

MORNING WORSHIP

Table Talk

GATHERING: PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

In Preparation for Worship

"I don't preach a social gospel; I preach the Gospel, period. The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is concerned for the whole person. When people were hungry, Jesus didn't say, 'Now is that political, or social? He said: 'I feed you.' Because the good news to a hungry person is bread."

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu

(October 7, 1931 – December 26, 2021)

Sharing the Life of Westminster

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Opening Voluntary

"We Three Kings"

arr. Alfred Fedak

++Call to Worship

Nathaniel Fryer

One: The light of Christmas shines forth in the darkness of our world.

All: We see God leading us to new and unexpected places.

One: The hope of Christmas beckons us to step out in faith.

All: We journey to join in what God is doing.

One: The love of Christmas has come to set us free.

All: Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

++Hymn 110

"Love Has Come"

Bring a Torch

Prayer of Adoration

Glory to you, Almighty God, for you sent your beloved Son. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh. You lived among us that we might become your people, those who live and love like you. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you guard and keep our hearts. You move us ever closer to our God and neighbor. Glory to you, Almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Silence

One: This is the Good news of great joy for all!
God has come. Our savior is born!
Praise be to God.

All: Amen. Alleluia!

++Response Hymn

"Joy to the World"

Antioch

stanza 1

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.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music "There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob" Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel,

With might destroying princes and cities.

As bright the star of morning gleams, so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams,

Of light and consolation.

Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation;

Thine be praise and adoration.

Sanctuary Choir

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Nancy Greidanus

(Children three years through second grade may finish their time of worship in the worship centers. Children's worship leaders or parents will shepherd them from the sanctuary to their rooms. Parents may pick them up in their worship rooms following the service.)

Congregation: As you worship together, may God be with you.

Children: And also with you.

Congregation: Go in peace!

THE WORD

Scripture

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

New Testament p. 173

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Table Talk"

Rev. Kyle Kooyers

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

++Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of Belhar, 10.3*

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. Unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain. This unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint. The variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God.

Offering Our Lives

Rev. Jen Porter

Offertory: "Star of the East" arr. David Ashley White

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, hail, morn, blest morn,

Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining, low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;

Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion, odors of Edom, and offerings divine,

Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would his favor secure,

Richer by far is the heart's adoration, dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.

Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Sanctuary Choir

++Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

For those worshiping in the sanctuary, we are using pre-packaged communion elements with gluten-free bread and juice. If you didn't receive one before you entered the sanctuary, simply raise your hand and someone will bring you one. Children are welcome to participate in this sacrament. You may place the used packaging materials on the communion racks on the back of the pews, and then dispose of them in bins when you exit the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; 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 Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer of Response

Faithful God, we have come and been fed at your table of reconciling peace. From an abundance of grace, you have blessed us with this harvest of victory. Filled with your love, may we live into the hope of Christmas that your light and justice shall reign without end. In the name of Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

++Closing Hymn 86 "The People Who Walked in Darkness"

Isaiah 9

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Sing with Joy, Glad Voices Lift"
Helen Hofmeister, Organ

Hermann Schroeder

CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE

*Go into the world: sing, laugh, create,
with the assurance of God's blessings.*

*Go into the world: risk, discover, love,
with the assurance of God's grace.*

*Go into the world: believe, hope, remember,
with the assurance of God's love.*

AHEAD IN WORSHIP

**January 9 – Baptism of the Lord
Sacrament of Baptism**

Rev. Lynette Sparks
Isaiah 43:1-7

January 16 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

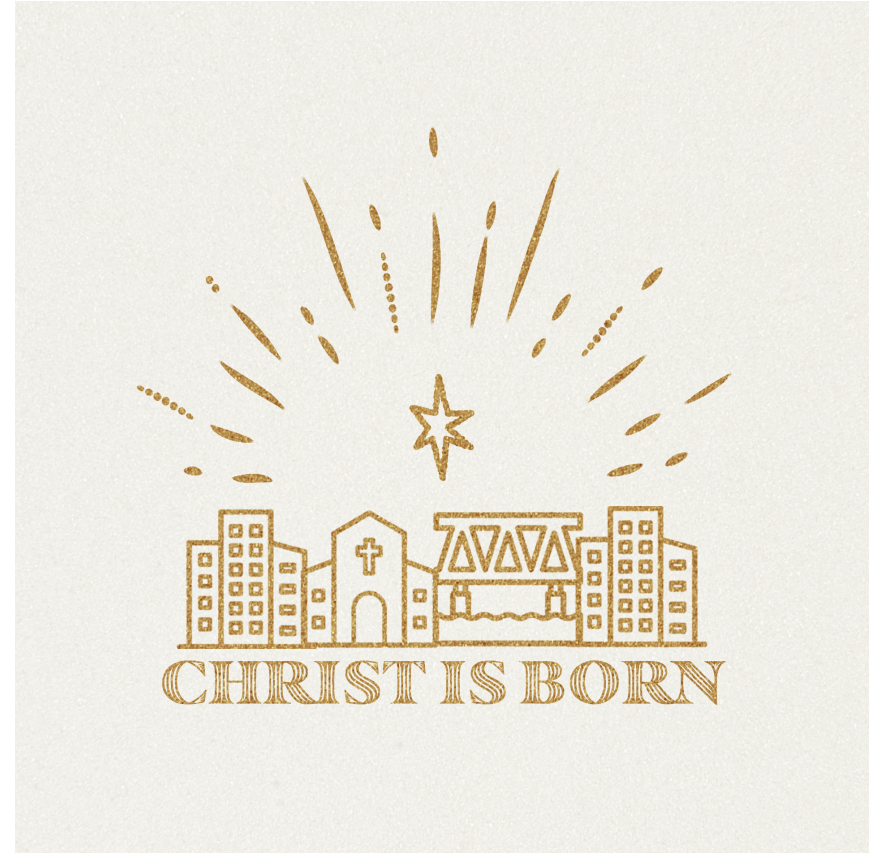
Rev. Lynette Sparks
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate
Liturgists Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor
..... Nathaniel Fryer, Ministry Candidate, PC(USA)
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children and Their Families

Musicians Helen Hofmeister, Minister of Music
..... Sanctuary Choir

Acolyte..... Stella Vandervelde



Welcome to Westminster

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.

CHILDREN

Parents of three-year-olds to fifth graders, come to the children's check-in tables in the Gathering Place before the service to sign in. Children are welcome throughout the service! Ask an usher if you'd like special worship bags, folders, or children's bulletins to help your kids engage in worship. The nursery (babies through two-year-olds) is available during the service. Children (ages 3 through 2nd grade) will begin worship in the sanctuary and be invited to continue worship in the interactive settings of our worship centers. Leaders will shepherd them to their centers, but parents are welcome to lead them as well. Children will wait for you at the end of the service in the Children's Ministry hallway off the Gathering Place.

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.

Table Talk

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF CHRISTMAS**

**JANUARY 2, 2022
11:00 A.M.**