

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

8:00 P.M.

Love Arrives Uninvited

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

In Preparation for Worship

“Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited.” — Thomas Merton

Sentences of Scripture & Christmas Greeting

Rev. Jen Porter
Emma Richter

Opening Voluntary “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

arr. John Ferguson
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Processing the Light: Lighting the Advent Candles

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Rev. Kyle Kooyers

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: “Good news of great joy,” the angel said,
“for to you a Savior is born.”
“Peace on earth,” the choir sang,
“for God reigns in the highest.”
“Follow me,” the star beckoned,
“For Hope was born in Bethlehem.”
As we light the Christ candle,

All: we watch for the Christmas story around us.

One: Emmanuel has come and is coming.

All: Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.

++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!*

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

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*

Scripture of the Prophecy

Isaiah 9:2-7

Old Testament p. 638

Carol “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Carol

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King:”
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Scripture of the Annunciation

Luke 1:26-35

New Testament p.56

Carol

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Cranham

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Scripture of the Manger

Luke 2:1-7

New Testament p. 58

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.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

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 Angels

Luke 2:8-14

New Testament p. 58

++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 God-head 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 heaven-born 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 p. 58

Music

“Glory Be to God on High”

arr. Mark Hahn

*Glory be to God on high, sing alleluia.
Great and mighty wonder, full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant with such honor pure.
The word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high.
Cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.
Fum, fum, fum! Turelure, Glory be to God on high, sing alleluia.*

*While they sing your Monarch, those bright angel bands,
Rejoice ye vales and mountains, oceans clap your hands.
Since he comes to ransom, by all to be adored.
The infant born in Bethlehem, our Savior and our Lord.
Fum, fum, fum! Turelure, Glory be to God on high, sing alleluia.
Sanctuary Choir, Kirk Singers, Alumni Singers
Lee Copenhaver, Percussion*

Meditation

“Love Arrives Uninvited”

Rev. Lynette Sparks

++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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

Christmas Prayer

Rev. Jen Porter

Offering Our Lives

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Tonight we receive the Christmas Joy Offering, which supports leadership development for communities of color and provides support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

Offertory

“Still, Still, Still”

arr. Philip Ledger

Still, still, still, let all the world be still,
for Mary lays her son to rest, sings to him softly at her breast,
still, still, still, let all the world be still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, my dearest baby, sleep,
the angels all rejoice and sing, heav'n for your delight shall ring,
sleep, sleep, sleep, my dearest baby, sleep.

Joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy!
The God of love has left his throne, made this humble world his own,
joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy!
Sanctuary Choir, Kirk Singers, Alumni Singers

Scripture of the Incarnation

John 1:1-5

New Testament p. 91

Spreading the Light

++Carol

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Stille Nacht

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.

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!”

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!

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

“In dulci jubilo”
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

J. S. Bach

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," "Glory Be to God on High," and "Still, Still, Still"
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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
Liturgists Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Emma Richter, Communications Manager
..... Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate
Musicians..... Helen Hofmeister, Minister for Music
..... Janlee Richter, Accompanist
..... Sanctuary Choir
..... Kirk Singers
..... Alumni Singers
..... Lee Copenhaver, Percussion

Special thank you to our ushers:

Ann and Jim Jarvis, Heather Lermont-Pape, Keith Combs, Tom Kormos,
Kevin and Eileen Larr, Jan Twork, Lauren and Christian Vanderkaay,
Sharon VanderWilp, Steve Marshall

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas

One Service at 11:00 a.m.

A Service of Christmas Celebration

Rev. Jen Porter

Music: Karl Falb, Violin; Peter Falb, Cello

January 2 – Second Sunday of Christmas

One Service at 11:00 a.m.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Kyle Kooyers, preaching

Music: Sanctuary Choir

Welcome to Westminster

If you are new to Westminster, this information may help you get oriented.

WELCOME

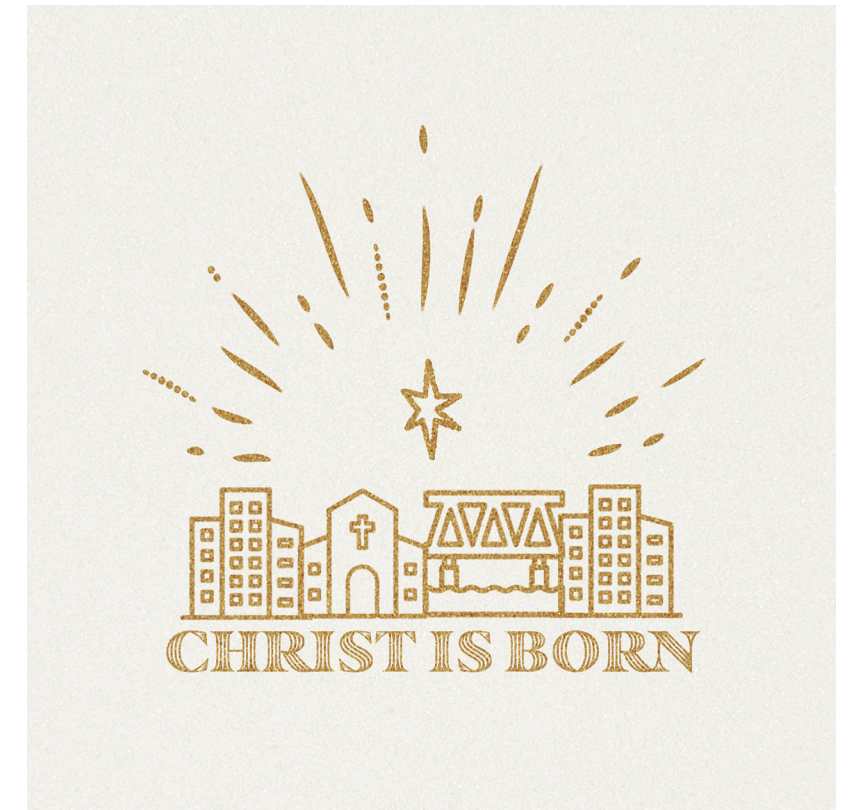
If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Susan Jennings at susanj@wpcgr.org. More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at westminstergr.org. You are welcome and celebrated here!

ASSISTANCE

If you'd like a large-print bulletin or a hearing device, please ask one of the ushers at a sanctuary entrance. For T-loop hearing assistance, set your hearing aid to T.

MASKING UPDATE

Per CDC guidelines, we ask that you wear a mask for all indoor gatherings at church. This includes worship and meetings. The Way Forward Committee and staff continue to monitor CDC recommendations and infection levels in our community. We will have masks available at church if you need one.



Love Arrives Uninvited

**THE EVE OF
CHRIST'S NATIVITY**

**8:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 24, 2021**