

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Festival Processional*

Charles Callahan

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

Mysterious God, you whose wisdom baffles kings, make us foolhardy enough to dare to live as if peace is truly possible, here and now. Grant us the audacity to seek justice. Give us courage to risk kindness and love recklessly so that, in Jesus' footsteps, and through your Spirit's surprising blessings, we can journey humbly with you all our days.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Tommy Suttle

Call to Worship – (*responsive*)

With what shall we come before the Lord, to bow before God most high?

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Who can abide in the temple of the Lord, or stand in God's presence?

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Let us worship the Lord.

* Hymn of Praise 415 – *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

* Call to Confession

God has told us what is good, what is required: Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God. These commands are so simple, yet we know we have not always followed them. With that knowledge, we confess.

* Prayer of Confession – (*unison*)

Merciful God, we fail to do what is right. Instead, we pursue evil and do not speak the truth. Even when we try our best to be faithful, still we turn away from you. Forgive us, accept us, and redeem us, that we may seek to do what you call good. (time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (*responsive*)

Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption, is the one who judges us. Christ is the one who was born for us and forgives us with abundant love.

We will boast of all the good God has done for us! Thanks be to God!

* The Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri*

**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.**

Hymn 581

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Althea Jerome

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 – Matthew 5:1-12

pew Bible pg. 785

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

Anthem – *Blessed is the Man*

Maurice C. Whitney

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
But his delight is to the law of the Lord;
and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit,
His fruit in his season, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season.
The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.
Therefore, the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation, in the congregation of the righteous.
For the Lord, the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous:
But the way of the ungodly shall perish, shall perish.
Blessed is the man that walketh in the way of the Lord, blessed.

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

pew Bible pg. 926

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

Sermon – *Who Became for Us the Wisdom of God*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

* Communion Hymn 510 – *We Gather Here in Jesus' Name*

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 – *Allegretto*

Edward Elgar

THE EUCHARIST

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving (responsive)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

The Words of Institution

The Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion (unison)

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have fed us with your mercy and poured out your Spirit in this place. Continue to nourish and fill us each day, that we may live as your beloved people; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Hymn of Consecration 804 – *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

Beloved children of God, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the blessing of the Lord forever. **Alleluia!**

As Jesus called the first disciples, so he calls to us this day: Follow me. **Amen.**

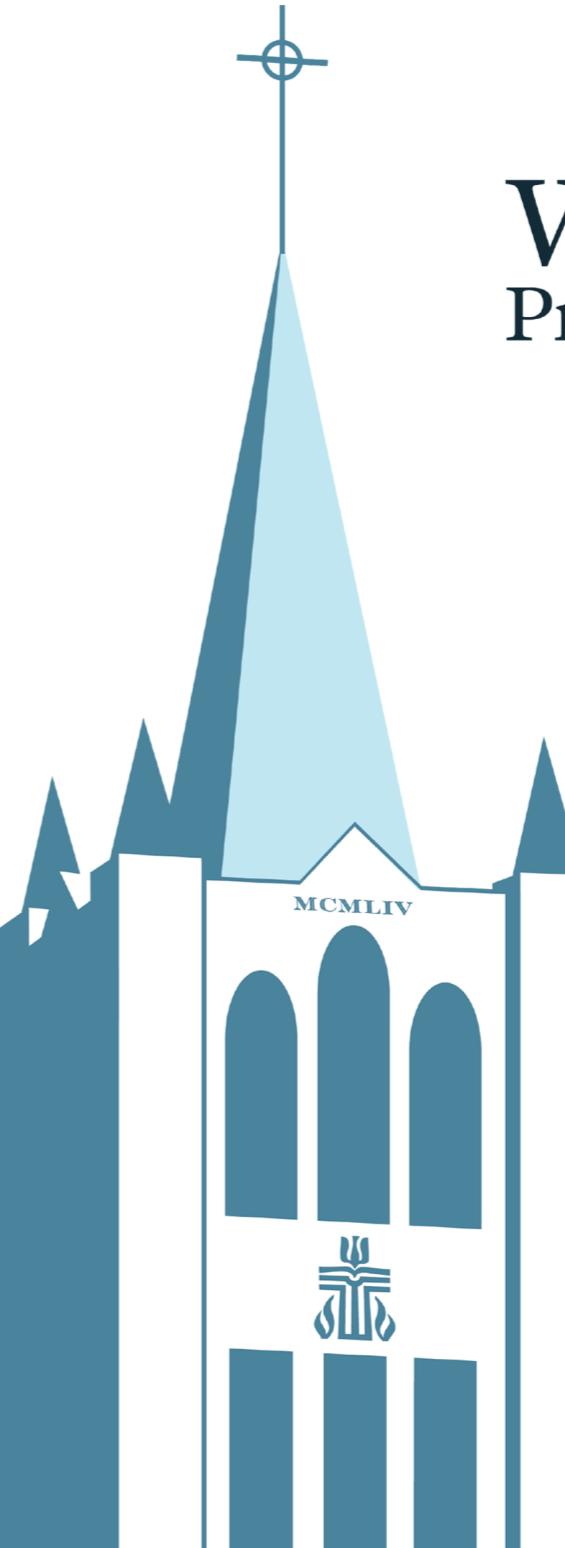
* Postlude – *Recessional*

Raymond Haan



* 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

The Session has called for the **annual congregational meeting** on Feb. 8 following worship. The purpose of the meeting will include: hearing a summary of the annual statistical report, hearing a financial report on 2025 and on the 2026 budget, approving changes to the pastor's terms of call, approving sabbatical plans for the pastor, and electing the 2026 officer nominating committee.



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.

Today we will observe the **sacrament of communion**. All are welcome to receive God's gifts at the table. So that all may be served, we will use grape juice and gluten-free bread. Communion Sundays are also **Breadbasket Sundays** – a time when you are encouraged to make contributions to the Breadbasket ministry.

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

Growing Spiritually committee will meet today following worship.

PW Coordinating Team will meet Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

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



Please join us for Wednesday night dinner this week at 5:30. 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: Chicken pot pie, Caesar salad, rolls, and dessert

Activities

Chancel Choir will meet at 6:30.

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



Sunday, Feb. 8, everyone is invited to Montague Hall to enjoy some hot soup and dessert after worship. The Youth will be collecting donations for the **Souper Bowl of Caring**.

Boucher Diaper-Wipes Shower
Sunday, Feb. 8, 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.

