

Welcome to  
**Westminster**  
**Presbyterian Church**

*Sunday, January 4, 2026 † 10:55 AM*



3601 Halls Ferry Road Vicksburg, Mississippi

[wpcvicksburg.com](http://wpcvicksburg.com)

Pastor Nathaniel Stamper

**Bold** indicates the congregation reads aloud

\*Indicates those able may stand

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### The Lord Calls Us

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#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Deut. 5:24 Ps. 8:1; 17:15; 26:8

Behold, the Lord our God has shown you his glory and greatness, and you have heard his voice. Respond to him with adoration and praise!

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

People of God, behold, the Lord's face in righteousness; be satisfied with his likeness.

**O Lord, I love the habitation of your house in the place where your glory dwells.**

#### \*INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

**...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 PRAISE

“When Morning Gilds the Skies” (v. 1-4)

1. When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a-wak-ing cries:  
 2. When sleep her balm de-nies, my si-lent spir-it sighs:  
 3. Does sad-ness fill my mind? A so-lace here I find:  
 4. In heav'n's e-ter-nal bliss the love-liest strain is this:

May Je-sus Christ be praised. A-like at work and prayer.  
 May Je-sus Christ be praised. When e-vil thoughts mo-lest,  
 May Je-sus Christ be praised. Or fades my earth-ly bliss?  
 May Je-sus Christ be praised. The pow'rs of dark-ness fear,

to Je-sus I re-pair: May Je-sus Christ be praised!  
 with this I shield my breast: May Je-sus Christ be praised!  
 My com-fort still is this: May Je-sus Christ be praised!  
 when this sweet chant they hear: May Je-sus Christ be praised!

5. Let earth's wide circle round  
 in joyful notes resound:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised.  
 Let air and sea and sky,  
 from depth to height, reply:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised!

6. Be this, while life is mine,  
 my canticle divine:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised.  
 Be this th'eternal song,  
 through all the ages on:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised!

German, ca. 1800  
 Tr. Edward Caswall, 1853, 1858

LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6.D.  
 Joseph Barnby, 1868

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## The Lord Cleanses Us

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### 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.

### CONFESSiON OF SIN

Psalm 25:6-8, 11, 16-18

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. Amen.**

### PRIVATE CONFESSiON OF SIN

(TAKE A MOMENT TO CONFESS YOUR SINS TO GOD PRIVATELY)

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

### \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“The Gloria Patri”

#735

**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.**

## CONFSSION OF FAITH

## The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,**

**Maker of heaven and earth**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty:**

**from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;**

**the holy catholic<sup>1</sup> church;**

**the communion of saints;**

**the forgiveness of sins;**

**the resurrection of the body;**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

<sup>1</sup>THE WORD “CATHOLIC” REFERS TO THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## OFFERTORY

## “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”



1. How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all mea - sure,  
 2. Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his shoul - ders;  
 3. I will not boast in an - y-thing, no gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom;



that he should give his on - ly Son to make a wretch his trea - sure.  
 a - shamed, I hear my mock-ing voice call out a-mong the scoff - ers.  
 but I will boast in Je - sus Christ, his death and res - ur - rec - tion.



How great the pain of scar-ing loss— the Fa-ther turns his face a - way  
 It was my sin that held him there un - til it was ac - com - plished;  
 Why should I gain from his re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer;



as wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.  
 his dy-ing breath has brought me life— I know that it is fin - ished.  
 but this I know with all my heart— his wounds have paid my ran - som.



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.

## \*HYMN OF PREPARATION

## “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Chords: F, Dm, B♭, F, F/C, C

1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross: there a pre - cious foun - tain,  
 2. Near the cross, my trem - bling soul heard the Sa - vior call - ing;  
 3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4. Near the cross! My heart will stay, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

Chords: F, Dm, B♭, F/C, C7, F

free to all, a heal - ing stream, flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there he died that I may know grace and peace a - bound - ing.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till my eyes shall see the face of my bless - ed Sav - ior.

Chords: F, B♭, F, F/C, C

In the cross, in the cross, be my glo - ry ev - er,

Chords: F, Dm, B♭, F/C, C7, F

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

## The Lord Feeds Us

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### SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 12:1-14, 21-28

**12** The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, **2** “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. **3** Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. **4** And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. **5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, **6** and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

**7** “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. **8** They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. **9** Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. **10** And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. **11** In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s Passover. **12** For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. **13** The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

**14** “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Plague or Passover”

SERMON NOTES:

## \*COMMUNION HYMN

## “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” (v. 1-2)

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,  
 2. Where the pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;  
 3. Might - y vic - tim from the sky, pow'r's of hell be - neath thee lie;

who has washed us in the tide flow-ing from his pierc - ed side;  
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.  
 death is con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:

praise we him whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred blood for wine,  
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal vic - tim, pas - chal bread;  
 hymns of glo - ry and of praise, ris - en Lord, to thee we raise;

gives his bod - y for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.  
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.  
 ho - ly Fa - ther, praise to thee, with the Spir - it, ev - er be.

## INVITATION AND PRAYER

**We do not presume to come to your Table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness but in your great mercies. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## SACRAMENT

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Everliving God, thank you for feeding us with these holy mysteries— the spiritual food of the Body and Blood of your Son. Heavenly Father, please assist us with your grace, that we may continue in holy fellowship with you, and do all such good works that you have prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

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## The Lord Sends Us

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\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING    “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” (v. 3)

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## Announcements

**Welcome to Westminster** – The Westminster family extends a warm welcome to all who worship with us this morning and this evening. We pray that God's rich blessings in Christ may be yours. Visitors, please complete the Guest Card which is found at the end of each pew. We are delighted to have you with us this Lord's Day.

**This morning we welcome** Rev. Larry Ferris to the Westminster pulpit. Larry was born in Macon, MS and grew up in middle Tennessee. He and Lisa married 40 years ago and moved to Jackson to attend RTS. He has served as a church planter and as a pastor. He was recently honorably retired after ten years as pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Easley, South Carolina. The Ferrises are delighted to be back in Mississippi near family.

**Hannah Circle** will meet this Thursday morning at 10:30 at the church.

**Soups, Salads, Sandwiches, and Sweets Lunch** is next Sunday, January 11, following the Morning Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish and join us!

**Online giving is available** at [www.wpcvicksburg.com](http://www.wpcvicksburg.com) by clicking on the Online Giving link.

<u>Today and this week</u>	<u>Upcoming Events</u>
Sun 9:45 Sunday School	<b>Soups, Salads, Sandwiches, and Sweets</b>
10:55 Morning Worship	<b>Lunch</b> , January 11
Mon 6:30 Ping Pong	<b>Wednesday at Westminster</b> , beginning
Thurs 10:30 Hannah Circle	January 14, 5:30-7:30

**Pray for those with birthdays:** Charles Orman, 6; Leigh Sherwin, 8

**Nursery Workers:** Today – Valerie Gatewood and Kelly Turner  
Next Week – Frances Warren and Kinsey Karel