

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Secomd Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *O Morning Star*

David Bednell

Prayer of Preparation (*you may prepare for worship by praying silently*)

Lamb of God, you take on the sins and suffering of the world. Call us into partnership with you, to love and serve your people by your side. Call us to witness to your goodness and to join your ongoing work of liberation. Call to us by name, and we will delight in your ways.

Call to us by name, and we will follow you forever. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Charles Hogrefe

Call to Worship (responsive)

Jesus once turned to those who followed at a distance and asked, “What are you looking for?”

The same question is asked of us as we enter into worship,

“What are you looking for?”

We seek redemption, and to find a better way to live, and to abide now and always with Jesus the Messiah.

Then come and see.

* Hymn of Praise 163 – *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

* Call to Confession

Like the early disciples, we are curious about this Jesus, this Son of God. We may be tempted to stay away, for we know we are not worthy of him. But Jesus does not care about worth, wealth and power. Jesus seeks those who would follow honestly, willing to face their failures in order to grow closer to God. In that spirit, let us turn to Christ.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of the ages, we do not always wait with patience. We do not always sing your praises. We do not always recognize your work in our lives. We would rather take the credit for ourselves. We would rather take the easy way out. We would rather step on others if it means more for ourselves. Forgive us for all the ways we forget you. Help us to delight to do your will. Help us to trust in you and return us to the path of righteousness.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

The Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world. The Lamb of God takes away the sins of each and every one of us.

Christ has mercy on us, forgiving our sins. Alleluia!

* The Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri* Hymn 581

**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.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Katie Ginn

Prayer for Illumination

Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – John 1:29-42

pew Bible pg. 862

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – *Lord Jesus, Be Near Me*

Natalie Sleeth

Lord Jesus, be near me by night and by day; Thy spirit surround me and light Thou my way; Lord Jesus, restore me, that filled with Thy love, My heart may know clearly Thy Father above.

Lord Jesus, forgive me if needful I be, send comfort to heal me, from sin set me free.

Lord Jesus, renew me, that forth I may go, Thy bountiful goodness and wisdom to show. Lord Jesus, prepare me to serve Thee full well; To all men Good News of Thy Kingdom to tell; Lord Jesus, inspire me with others to share the joys of Thy mercy, the depths of Thy care. Lord Jesus, protect me, preserve me from harm, uphold me with strength from Thine Almighty arm.

Lord Jesus, direct me, that all of my days Thy paths I may follow in infinite praise.

Second Reading – Psalm 40:1-11

pew Bible pg. 446

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *A New Song*

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 688 – *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

* Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from The Confession of 1967, 9.15 (unison) –

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Prayers of the People (responsive)

We approach God in prayer not as strangers, but as beloved children, baptized in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for the church . . . Strengthen us in our testimony to Christ. As you are ever good and always faithful, keep us faithful in the fellowship of the Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for the earth . . . A burnt offering is not what you desire. Keep us from consuming the earth with greed; redeem and restore your good creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for all nations . . . Give dignity to those who are despised and honor to those who are rejected. Send your saving grace to the ends of the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for this community . . . Make us visible witnesses to Christ in this place, inviting our neighbors to come and see the new thing you are doing in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for loved ones . . . Be a rock for those who are sinking in despair. Put a new song on their lips and in their hearts, a song of thanksgiving and praise to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, as you are well pleased with Christ, help us to live in a way that will be pleasing to you. As you have called us to listen to Christ, help us to always heed his word and seek his will. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, your beloved Child, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Invitation to Offering

There is only one Lord and God, from whom all things come and for whom we live. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory – *O Love, How Deep, How Broad*

Mary Beth Bennett

* The Doxology – Hymn 606

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of glory, as people brought gifts to the infant Jesus, we bring our gifts to you. May these gifts be used to lift up those who are oppressed, to bring deliverance to those who are in need, to support those who are poor, and to help those who are in trouble. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 610 – *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

The loving kindness of the Lord our God, the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Alleluia!**
Go and tell this good news of great joy: to us a Savior is born. **Amen.**

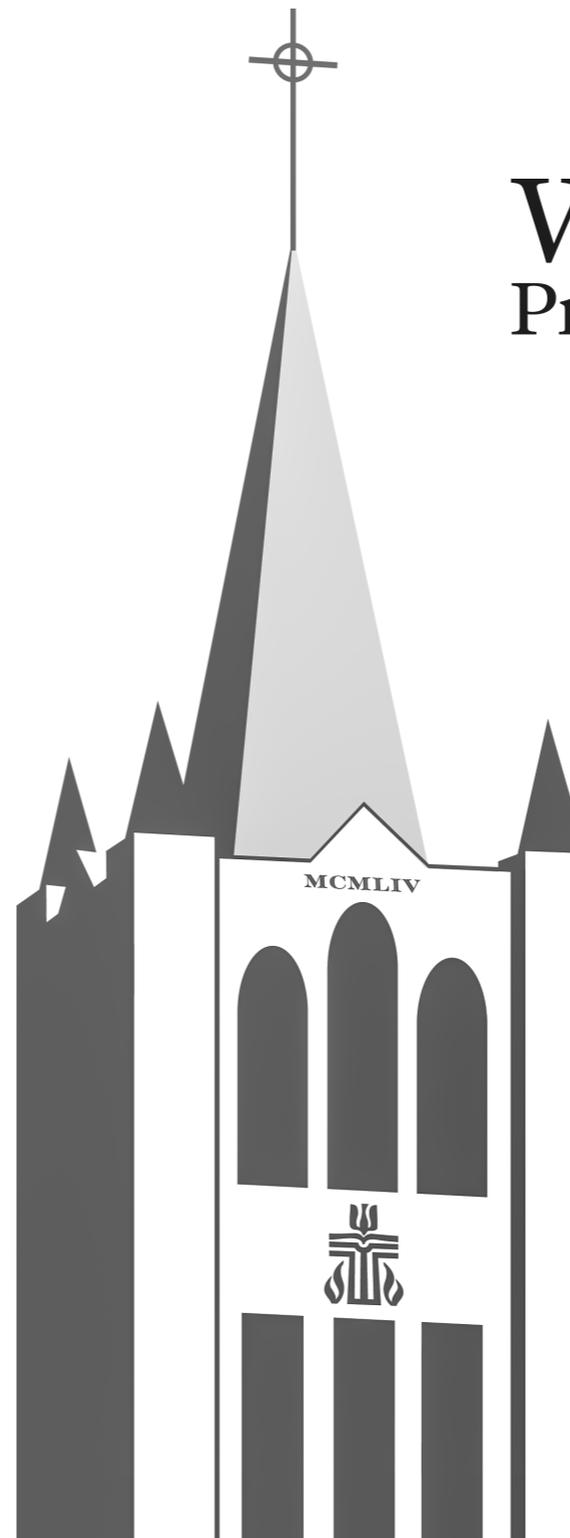
* Postlude – *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

Max Drischner



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**

Today's liturgy is in part adapted from the Call to Worship website, a resource created the PCUSA's Office of Theology and Worship and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation—everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

II Corinthians 5:17

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PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(* new added prayers)

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

Franklin Bryant – recovering from broken pelvis at home

Larry & Margaret Burge of Poplarville, friend of Michael Yore – Larry has cancer

Laura Pearce Cureton, Nancy Johnson's goddaughter – nerve block therapy continues

Deidra Dickenson, Kathy Cain's sister – onset dementia

Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Bill and Louise Edwards, friends of Charles Brown – strength and endurance

Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia

Lee Graham, Pam Love's son-in-law – health issues

Jim Harris, Dixie Coats' brother-in-law's father – in hospital with serious health issues

**Mckenna Hawkins, daughter of Michael Yore's friend – cancer*

Charles "Rocky" Hartfield, friend of Pam Love – health issues

Peggy Henry, Karen Reidenbach's sister – continued strength through addiction recovery

Charlotte Hill

Ann Johnson

Geraldine Jones

Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – Alzheimer's

B.J. Lambert

Vivian Lochhead, daughter of Bob and Margaret Lochhead – eye issues

Peggy McCarthy, friend of Iris Easterling – facing serious health issues

Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles' first cousin – dementia

Anita Murphy, friend of Mary Cromartie – lung cancer

Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength

Renee Parker, friend of Ruthie Davis – macular degeneration

Carolyn Mitchell Pintard, Bill & Betty Mitchell's daughter – grave health issues

Shannon Love Roberson, daughter of Pam Love – broken shoulder

Laura Todd, Grayson Rayborn's cousin – multiple health issues

Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Korie Turner, friend of Ruthie Davis – prayers for courage

Ella Young, sister of Janet Baldwin – struggling with dementia



Greeting and Announcements

Welcome to Westminster! We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please silence cell phones during the worship hour.

The January/February Today devotionals (large and small print) are on the narthex cabinet.

The **Session** will meet today at 11:35 a.m.

New Beginnings will meet tomorrow at noon. The program will be a Bible Study with Tommy. Please let Martha or Tommy know you are coming.

PW Prayer Ministry will meet Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. There are prayer cards on the back of the pew for prayer requests. Please put the address so a card can be sent and placed with the offering. Join this group as they pray and write cards.



Please join us for Wednesday night dinner this week at 5:30 p.m. There is no charge for the meal, but donations are encouraged. We need a headcount, so please place a reservation slip in the offering plate or call the office.

Menu: Poppyseed chicken, vegetable, bread, salad, and dessert

Activity

Chancel Choir will meet at 6:30 p.m.

Brown Bag Bible Study will meet on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

Men of the Church will meet Thursday at 7 a.m. at Loblolly Bakery.

There are **offering envelopes for 2026** on a table in the narthex and by the double doors. Be sure to pick up one today.

Giving statements were mailed on Thursday; please contact the office if you have not received one.

Boucher Diaper-Wipes Shower

Sunday, Jan. 25, after worship.

Come help us celebrate this wonderful addition to our church family.

(Gift cards are welcomed.)



To donate to WPC online, scan the QR code and follow the instructions.



Sunday, Jan. 25, there will be a **luncheon** in Montague Hall after worship. All are invited for this time of food and fellowship.