

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 15, 2019  
11:15 a.m.

*Third Sunday of Advent*

### PRAYERS OF PREPARATION

Through the voices of the ancients you foretold the coming Messiah who would redeem Israel and fulfill your promises. Draw us nearer to you with joy and gladness that we may hear again the promises of God with us. Amen.

### GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

### PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Vernon & Edna Ruth Miller*

PRELUDE "O Come, Little Children" arr. Wood

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

People: **The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing.**

Leader: The lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the blind receive their sight and the poor have good news brought to them.

People: **Let us worship God with joy and gladness.**

#### \* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 88 VENI EMMANUEL

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
*stanzas 1, 6, and 7 only*

#### \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, revealed to us in the light that comes in darkness to make known your love for this world, have mercy on us. We more likely hear your good news in the glory of the celestial angels than the fear and humility of the shepherds. Open our ears to hear the good news in unlikely voices and keep us watchful for your presence. Make us bold to go and tell what we have seen and to reflect the light of Christ to the world. Amen.**

#### \* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

#### \* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 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.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Hymnal page 35, Traditional*

#### OFFERING

Offertory "Christmas Praise" arr. Phillips

#### \* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

**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.**

#### \* Prayer of Dedication

#### \* HYMN No. 143 REGENT SQUARE

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### "I Heard It From the Shepherds"

by RG Huff and Vicki Hancock Wright

*Presented by the Junior and Senior Choristers*

**Hodie! Hodie!** *Amelia Key, Henley Gilreath, Blair Jones,*

*Nora Roach, Bobby Hartman, Preston Lancaster*

### Prophets, Prophets

**Gentle Mary Laid Her Child** *Anna Puntch, Claire Puntch,*

*Elizabeth Todd Mullins, Pearson Mullins*

**Cradle Dance** *Cam Warren*

### I Heard It from the Shepherds

**Following the Star to Bethlehem** *Sadie Mattice, Louisa Palmer,*

*Madeline Barker, Cooper Ray*

\* **Angels We Have Heard on High/Hodie** *congregation, Hymn No. 113*

### \* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Wondrous Tidings" Simone

### THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

*Kathryn Knauer, Children's Choir Coordinator*

*Mark Kemp, Music Director*

*Martha Beaudrot, Accompanist*

#### The Junior Choristers

Lilly Aiken, Wilson Brasington, Olivia Brewer, Sam Brinkley, Kathryn Byrne, Kylie Byrne, Caroline Cameron, Annie Cole, Caroline Cox, Caroline Doar, Vivian Donlan, Hannah Hall, Bobby Hartman, Blair Jones, John Key, Preston Lancaster, Emerson Lapins, Ellen Major, Sarah Major, Sophie Major, Emmons Miller, Pearson Mullins, Charlotte Parrott, Sally Parrott, Ava Leigh Pate, Eli Patel, JD Paylor, Capitola Riley, Nora Roach, William Swann, Hayden Taylor, Zoey Weiss, Lindlee Williams

#### The Senior Choristers

James Aiken, Eliza Barker, Madeline Barker, George Blount, Woody Bohman, Elizabeth Brasington, Tesla Campbell, Addy Cizon, Eliot Cizon, Charlotte Clark, Grier Clark, Ellie Coker, Lucy Cole, Braden Cox, Mason Donlan, Cooper Dorr, Henley Gilreath, Mills Hardaway, JP Hartman, Alex Hoffman, Amelia Key, Daniel Knauer, Sadie Mattice, Elizabeth Todd Mullins, Grayson O'Toole, Louisa Palmer, Emmie Paradise, Ellie Parrott, Anna Puntch, Claire Puntch, Helen Ratterree, Cooper Ray, Budd Reynolds, Charlie Rowan, Cam Warren, Grayson Williams, Kass Williams

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

<b>HEAD USHERS:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Tony Atkins
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	Charlie LeGrand
<b>SPONSOR:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Becky Warth
<b>GREETERS:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Coleman Kirven, Ted Gentry Jon McKnight
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	Sarah Beasley, Brandon Coker Kristin Burrell
<b>LITURGISTS:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Lauren Slingerland
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	Ben Dorr, Lauren Slingerland
<b>LAY READER:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Ellie Greer

### PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

### TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

### CHURCH NOTES

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

*Nancy Smith, organist*

*Lynne Robinson, pianist*

**9:00 a.m.**

*Westminster Youth Choir*

**11:15 a.m.**

*The Junior Choristers and  
Senior Choristers*

*Martha Beaudrot, accompanist*

This Sunday, the Children's Choirs of Westminster will proclaim the traditional nativity story at the 11:15 worship service through scripture and song. We are thankful for their voices of leadership this Advent. To preserve the spirit of worship during the service, please refrain from using cell phones and cameras to take pictures or videos. A video of the service will be available in the church office.

### NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

During the 9:00 a.m. worship service, children in rising K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children's Church in **Room 206**.

### CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS

Please return the children's worship bags at the end of worship. If you notice any extras at home, please bring them back to the basket in the atrium so we can keep refilling them for our little disciples. Thank you!

### LET US PRAY FOR:

*Lisa Kistler and family*

### BAPTISM

This morning at the 9:00 a.m. worship service we welcome the following into our fellowship:

- *Emma Marie Andres*, daughter of Jorge Andres Amo and Holly Vanderwal  
- *Henry Alford Wolfe-Watson*, son of Virginia Wolfe and Larkin Watson

### 59th ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

On **Sunday, December 22**, the congregation of Westminster will gather for the **59th Annual Service of Lessons & Carols** at both morning worship services of **9:00 a.m.** and **11:15 a.m.** This traditional service, begun in 1918 at King's College in Cambridge, England, utilizes scripture readings and carols to tell the prophecies, birth, and coming Kingdom of Christ. The Westminster Sanctuary Choir will be joined by *Nancy Smith*, Organist, and the Westminster Brass.

### IHN IN JANUARY 2020

As part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), WPC will be hosting a few Greenville families in housing transition the week of **January 12-19**. If you are available to volunteer, please sign up online at <https://bit.ly/356VpCt>. For more information, contact *Holly, Beth or Julia* at [hollyv04@hotmail.com](mailto:hollyv04@hotmail.com), [bethholladay73@gmail.com](mailto:bethholladay73@gmail.com), or [juliabellew@gmail.com](mailto:juliabellew@gmail.com). Thank you in advance!

### 2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, December 10, we have received \$2,219,723 in pledges toward our 2020 budget goal of \$2,513,715.

For your convenience, pledge cards are in the pews, or you may mail in your pledge or send it by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens, at [sherri@wpc-online.org](mailto:sherri@wpc-online.org).

“How a Rose E’er Blooming: Pastors Reflect on the Christmas Story”

Join us this Advent for a **combined Sunday School** to explore the stories of Jesus’ birth. This discussion and lecture based class will probe old stories for new insights into the relevancy of the Christmas story for a modern age. “How a Rose E’er Blooming” will meet in **Room 209**.

**December 15:** *Ben Dorr on Simeon and Jesus in the Temple*

**December 22:** *Mary Kathleen Duncan on the Magnificat*

**THEOLOGY READING GROUP**

The Theology Reading Group will meet **Monday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Charter Room**. This will be a seasonal gathering - a time of fellowship and the sharing of light refreshments and a Christmas memory, poem, story, or more. All are invited.

**WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER**

**Circle #7:** Will meet **Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Gaye Sprague (10 Grey St., 29605). *Talitha Allen*, chair (bewt29617@bellsouth.net).

**ADULT GROUPS**

- **Couples Bible Study Group (50+):** Will meet **Tuesday, December 17**, at 6:30 p.m. for their annual Christmas dinner at the home of *Charles & Janie Little* (107 Welling Cir.).
- **Needle Arts Group:** Will **NOT** meet **Wednesday, December 18**. Group Leader, *Terry Gentry* (tmgentry@charter.net).
- **Movie Group:** Will meet **Sunday, December 22**. Details to be announced. If you have questions, contact Group Leader *Susan Robbins* (jamrobbins@aol.com).

**UNITED MINISTRIES  
FOOD PANTRY**

The food pantry is in need of peanut butter, dry milk, and other non-perishable food items. Donations may be left in the labeled cabinets in the Friendship Court.

**FIND WPC ONLINE**

Visit us online to find up-to-date photos, videos and information about our programming:  
<http://www.wpc-online.org>.

- facebook.com/wpcgreenville
- twitter.com/wpcgreenville
- instagram.com/wpcgreenville
- youtube.com/wpcgreenville
- gplus.to/wpc

**CHRISTMAS TREES**

To make our sanctuary, entrance pavilion and sanctuary atrium festive for the Christmas season, the Women of Westminster, the Senior High Girls, and the Lightly Seasoned group decorated this year’s Christmas trees. The live wreaths on the exterior of the campus were hung by Bill & Barbara Wallace. Thank you to all!

**RETIREMENT GIVING**

For those 70 and 1/2 years of age or older, you can make a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Though you will not get a charitable deduction, the withdrawal can serve as your required minimum distribution. The money will not be taxed and will not count toward your adjusted gross income. If you have any questions, please contact Sherri Owens, the church’s Financial Secretary.

**SAVE THE DATE**

*Women of Westminster:*

*Women’s Retreat*

**February 21-23, 2020**

Registration available at  
[www.wpc-online.org](http://www.wpc-online.org).

**FINANCIAL MINISTRY  
2019 BUDGET UPDATE**

2019 Pledges \$2,428,933  
Amount Received \$1,893,538  
Pledges Outstanding (\$535,395)

Our auditing firm has informed us that we must close our books on December 31. Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2019 statement in by December 31, 2019. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners. Thank you.

**THE HARBINGER  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
2310 Augusta Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29605  
(864) 232-2424

[www.wpc-online.org](http://www.wpc-online.org)

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Associate Pastor	Leigh Stuckey
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Associate Pastor	Lauren Slingerland
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Volunteer Coordinator	Jennifer Dillard
	<a href="mailto:jdillard@wpc-online.org">jdillard@wpc-online.org</a>
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	<a href="mailto:michelle@wpc-online.org">michelle@wpc-online.org</a>
Secretary	Wendy Bagley
	<a href="mailto:wendy@wpc-online.org">wendy@wpc-online.org</a>
Director of Nurseries	Janell Pitman
	<a href="mailto:jpitman@wpc-online.org">jpitman@wpc-online.org</a>
Director of Hospitality	Lisa Ridge
	<a href="mailto:lisa@wpc-online.org">lisa@wpc-online.org</a>
Building Supervisor	Steve Phillips
	<a href="mailto:stevep30@bellsouth.net">stevep30@bellsouth.net</a>

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

December 15 - 21, 2019

**SUNDAY**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:15 a.m. Children’s Choirs Musical  
12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Christmas Dinner  
7:30 p.m. Rutter’s *Magnificat*,  
by WPC Sanctuary Choir/  
Orchestra

**MONDAY**

6:15 p.m. NAMI  
7:00 p.m. Theology Reading Group  
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

**TUESDAY**

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
12:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Couples Bible Study (50+)  
Christmas Dinner

**WEDNESDAY**

9:30 a.m. Weekday School Chapel  
9:45 a.m. Weekday School Chapel  
3:00 p.m. “It’s Elementary!” & Tweens  
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY**

10:00 a.m. Thursday Bible Study  
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

**FRIDAY**

WYC Atlanta Caroling Trip

**SATURDAY**

WYC Atlanta Caroling Trip

**LIBRARY/POINSETTIA MEMORIALS**

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in two ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for \$15.00, or money may be given to buy library books. Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary at the Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve Services. Please fill out the slip below or contact the church office, 232-2424. Donors may pick up their poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service you choose to attend. **Orders must be placed by this Sunday, December 15.**

Donor \_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
Library Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OR Poinsettias x \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_



This time of year, the workplace grind feels half-hearted. Yes, we still show up to get our jobs done and earn our paychecks. But the month is always interrupted by vacations, Christmas parties, and days off for the holidays themselves. In December, even on days when I’m working, there’s always some customer or supplier or co-worker who isn’t. Things just slow down. And while I’m sure it looks bad for the company bottom line, in fact it’s quite pleasant. Work takes a back seat to life, at least for a few weeks. We have some time to reflect.

Nature also enters a reflective period. Nightfall comes early, the leaves are gone from the trees, and the world is quieter. When we lived in the Midwest, this time was the “fun winter” when we looked forward to sledding and snow angels and hot chocolate. (Somehow the “real winter,” with its mounds of dirty snow and hazy salted windshields, was still a month away.) In December we can simply sit and appreciate the winter.

Our state of reflection gives way, after a while, to a bit of daydreaming. And this is the season when we dream at our best. We dream not about enriching ourselves or smiting our enemies, but about a better and more Godly world. Christmas carols and Bible verses reinforce the best of our dreams: “Peace on Earth; Goodwill toward men,” “Joy to the World,” and so forth. Just a few weeks back we gave thanks for our many blessings, and now we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus. We give to charity. We visit with family. We sing carols together.

The capacity to dream is underappreciated. When we dream of a peaceful, harmonious world, we take one step toward achieving it. Christmas is a time for miracles and wonder, and for dreaming of that elusive “peace and harmony” that we sing about. If God put a vision of peace and harmony into the Bible, surely he put a little piece of the same into all of us. Something about the Christmas season reveals those good things inside of us, to our neighbors and to ourselves.

*Bill Taylor*

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 15, 2019

9:00 a.m.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Almighty God, you send your Son into a world where the wheat must be winnowed from chaff and wickedness clings even to what is good. Let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all that is deceitful, greedy, and selfish. Let your peace descend into our hearts, so that your grace and joy would abound in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, the One whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

#### GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

##### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

#### PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

##### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Parks & Rachel Workman, Elizabeth and Mary Wayne*

PRELUDE "Christmas Praise" arr. Phillips

\* CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 146*

Leader: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

People: **The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

Leader: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.

People: **Praise the Lord! Let us worship God!**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 88 VENI EMMANUEL

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*stanzas 1, 6, and 7 only*

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, full of compassion, we admit that we have been short-sighted with our faith and insecure with our love. Your grace and strength have upheld us through the years, but we imagine that we have brought ourselves here on our own. You have promised to walk with us in the future, but we have withheld our trust, and allowed our fears to determine our path. Have mercy on us, and remake our hearts in the image of your Son. Let our lives be a reflection of the light that comes in darkness, the light of Christ, so that all would know your love for this world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

\* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM 9:00 *Emma Marie Andres*

*Henry Alford Wolfe-Watson*

Presentation  
Questions to the Parents  
Question to the Congregation  
Thanksgiving over the Water  
Baptism  
Prayer

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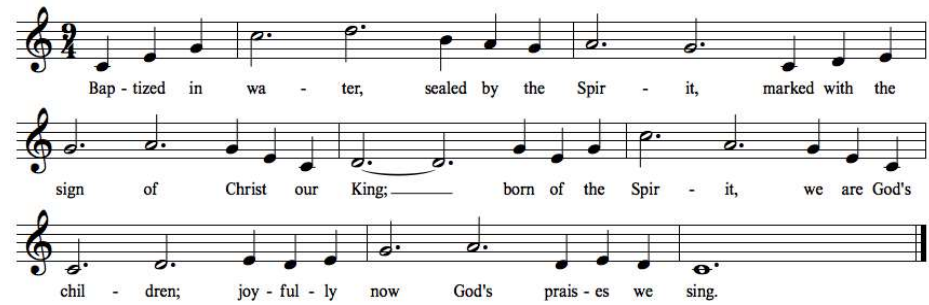
THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM 9:00 *Emma Marie Andres*

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Prayer

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Welcome and Congregational Response



Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the  
sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's  
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

Children in K5-first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 3:1-12 N.T., p. 784

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9 O.T., p. 558

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Ben Dorr

“The World Turned Upside Down”

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION 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.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Hymnal page 35, Traditional*

#### OFFERING

Anthem “On a Hillside in Bethlehem” Hallquist

\* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

***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.***

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* HYMN No. 105 BESANCON

“People, Look East”

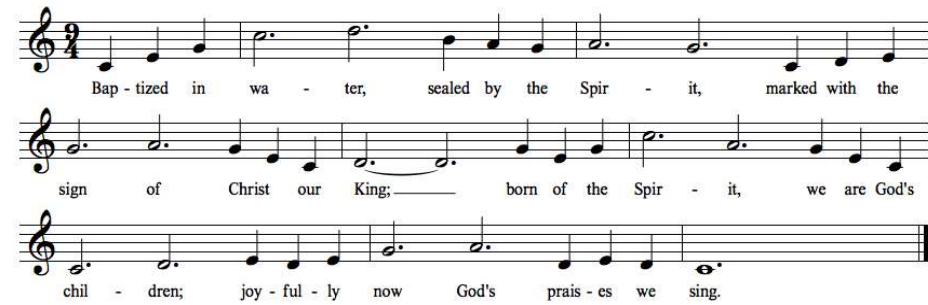
\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE “Wondrous Tidings” Simone

*\*All who are able may stand*

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Welcome and Congregational Response



Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the  
sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's  
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

Children in K5-first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 3:1-12 N.T., p. 784

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9 O.T., p. 558

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Ben Dorr

“The World Turned Upside Down”

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION 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.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Hymnal page 35, Traditional*

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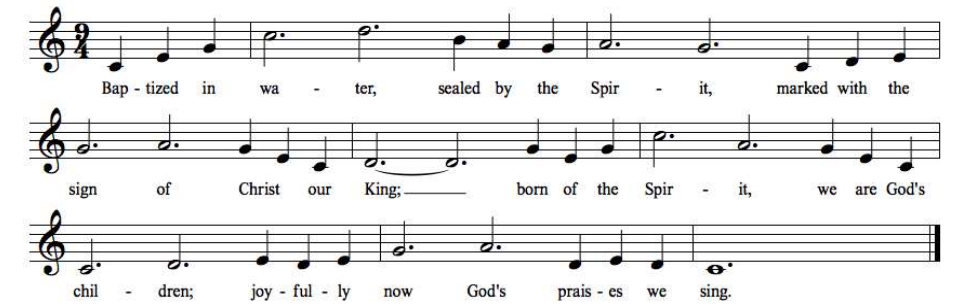
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