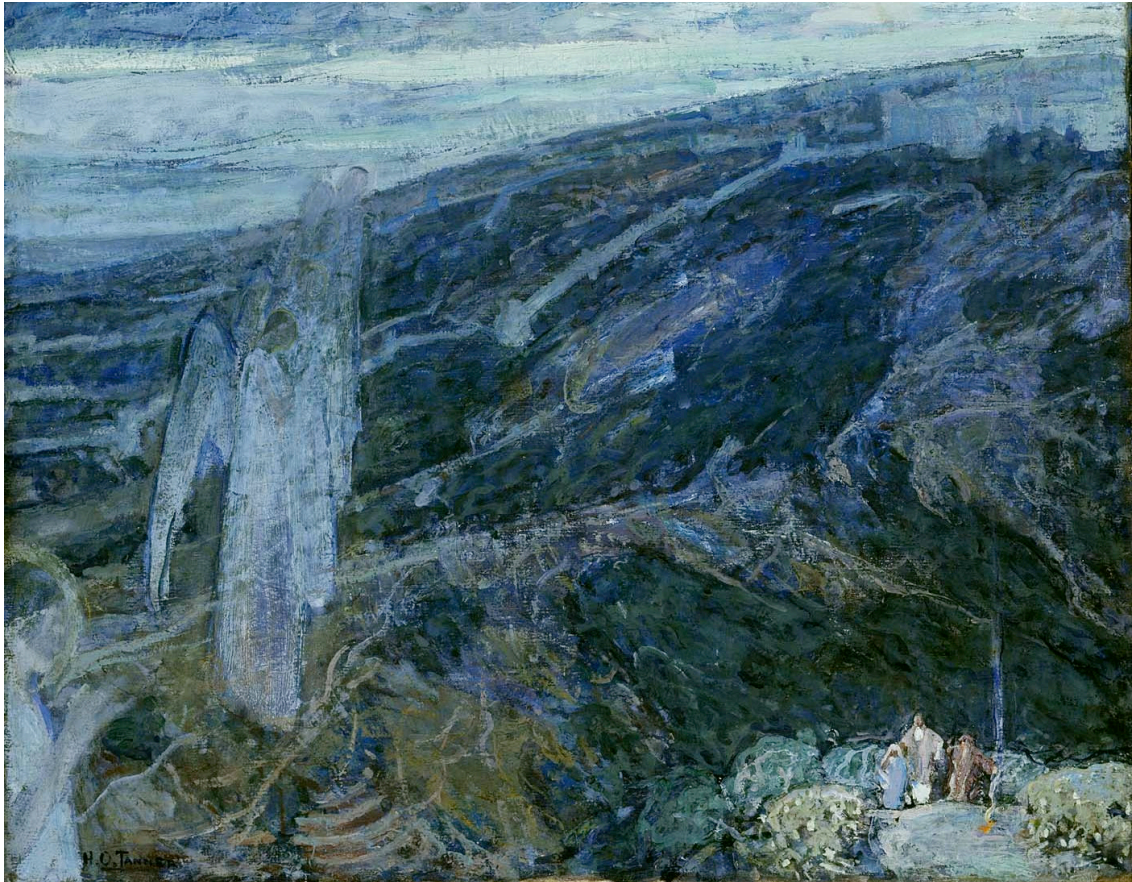


# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Intergenerational Service of  
Lessons and Carols*



*"Angels Appearing before the Shepherds," Henry Ossawa Tanner*

*Longing for Incarnation*

## **THE EVE OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY**

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7:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 7:00 P.M.  
Intergenerational Service of Lessons and Carols  
Longing for Incarnation

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

*When Love was born: for space, a new dimension;  
For time, the One who laughs and smiles and cries.  
No more the strangeness of this place called heaven:  
no longer distant God, who welcomes life.*

—Glendon Macaulay

Sentences of Scripture and Christmas Greeting

Rev. Lynette Sparks and Rev. Laurie Hartzell

Opening Voluntary

*(A musical prayer offered on behalf of the people of God.)*

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Helen Hofmeister, Organ

arr. John Ferguson

Processing the Light: Lighting of the Advent Candles

Call to Worship

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

**Processional Carol**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Adeste Fideles*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

**Refrain: O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.**

**Refrain.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

**Refrain.**

Scripture of the Prophecy

Micah 5:2-5

Old Testament

**Carol**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*St. Louis*

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

Scripture of the Annunciation

Luke 1:26-35

New Testament

**Carol**

**“What Child is This”**

*Greensleeves*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

Scripture of the Manger

Luke 2:1-7

New Testament

**Carol Solo**

**“Away in a Manger”**

*arr. John Rutter*

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed. The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes. But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

*Maria Schoon, Soprano  
Janlee Richter, Piano*

Scripture of the Angels

Luke 2:8-14

New Testament

**Carol**

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

*Mendelssohn*

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Hail the heavenborn Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

Scripture of the Shepherds

Luke 2:15-20

New Testament

**Carol**

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

*Gloria*

**Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
 Why your joyous strains prolong?  
 What the gladsome tidings be  
 Which inspire your heavenly song?  
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
 Him whose birth the angels sing;  
 Come, adore on bended knee  
 Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Meditation	Longing for Incarnation	Rev. Lynette Sparks
Musical Interlude	“Still, Still, Still” Helen Hofmeister, Organ	arr. Paul Manz
Christmas Prayer		Rev. Jen Porter
Offertory	“On Christmas Night” Sussex Carol Maria Schoon, Soprano	arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

*On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring.  
 News of great joy; news of great mirth; news of our merciful King’s birth.*

*When sin departs before thy grace, then life and health comes in its place.  
 Angels and all with joy may sing; all for to see the newborn King.*

*All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night,  
 “Glory to God and peace to all. Now and forevermore. Amen!”*

Scripture of the Incarnation	John 1:1-5	New Testament
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Lighting of the Christ Candle

Spreading the Light *(The tradition of passing the light from the Christ candle continues at Westminster.  
 This Christmas Eve, as we light our own candle at home, the light of Christ continues  
 to be passed in new ways to worshipers everywhere.)*

Harp Solo	“Silent Night” Beth Colpean, Harp	Franz Gruber
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<b>Carol</b>	<p><b>“Silent Night, Holy Night”</b>  <b>Silent night, holy night,          All is calm, all is bright          ‘Round yon virgin mother and child.          Holy Infant, so tender and mild,          Sleep in heavenly peace,          Sleep in heavenly peace.</b></p> <p><b>Silent night, holy night,          Shepherds quake at the sight;          Glories stream from heaven afar,          Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!          Christ the Savior is born,          Christ the Savior is born!</b></p>	Stille Nacht
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**Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!**

**Carol**

**“Joy to the World”**

*Antioch*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

**“In dulci jubilo”  
Helen Hofmeister, Organ**

*J. S. Bach*

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher .....	Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Liturgists .....	Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Interim Associate Pastor for Youth and Mission
.....	Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families
.....	Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Pastoral Care
.....	Paul Karsten, Ruling Elder
.....	Scott McPheeters, Westminster Member
.....	Lily Fiore, Westminster Youth
Minister of Music .....	Helen Hofmeister
Worship Musicians .....	Janlee Richter, Piano
.....	Maria Schoon, Soprano; Michael Furman, Baritone; Beth Colpean, Harp
Technology Team .....	Peter Larson and Dan Cisler

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### **AHEAD IN WORSHIP**

*Recorded from the Westminster Sanctuary*

**December 27 - First Sunday after Christmas**

**Meditations of Lessons and Carols**

Rev. Jen Porter preaching  
Music: Abby Strand, Soprano  
Vivian Kloostra, Soprano and Eric Richter, Tenor

**January 3 – Epiphany Sunday**

***Following Stars***

Rev. Laurie Hartzell preaching  
Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12  
Music: Eileen Doty, Violin  
Viviana Kloostra, Soprano  
Eric Richter, Tenor

**January 10 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

***Come to the Font***

Rev. Lynette Sparks preaching  
Scripture: Mark 1:4-11  
Music: Tom Macholan, Tenor  
Pat Macholan, Alto

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On behalf of the Westminster Presbyterian Church family,  
we're glad you worshiped with us this Christmas Eve.  
If you'd like to know about the life and ministry of Westminster,  
visit our website at [westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org), or  
contact Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership,  
at [susanj@wpcgr.org](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org).

**We give thanks to those who have donated Poinsettias  
to make our Sanctuary beautiful for our online worship  
throughout Advent and Christmas 2020.  
They are provided by:**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

Callum and Holden

Ben VanderWilp, husband

Rev. Gerrit Bieze, brother and  
Bill Eerdman

Jerry Crane

Thomas Worthington, husband

Jeanette Groot, mother  
Virginia Dowling, mother

Laurin Waldecker, husband

**GIVEN BY**

Scott and Heidi McPheeters

Sharon VanderWilp

Linda Bieze

Randy Block

Doris Worthington

Joanie and Doug Dowling

Lois Waldecker

**IN HONOR OF**

Our Children and Grandchildren

WPC Staff and Church Officers

**GIVEN BY**

Steve and Cindy Baron

Jim and Carolyn Morse