularly be in it. While this does not require reading through the Bible from cover to cover, to do so semi-regularly reminds you of the fullness of Scripture. To aid you in this endeavor, we have provided two one-year plans and one two-year Bible reading plan. These plans are on the table in the narthex. Please consider making this a goal for the next year or two!

Adopt A Missionary: Sign up on the blue sheet.

(rachel.j.buhl@gmail.com).

Poinsettia Orders: Help us decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias this Christmas season. Flowers may be dedicated in memory of or in honor of a loved one, and names will appear in the bulletin beginning December 14. The poinsettias will be displayed each Sunday of Advent and will be available to take home after the Christmas Eve service. The deadline to order is December 14. Scan the QR Code, or order forms can be picked up from the table in the narthex.



Young Adult Christmas Party: Come and join us at David and Sydney Knight's home on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm! Please bring a finger food side to share and a gift (~\$15-20) for White Elephant if you want to play. RSVP on Realm or with Pastor Duncan.

<u>Christmas gifts for those in need</u>: The Outreach Team invites you to support Lincoln Village as they collect gifts for residents and students in need. Please see Pastor Duncan or use this url: <a href="https://rb.gy/blh1al">https://rb.gy/blh1al</a> to see their sign-up.

<u>PCA Ministerial Relief Fund:</u> The December 24 evening offering will be given to the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund, which aids widowed and retired church servants across the denomination in times of severe financial need. Flyers with more information are available on the table in the narthex.

<u>Women's Spring Bible Studies</u>: Ladies, join us this spring as we study God's Word and fellowship together! Even if you did not participate in a bible study this fall, we would love for you to join us next semester for one of our four studies:

Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30 am, studying Colossians, begins Jan. 6.

Wednesdays, 11:30 am-12:30 pm, studying The Sermon on the Mount, begins Jan. 14. Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm (1st and 3rd Thurs of the month), studying Romans, begins Jan. 15. Fridays, 9:30-11:30 am, studying Colossians, begins Jan. 9. (Nursery is available but limited.) If you are new to a study and wish to register, please email Kristen Thompson, kristen.thompson@wpc-hsv.org. For more information, flyers are available at the welcome table.

**ROOTS**: Students- It's time for ROOTS RETREAT! Providence Presbytery's annual winter youth retreat will take place at Camp ToKnowHim in Pisgah, Alabama, from January 23-25, 2026! Cost is \$145/person. Scholarships are available. Scan the QR code to sign up. Talk to Mark or Mary Katherine for more information.



Christmas Post Office: If you are sending Christmas Cards to church members, consider sending them through the "Christmas Post Office". Drop-off begins December 7. Place them in the red "mailbox" with the recipient's name, your name, and secure with a rubber band, in alphabetical order. They will be sorted & ready for pick up beginning December 7 at Evening Service. Donations are welcome and will go to the Huntsville Pregnancy Resource Center. Questions? Contact Amanda Pettus.

The WPC session invites all members and friends of WPC to join together in paying off our debt by the end of the 2025 calendar year. We currently have a balance of \$99,000, and paying off the debt will enable us to increase our ministry in a variety of ways. The session and the Strategic Planning Committee have been working on these plans, and they intend to bring a report with recommendations/plans to the January 2026 Congregational Meeting.

# **2025 Upcoming Events**

- December 11: Carol Sing @ Regency
- December 12: Young Adult Christmas Party @ 6 pm
- December 15: Family Tinsel Trail Fellowship @ 6 pm
- December 17: College & Career Christmas Party @ 6 pm
- December 21: Lessons & Carols
- January 30-February 1: Men's Retreat
- March 27-28, 2026: Parenting Conference

# **Sunday School for Youth and Children:**

3-year-olds:	Nursery Pre-K	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	WCA 108
4-year-olds:	WCA 105	5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls:	WCA 210
Kindergarten:	WCA 100	5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys:	WCA 211
1st Grade:	WCA 101	7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls:	WCA 207
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade:	WCA 102	7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys:	WCA 209
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade:	WCA 103	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	WCA Library

# **Sunday Servants**

	This Week: 12/7/25	Next Week: 12/14/25
Coffee Fellowship	Team Eno	Team Stegman
<b>Evening Prayer</b>	John A. Davis	Fred Diaz
Head Usher	Alex Lauderdale	Jay Lauderdale
Nursery	AM: Stephanie Bryant, Diana Perrin, Angie Johnson, John McFadden, Grayson Schmidt SS: Monica Zylstra, Anna Diaz PM: Kaitlyn Carl, Rachel & Sarah Buhl	AM: Raley Robey, Erin Creasy, Natalie Knight, Nicole Perrin, Sandy Miller SS: Julia Hammond, Alex & Kristen Thompson PM: Peter Schmidt, Sarah Rapp, Karen Hodge
Sexton Counter	Logan Bryant	Monday Mbila
Sound Booth	AM: Scott Paulson	AM: Bradley Davis
	PM: Keith White	PM: Michael Patterson

# December Special Church Events CHURCH

December 21, 9:30 am - Lessons and Carols Service

December 21, 11 am - Lessons & Carols Fellowship Brunch

December 24, 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight service

December 23 - January 1 - Church Office Closed. Merry Christmas And Happy New Year.

#### **CHOIR & CHORUS**

December 3, 10, 17, 6:15-7:45 pm - Christmas Choir Practice (7:30-7:45 is open practice for all congregants and choir members who plan to join the Hallelujah Chorus at Lessons & Carols)

December 7, 14, 4:30-5:30 pm - Orchestra Practice

December 17, 4:45 pm - Choir & Orchestra Christmas Dinner

December 20, 9 am-12 pm - Special Lessons & Carols rehearsal (choir & orchestra)

#### **OUTREACH**

December 4, 5:30 pm - Carpool Caroling to our members

December 11, 4:45 pm - Christmas Caroling @ Regency Retirement

#### **CROWN CLUB**

December 3, 11:30 am - Crown Club Christmas Luncheon

#### LADIES'

December 6, 9:00 am - Ladies' Annual Christmas Breakfast

#### **COLLEGE & CAREER**

December 17, 6:00 pm - Christmas Party at the Robert's

#### **YOUNG ADULT**

December 12, 6:00 pm - Christmas Party at the Knight's

#### YOUTH

December 13 - 5th-6th grade Christmas Breakfast at the Ballard's

December 13 - 7th-8th grade Christmas Party at the Floyd's

December 20 - 9th-12th grade Progressive Dinner

#### **KIDS**

December 14 - Last Sunday School of 2025

December 15, 6:00 pm - Family Tinsel Trail



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 30-31 or FEBRUARY 1, 2026

#### GROW!

Pastor Richard Thomas – Pastor, Mt. Calvary PCA, Roebuck, SC

Men 16 and up are invited to join us at the (30 minutes from WPC) on January 30-31 or through February 1 for a great time of fellowship and growth. Pastor Thomas will encourage us to do what God says - to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus that we might not drift away from the Lord.

In the past we have ended the teaching portion of the retreat at noon. This year it will end at 2pm (lunch is provided) to provide more time to fellowship in the morning. You are then invited to stay for afternoon activities, dinner, and overnight Saturday if you desire more fellowship. (See schedule.)

#### **COST**

#### MAIN RETREAT

Sessions and Friday Dinner, lodging Friday night, Saturday Breakfast and lunch ......\$100 Sessions, Friday Dinner Lodging for two Nights, Saturday Breakfast, lunch and dinner .......... \$180 FUN ADD-ONS! Add Saturday Afternoon Ziplining......\$49 Add Saturday Afternoon Archery......\$10

To sign-up online use the QR code or go to www.wpchsv.org, Scroll to UPCOMING EVENTS and click on the Men's Retreat link. This will also open a page with a registration link.

YOU CAN ALSO CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR HELP WITH REGISTRATION.

#### **OUESTIONS?**

Contact Pastor Jim Roberts at jim.roberts@wpc-hsv.org or at 256-830-5754

#### **RETREAT SCHEDULE**

#### MAIN RETREAT

#### Friday, January 30

Arrive and settle in 4:00-6:00pm

6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm Session #1

8:15-??pm Fellowship and games

8:00am

9:00am

12:00n

1:00pm

2:00pm

#### Saturday, January 31



Breakfast Session #2 10:30am Session #3 Lunch Session #4 Session wrap-up

#### FUN ADD-ONS!

#### Saturday, January 31

1:30pm Activities 6:00pm-ish Dinner 7:00pm-?? Fellowship and Games

Sunday, February 9

Depart by 8:00am (no breakfast)



#### NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES - STARTING DEC 7

WPC's Age and Stage Adult Discipleship Classes are organized in age groupings to encourage relational connections among people experiencing similar life circumstances.

College Age	Surviving Religion 101 Study through Michael Kruger's book to strengthen your faith in a skeptical world.	Duncan Cantrell Meets in WCA 110 School Building
20s and 30s	Beyond Me: Stepping Into the Heart of God's Global Story. Look beyond yourself to God's heart for the nations and the world.	Jim Roberts Meets in WCA 104 School Building
40s and 50s	Christian, What do you Believe? A study of the biblical and theological realities in the Apostles Creed.	Stephen St John Meets in the WPC Library Upstairs in the Church Building
60 Plus	Teach us to Pray Learn from the Lord's Prayer, and other Bible prayers, through study and practice.	Stacy Murphree Meets in WPC Room 1 Upstairs in the Church Building

**Other WPC Adult Discipleship Classes** include a cross generational class that blends people from all stages of life and our own "seminary lite" BASIC Institute Class.

Cross Generational	The Gospel According to John This is an in-depth study of the Gospel According to John.	Andy Ball Meets in WPC Room 2 Upstairs in the Church Building
BASIC	Pauline Epistles: NT 102 This course will provide an overview of Paul's writings and theology.	Roy McDaniel Meets in the WPC Commons Upstairs in the Church Building



#### December 7 – December 14, 2025

Morning Worship: 9:30 AM Sunday School: 11:10 AM Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

#### Sunday, December 7, 2025

12:15 PM - 40s-50s Fellowship Lunch in Commons

4:30 PM - Orchestra Practice - Sanctuary

4:30 PM - Women's Ministry Team Meeting

4:30 PM - Children's Ministry Team Meeting

#### Tuesday, December 9, 2025

7:00 AM - Men's 'Holiness' Book Study @ WPC

7:00 AM - Men's 'The Reason for God' Book Study @ Blue Plate Café

12:00 PM - Men's Abraham Book study @ WPC

#### Wednesday, December 10, 2025

6:15 PM - Christmas Choir Practice

7:30 PM - College & Career

#### Thursday, December 11, 2025

5:00 PM - Regency Hymn Sing

#### Friday, December 12, 2025

6:30 AM - Men's Hebrews Bible Study @ Sunny Street Café

6:00 PM - Young Adult Christmas Party @ The Knights

#### Saturday, December 13, 2025

9:00 AM - Women's Christmas Brunch

#### Sunday, December 14, 2025

4:30 PM - Orchestra Practice - Sanctuary

4:30 PM - Adult Discipleship Team Meeting

Pastoral Staff			
Joe Steele	Senior Pastor	joe.steele@wpc-hsv.org	
Jim Roberts	Associate Pastor	jim.roberts@wpc-hsv.org	
Duncan Cantrell	Pastor of Outreach & Young Adults	duncan.cantrell@wpc-hsv.org	
Stephen St. John	Pastor of Adult Discipleship	stephen.stjohn@wpc-hsv.org	
Roy McDaniel	Pastor/WCA Bible Teacher	roy.mcdaniel@wca-hsv.org	

	Ministry Team	
Ella Grace Baker	Choir Director	ellagrace.baker@wpc-hsv.org
Cameron Baird	Nursery Coordinator	cameron.baird@wpc-hsv.org
Mark Ballard	Student Ministry Director	mark.ballard@wpc-hsv.org
Ryan Brady	Pastoral Assistant	arbrady629@gmail.com
Bertha Dykstra	Pianist	bertha.dykstra@wca-hsv.org
Mary Katherine Keel	Student Ministry Associate	mary.keel@wpc-hsv.org
Curry Knight	Administrator	curry.knight@wpc-hsv.org
Sydney Knight	Director of Children's	sydney.knight@wpc-hsv.org
	Ministry	
KeriAnn Knupp	Office Manager	keriann.knupp@wpc-hsv.org
Jennifer Murphree	Director of Women's	jennifer.murphree@wpc-hsv.org
	Ministry	

#### **WPC Officers**

#### **Deacons:**

Craig Bosma, Josh Brown, Logan Bryant, Josh Buhl, Paul Galloway, John Gunn, Matt Harness, John Kirkwood, David Knight, Sam Lowrance, Monday Mbila, Art McKinney, Wade Pettus, Andy Rutledge, Christopher Thompson, Nate VanKirk, Chris Wellborn

#### **Ruling Elders:**

Andy Ball, Nat Causey, Joe Crowhurst, John A. Davis, John W. Davis III, Fred Diaz, Curtis Edewaard, Bill Emrich, Aaron Finch, Eric Fulcher, Scooter Johnson, Paul Keel, Scott Lynn, \*Brian McFadden, Stacy Murphree, Scott Nicol, Chester Replogle, Ken Shipman, Allen Zumbach

(\*currently on sabbatical)