Sunday, December 14, 2025 |On Demand on YouTube|11:15a

Third Sunday of Advent

Preparation for Worship

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you. Open our minds and change our hearts, so that wars and violence would end, and your children might live in peace, honoring one another with joy, dignity, and love. We ask it through Jesus Christ, who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Welcome and Announcements

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

Prelude *Wexford Carol* arr. Hayes

Introit "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" O-SO-SO

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *Lewis & Libba Lowery, Anne Wells, Eliza, and Emily*

* Call to Worship Luke 1:46-47, 49, 52-53

Leader: And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
**People: The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is God's name.**
Leader: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly.
**People: God has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.**
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 105 "People, Look East" Besançon

* Prayer of Confession

**Good and gracious God,
we like to pretend that we are in control at this time of year.
We crowd our calendars with many activities,
making ourselves the center of the season
and forgetting our dependence on you.
Forgive us, Holy One.
Help us to swallow our pride, to let go of our greed,
and to see the people we often overlook.
Give us grateful hearts for the grace we have received,
and grant us courage to extend your grace
to those who need it most, for we ask it in Christ's name.
Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* Gloria "Angels We Have Heard on High" Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hearing **God's Word**

CALLING ALL ANGELS

Presented by the Junior and Senior Choristers

Prologue

Scene 1

"I Do, Yes I Do!"
Recitative
"What Can I Do"
"We Are Singing Angels"
"Calling All Angels"

Scene 2

Angel Procession
"What Do You Want?"
Recitative
"We Have an Idea" *Virginia Boan, Mary Ellis Knapp, Elizabeth Land,* ***trio***
"We Could Sing, We Could Fly"
"Gloria Refrain"
Hymn 113 "Angels We Have Heard on High" Gloria
please join in singing, as invited

CAST:

Voice of God - Gretchen Cleveland
Gabriel - Brigham Simon
Michael - Mary Earle Cleveland
Raphael - Manning Dailey-Mattison
Mary - Mary Martin Aldebol
Joseph - Patrick Murphy

Responding to **God's Word**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession
The Lord's Prayer
Offering

Offertory *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Hayes

* Doxology, Hymn 606 Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 143 "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" Regent Square

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude *Toccata on "Regent Square"* Smith

**All who are able may stand*

The Senior Choristers

Berkeley Blumer
Virginia Boan
Mary Earle Cleveland
Delaney Cox
Manning Dailey-Mattison
Dottie Dulin
Grant Gettys
David Heegard
Grace Huerta
Margaret King
Mary Ellis Knapp
Elizabeth Land
Bowen Mullins
Chandler Murphy
Lola Plunk
Catherine Propst
Evie Thomas
Lisette Weaver
Rosie Webb
Andie Williams

The Junior Choristers

Mary Martin Aldebol
Emma Andres
Lucy Boan
Paxton Brackett
Row Giguere
Mary Mac King
Charlie Knapp
Sarah Margaret Land
Collins Lane
Emily Lowery
Marlee Martin
Bo McGee
McGowan Meyer
Lillian Miller
Patrick Murphy
Grayson Norman
Shirley Bea Pitman
Quillin Plunk
Marshall Reid
Catherine Riner
Bo Smoak
Evie Waldrep
Mary Hazael Wilson
Henry Wolfe-Watson

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Nick Carson (9a), *preaching*
Ben Dorr, *liturgist*
Gwen Young (9a), *sponsor*
Catherine Blount (9a), *scripture reader*
Youth Choir (9a)
Lynne Robinson (9a), *Youth Choir accompanist*
John Levantino (11:15a), *cello*
Junior & Senior Choristers (11:15a)
Hunter Smith, *Senior Choristers Director* (11:15a)
Diana Dailey, *Junior Choristers Director* (11:15a)
Martha Gower, *Choristers accompanist* (11:15a)
George Howell (9a), Clay Smoak (11:15a), *head ushers*
Sam White, Betsy Raines, Mary Mac Fairey,
Jeff Reynolds, Roger Gower (9a), *greeters*
Creighton Likes, Ben Dillard, Emily Cole,
Zach Weaver, Stan Pendergrass (11:15a), *greeters*
Luke Pruitt, Andie Williams (11:15a), *acolytes*

WORSHIP NOTES

Nursery

Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices. The Family Lounge, located down the stairs from the front office and straight down the hallway on the right, is available for any child caregiver and includes worship livestream, comfortable seating, and a changing table.

Worship Bags

Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday.

Welcome to WPC!

Please fill out a name tag and find more information about WPC at the Welcome Table in the Atrium. First time visitors are also invited to take home a WPC mug.

Texts for vocal solos and choral music may be found online by scanning this QR code.

Join Us in Welcoming

Baptism

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Reece Carter Wynn* and *Walker Alexander Wynn*, sons of Brayden & Hayes Wynn.

Because of the Christmas Musical, Children's Church will not meet this Sunday, December 14th.

Connect with Westminster

Looking for ways to be involved? Please complete a Connection Card from the Ritual of Friendship pad and place it in the offering plate to express interest or sign up for an opportunity.

Winter Camp Retreat for 4th and 5th graders

WPC Kids in 4th and 5th grade are invited to a special, new retreat-Winter Camp! We'll head to Camp Fellowship after church on January 18 and return to the church by noon on January 19. During the retreat, we'll complete service projects for the camp and for our mission partners. We'll also have plenty of time to explore camp, enjoy a movie night, and deepen our faith through prayer and Bible study. Kids will grow in their relationships with one another and their understanding of service in God's family. Join us for this special retreat! Sign ups are available on the website.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

wpcgreenville | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

2025 Financial Update

By the first week of December, WPC has received 90% of anticipated pledge income. Please check your quarterly giving statements to see where you stand with your 2025 giving. Thank you for your generosity with Westminster.

2025 Giving

Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2025 contribution statement postmarked by December 31, 2025, or you can hand deliver to the Church office on or before December 31. You can also place your offering in the plate by Sunday, December 28. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners.

Giving to WPC

Did you know that you can fulfill your pledge or give an unpledged gift to Westminster online? Your gift helps our church keep faith with community partners and maintain excellence in our programming. To learn more about online giving, or to make a gift, follow the prompts from the QR code below.

Retirement Giving

Make Qualified Distributions from your IRAs: Westminster members age 70.5 and older can support the church with a gift from their Individual Retirement Account. Qualified charitable distributions from IRAs may offer tax advantages while benefiting WPC's local and global ministries. Contact the church office for more information.

2026 Open Stewardship Update:

As of Monday, December 8, we have received 91% of our pledge goal for 2026! If you have not yet turned in your 2026 pledge, we need you! If half the congregation raises their pledge by $1000, and the other half by $500, we will reach our goal. Every pledge is important, and no pledge is too small!

Advent Fair Trade Market

You may have noticed various items on sale in the atrium throughout the Advent season! There are currently four opportunities to support fair trade artisans and our Witness & Service partners. Proceeds from our WestDressed (Westminster branded t-shirts and hats) will go to support the Magi Market at Pleasant Valley. Hand-carved nativity sets from Bethlehem help provide income to a Palestinian Christian in the West Bank. The Serrv International items support fair trade artisans around the globe. The annual Women of Westminster ornaments help fund the WOW Scholarship fund which benefits Fostering Great Ideas. We hope that this market will provide alternative ways to give this season that support our siblings in Christ around the world!

Soteria Women's House

We are looking for women interested in participating in our monthly dinners/fellowship nights with the residents of the Soteria Women's House. Dinners take place on the second Monday evenings of each month. Please contact Brooke Culclasure (bculclasure@mac.com or 864-593-8912) if you are interested in learning more!

Men of Westminster

The Men of Westminster will be attending the Swamp Rabbits hockey game at 7p on Wednesday, February 11. To facilitate community, this will be box seating. Spots are limited to 18 men. The cost is $35 and includes admission and snacks. Signup online before Sunday, February 8.

THE HARBINGER
Westminster Presbyterian Church
2310 Augusta Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424
www.wpc-online.org

THE HARBINGER: (USPS No. 764160) Published weekly by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2310 Augusta Street, Greenville SC 29605. Periodical postage paid at Greenville SC 29605.

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Aly Friend
Director of Nurseries
alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
December 14-21, 2025

Sunday, December 14
Third Sunday of Advent
9:00a Worship Service
10:00 Witness & Service Committee Meeting
Sunday School
10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service w/Children's Christmas Musical
12:30p Stated Session Meeting
12:45 Connections Group
5:00 WPCYG Movie Night, Camelot

Monday, December 15
7:00p Game Group
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, December 16
12:00p Al-Anon

Wednesday, December 17
2:30p It's Elementary
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 18
10:00a Thursday Bible Study
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, December 20
WPC Youth Choir - Christmas Outing

Sunday, December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
9:00 Lessons & Carols Service
10:00 Reception
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Lessons & Carols Service

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVIII | December 14, 2025 | No. 36

From the Pews, Skip Gordon

Are you like me when you need to make an important decision - your head spins and your heart rate goes up as you contemplate alternatives and possible outcomes? Should I choose the initial options or wait until circumstances decide for me?

Mary was betrothed to Joseph. What must Joseph have been feeling when Mary told him she was pregnant? In Joseph's time, a betrothal was a semiprivate legal binding agreement joining a man and a woman. Joseph would have paid Mary's father for her hand in marriage. There would have been no cohabitation nor consummation of the marriage for 9-12 months after the betrothal. What is the reason for the delay? Women had no say in their marriage. Because of the normal very short life spans, women married very early – as early as 13 years old and the groom would have not been much older. So, I am guessing that the delay before the public marriage was to give the couple time to get to know each other and to prepare for their marriage rolls.

Mary was pregnant, but Joseph was not the father. He must have been thinking of several options he had. He could accuse her of adultery. This might lead to her conviction and death by stoning. He could privately divorce Mary. But she would remain pregnant out of marriage. Either choice preserves Joseph's honor but places Mary in a difficult situation. While contemplating his alternatives, an Angel appears and lets Joseph know what is going on. With this revelation, Joseph agrees to accept that the child was not his but support Mary through childbirth and into Jesus's adulthood.

For my next important decision, do I let my mind and heart react in their normal manner and then hope that an Angel appears? I really do not expect an Angel to appear, tap me on my shoulder and then suggest what I should do. However, I can quiet my brain and heart through contemplation and prayer. After which, I must just be able to hear a very small voice making some suggestions.

Have a wonderful and thoughtful Advent and Merry Christmas.

Adult Sunday School Term
November 23 - December 14

Jesus' Mothers: Exploring Matthew's Genealogy
Led by Leigh Stuckey
Room 209 and Streaming
Matthew gives Jesus a richly theological genealogy – one that differs slightly from Luke's and, surprisingly, includes women. Join this lecture-style class to learn more about the women whose names appear in Matthew's text and to consider why they may be important in understanding Jesus' ministry.

Our Presbyterian Family Tree
Led by Buz Wilcoxin,
Chaplain & Dean of Spiritual Life at Presbyterian College
Room 212
Join Buz Wilcoxon for a 4-week exploration of key moments in Presbyterian history. We'll examine the diverse backgrounds of the Reformed tradition, important figures, big ideas, surprising twists and turns, and the ways that this history intersects with our expressions of faith today.

Discussion Sunday School Class:
Led by Caroline Clark (12/14)
Room 211
Join us each week for a discussion-based Sunday School class to dive into a weekly topic and scripture passage. All are welcome to join us on a journey of faith and fellowship - come every week or come when you can. Topics change every week, and the class is facilitated by rotating members.

Advent & Christmas at Westminster

December 14	*Third Sunday of Advent* 9a Worship in the Sanctuary Children's Musical 11:15a in the Sanctuary WPCYG Movie Night - 5p at Camelot
December 21	*Fourth Sunday of Advent* The 65th Annual Service of Lessons & Carols 9a and 11:15a in the Sanctuary
December 24	Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship 4p and 6p in the Sanctuary
December 28	One Worship Service 11:15a in the Sanctuary Reception following the service in Sanctuary Atrium

Poinsettia/Endowment/Heritage Lecture Memorials

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in three ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for $15.00 or you may give to either the Endowment or Heritage Lecture Funds. 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 Sunday, December 14.

Donor _____
In Memory of _____
In Memory of _____
In Honor of _____
In Honor of _____
Poinsettias x $15.00 = $_____ Endowment:_____ Heritage Lecture: _____

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United Ministries Urgent Need

United Ministries is requesting peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, canned mixed vegetables, oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, canned pasta, ramen noodles, cereal, and saltines. If you would like to donate, donations will be collected in the United Ministries cabinet in the Friendship Court or you can make a monetary donation on their website.

Project Host

Please consider signing up to volunteer at Project Host in 2026. This is a great opportunity to serve our community with other members of Westminster. Five volunteers are needed every other Tuesday from 9a-1p. During this time, you will prepare a nutritious lunch, serve the patrons, and clean up after lunch service. Sign up on the website to volunteer.

Mobile Mammography@WPC
Tuesday, January 20

To Schedule, call: 864-675-4875

**tell the scheduler that you wish to be scheduled for the WPC Mobile Event.

Women's Retreat
February 13-15, 2026

Join Westminster Women at the annual Women's Retreat on February 13-15, 2026. The retreat will take place at the Kanuga Conference Center in Flat Rock, NC. This year's conference will be led by Sandra Smith, a Certified Enneagram Consultant and author of *Heart of the Enneagram: A Companion for Deepening Personal and Spiritual Growth*. You will find the retreat a joy-filled, reflective experience with other women from WPC! Please sign up on the church website.

THE SESSION

The Class of 2026

Ben Bloodworth	*Walker Miller*
Emily Cole	*Stan Pendergrass*
Ingrid Erwin	*Betsy Raines*
Roger Gower	*Jeff Reynolds*
Amy Hawkins	*Susan Robbins*
Anne Howson	*Zach Weaver*
George McLarty	

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The Class of 2028

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Denise Broderick	*Tim Reed*
Coleman Dixon	*Stephen Ridgeway*
Pam Evans	*Tony Threatt*
Blake Hoffman	*Amanda Warren*
Nancy Johnson	*Tiffany Williams*

Suppers With Seven
January - March 2026

Sharing a meal is one of the best ways to establish and renew relationships with members of the Westminster church community. "Suppers With Seven" is seven (or so) persons - some couples, some singles, some older and some younger - gathering for a series of two or three meals at a time convenient to the group. To sign up, return this form to the church office, or fill out the online form on the church website by navigating to the Suppers With Seven page. The deadline to sign up is Monday, December 15.

Name(s): _____ (include both names, if a couple)
Phone: _____ (will be shared with your group)
Email Address: _____ (will be shared with your group)

Preferred Method of Contact: ___ email ___ phone call ___ text

Please check as many as apply:
_____ I/We can host and lead the first gathering of Suppers with Seven.
_____ I/We cannot host the first gathering - would consider a subsequent one.
_____ I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Suppers With Seven
January - March 2026

Sharing a meal is one of the best ways to establish and renew relationships with members of the Westminster church community. "Suppers With Seven" is seven (or so) persons - some couples, some singles, some older and some younger - gathering for a series of two or three meals at a time convenient to the group. To sign up, return this form to the church office, or fill out the online form on the church website by navigating to the Suppers With Seven page. The deadline to sign up is Monday, December 15.

Name(s): _____ (include both names, if a couple)
Phone: _____ (will be shared with your group)
Email Address: _____ (will be shared with your group)

Preferred Method of Contact: ___ email ___ phone call ___ text

Please check as many as apply:
_____ I/We can host and lead the first gathering of Suppers with Seven.
_____ I/We cannot host the first gathering - would consider a subsequent one.
_____ I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.

Third Sunday of Advent
Preparation for **Worship**

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty:
Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works;
that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve
you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all
things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

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

Prelude *We Have Seen the God of Glory* Vyhanek
Introit "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" O-SO-SO
Lighting of the Advent Wreath *Ted & Mary Gentry*
* Call to Worship Luke 1:46-47, 49, 52-53
Leader: And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
People: The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is God's name.
Leader: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly.
People: God has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 105 "People, Look East" Besançon

* Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we confess that we are timid,
and hesitant to do what is right.
We concern ourselves with the opinions of others,
choosing the easiest path, rather than the courageous path.
We live in fear, instead of trusting in your gracious mercy.
Forgive us, O God.
Help us to know the joy you have in store for us.
Give us courage to risk something big for something good.
Encourage us by your presence
to live boldly in the light of the gospel. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon
Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* Gloria "Angels We Have Heard on High" Gloria
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday, December 14, 2025 |On Demand on Facebook & YouTube|9a

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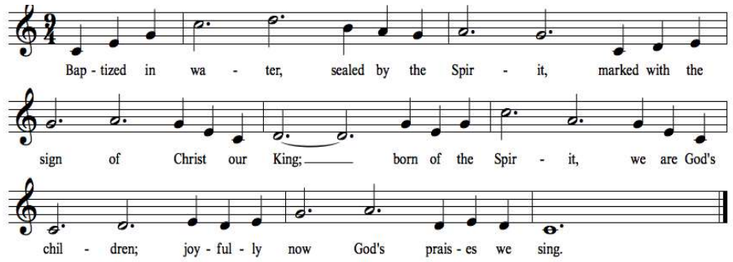
The Sacrament of Baptism — *Reece Carter Wynn, Walker Alexander Wynn*

Congregational Response — *Baptized in Water* — Bunessan

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 7:10-16* — p. 554

Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 1:18-24* — p.783

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — *"Dream Big"*

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 Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.

Offering

Offertory — Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus — Monsell

* Doxology, Hymn 606 — Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 102 — "Savior of the Nations, Come" — Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude — *Toccata on "Regent Square"* — Smith

**All who are able may stand*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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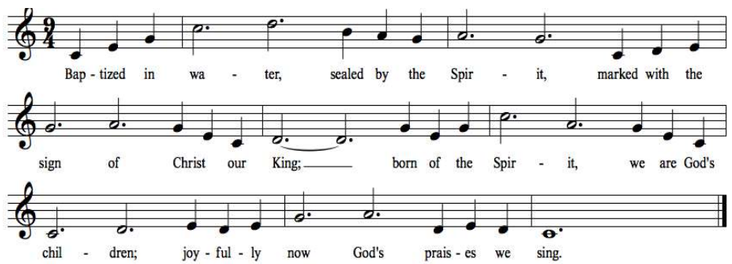
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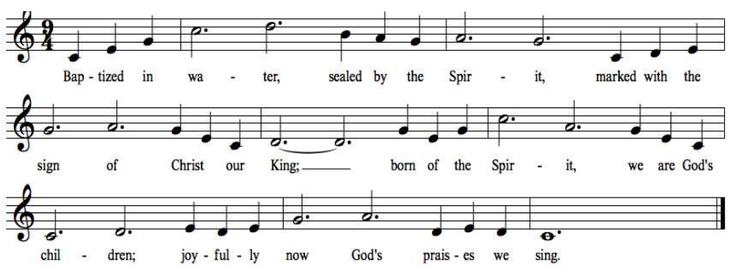

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