

*Westminster By-The-Sea Presbyterian Church*

*The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Sumner*

*January 2, 2022*

*Gathering*

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*(If you plan to partake of Holy Communion, please get bread and a juice product ready at this time)*

PRELUDE "Puer Nobis Nascitur" Lasky

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Sumner

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

One: Even before this new year, we were claimed by God; we are called children of God.

**ALL: We will not fear for God is with us!**

One: The rivers of sorrow will not overwhelm us.

**ALL: Through God's saving grace, waters that tested us now wash and nourish us.**

One: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing!

**ALL: Let us worship God who washes us in a flood of grace!**

CAROL 488 "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" *Waterlife*

"I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."

"In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young. I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun. When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of justice, in baptism you loved us, and at our profession of faith you commissioned us to make disciples. We confess that sometimes we have set that commission aside, turned from neighbors in

need, or closed our eyes to injustice or walked away from others in need. We acknowledge it in this new year. We want to start with a clean slate. In the name of Jesus, please make it happen, forgiving God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (as water is poured into the font.)

ONE: The gift of baptism is remembered now as we sing:

ALL: **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King; heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing."**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST LESSON - Zephaniah 3:14-18a

ANTHEM

"Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year"

Fedak  
Quartet

THE SECOND LESSON - Mark 1: 1-11

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"The Pleasure of His Company"

Dr. Sumner

HYMN 401

"Here in This Place"

*Gather us in*

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away: here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

PASTORAL PRAYER

## RECEPTION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS

This congregation continues to need offerings to support the staff and missions we have. You may mail checks to us or have your checks mailed regularly from your bank at no cost to you. Otherwise, you may give by credit or debit card by going to [www.wbts.org](http://www.wbts.org) and clicking "Donate now."

## OFFERTORY

"O Bambino, mio Divino

Titcomb

## DOXOLOGY

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

### *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and who trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may come to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus. Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity. (From the Directory of Worship)

## THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PRAYER CONTINUES WITH SUNG RESPONSES

*Celtic Alleluia*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power God of might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest!  
Bless-ed is he who comes, he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest; hosanna in the highest!

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come to earth again.

A-men. Amen. A-men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 COMMUNION

HYMN 152

“What Star is This that Beams so Bright”

*Puer nobis nascitur*

What star is this with beams so bright,  
More lovely than the noonday light?  
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,  
glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,  
“From Jacob shall a star proceed”;  
and lo! the eastern sages stand,  
to read in heav'n the Lord's command.

While outward signs the star displays,  
an inward light the Lord conveys  
and urges them, with tender might,  
to seek the giver of the light.

O Jesus, while the star of grace  
impels us on to seek your face,  
let not our slothful hearts refuse  
the guidance of your light to use.

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Bedford

## *Announcements*

### FLOWERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY:

Joann Scott, in memory of John B. Locke.

OUR GOOD OLD DAYS group meets this Thursday  
At 1:00 p.m. here at church. Come share your memories,  
And learn how to pass them on!

## UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

For John Locke, Tuesday 1/4, 10:00 am.

For Tom Noden, Sat. 1/8 2:00 p.m.

***Masking is required for all unvaccinated people and strongly encouraged for all others in attendance.***

For George Painter, Sat. 1/15, 10:00 am.

## UPCOMING DATES

**JANUARY 9<sup>th</sup> 8:45 & 11:00 worship**

**JANUARY 16<sup>th</sup> 8:45 Scottish Heritage Service**

**11:00 Kirkin' o' the Tartans!**

**JANUARY 23 Radford Preaching**

**JANUARY 30 Radford Preaching**