The Order of Common Worship

Westminster Presbyterian Church

December 14, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth." --Psalm 96:9

"...true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth." -- John 4:23

"What is the chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy Him forever." -- Shorter Catechism

Welcome to Westminster!

Prelude: Fanfare on "The Boar's Head" Carol arr. Dixon

Greeting Pastor

Introit: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Sanctuary Choir

Call to Worship: based on Psalm 130:5-7

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

Prayer of Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Stephen Stiglets Family

*Hymn of Adoration: "Angles We Have Heard on High" Celebrating Grace #125

Call to Confession based on Psalm 139:23-24

The psalmist models a transparent faith with these words: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. We express our longing for God's leading by our own transparent confession.

Corporate Confession of Sin

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon and The Lord's Prayer

Zephaniah 3:14-18

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

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.

Hymn of Thanksgiving: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Celebrating Grace #107

Celebrations and Concerns of the Church

Prayer requests can be made via bulletin tear-off, Facebook Messenger, gulfportchurch.org, the OR code on the back of the bulletin, or by calling the church office at (228) 864-3143.

Prayers of the People

The Offertory:

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Dan Forrest

*Doxology

Old Hundredth

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

*Scripture Reading:

Matthew 6:19-24

Pew Bible p. 964

Sermon: "Greed"

Rev. Dr. Rhett Payne

*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.

*Hymn of Commitment: "What Child is This"

Celebrating Grace #148

*Benediction

Pastor

*Passing of the Peace

*Postlude:

"Masters in This Hall"

Dixon

The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in appreciation of the faithful vision of the Session and Property

Committee for the care and future improvement of our church buildings

Please take a moment to complete the registry of fellowship section of this bulletin. Childcare is available in our nursery during worship. Restrooms are located down the main hall, and there is an emergency exit at the front right of the sanctuary. We encourage your prayer requests and questions about our family of faith's mission and ministry. Please see a greeter or an Elder if we can be of any assistance.

^{*}If you are able, please stand.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 5005 Lawson Avenue, Gulfport, Mississippi 39507 office@gulfportchurch.org

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facebook.com/gulfportwpc (228) 864-3143

This Week's Meetings/Events

Funeral of Mary Ellen Lipely: Today at 2 p.m. (visitation at 1 p.m.)

Cub Scouts Pack Meeting: Monday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.

Prayer Group: Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m.
Genesis Project: Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 2:30 p.m.
Session Meets: Thursday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous: Thursday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

Announcements

Adult Sunday School: Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Library Study is on the Book of Hebrews, led by Dr. Sam Clark

Christmas VBS: Monday, Dec. 22, 9-11:30 a.m.

LifeHouse Youth: Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 10 a.m. **Christmas Eve Service:** Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.

Christmas Holidays: Thursday, Dec. 25 - Friday, Dec. 26, church office

will be closed

Rise and Shine Men's Breakfast: Friday, Jan. 2 at 8 a.m.

Financial Report (YTD through November 30, 2025)	
2025 Annual Budget	. \$320,738.00
YTD General Budgeted Receipts	\$275,039.90
YTD Budgeted Expenditures	\$282,481.27
Last Week's Budgeted Receipts	\$ 7,348.98
Last Week's Future Improvements Receipts	\$ 5,000.00

The Rev. Dr. Rhett Payne, Interim Pastor Chip Westbrook, Clerk of Session Jane Bloss, Treasurer

Class of 2025 Cummings King Property Rachel Price Missions Class of 2026
Lynda Gary
Discipleship Formation
Jim Roberts
Property
Scott Winter

Class of 2027
Mark Alspaugh
Property
Ben Stone
Personnel
Pat West

STAFF

Asst. Clerk and Worship

Alice Bellanger, Youth Director
LeAnn Davis, Church Administrator
Angela Hudson, Nursery Care
Jeanie Pollard, Organist
Tim Silkman, Facilities Manager
Chip Westbrook, Personnel Committee Chair

Westminster's Mission Partners

Boy Scout Troop 209
Cub Scout Pack 209
Feed My Sheep
Girl Scout Troop 3542
Good News Jail & Prison Ministry
Gulf Coast Rescue Mission

GHS Counselors' Fund Genesis Project

Pass Road Elem. Counselors' Fund

GCMS Counselors' Fund

Medical Benevolence Foundation

Bethel Free Health Clinic

French Camp Academy

MBF Nursing Scholarship-Haiti

Foundation for Reformed Theology Kindness Foundation Missionaries in Austria, Lebanon, and Japan Belhaven University

Duty Elder Scott Winter



This Week's Birthdays

Dec. 15 — Christine Maxwell
Dec. 18 — Jessica Thomas

2026 Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to all who have contributed to our 2026 Stewardship Campaign. We are encouraged by the strong participation so far and grateful for your faithful support. We are encouraging every member to take part, and if you have not yet had the opportunity, you may still submit your pledge by placing your card in the offering basket or by mailing it to the church office. Pledge cards are available in the narthex.

Missions Spotlight for December: Gulfport Schools Counselor's Fund



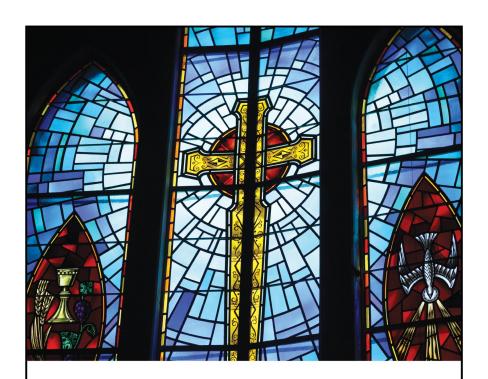
Many students lack the support they need at home, and school counselors are often the first to recognize when a child has unmet needs. Through the Gulfport Schools Counselor's Fund, we provide gift cards to the schools, enabling counselors to offer small but meaningful assistance—such as food, clothing, or basic school

supplies—when a need arises. Our church supports counselor-led efforts at several middle and high schools in Gulfport.



Check in and give online today.







"Bearing Witness to God's Love for the World In Jesus Christ"

December 14, 2025