

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Light Restored

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

In Preparation for Worship

"In the darkness I see the light
and find in it comfort,
confidence,
cause for celebration,
for the darkness cannot overcome it;
and I rejoice to nourish it
in myself,
in other people,
in the world
for the sake of him
in whom it was born
and shines forever,
even Jesus the Christ."

-Ted Loder (from "Let the Star of Morning Rise")

Christmas Greeting

Susan Jennings & Rev. Jen Porter

Opening Voluntary

"Silent Night" Franz Gruber (1787-1863)
arr. D. Linda McKechnie

"Joy to the World" Lowell Mason (1792-1872)
Bell Choir arr. Martha Lynn Thompson (b. 1940)

Processing the Light: Lighting the Advent Candles

Kent Riddle & Paul Karsten

Lighting the Christ Candle

Rev. Lynette Sparks

Tonight, we welcome
hope, peace, joy, and love in our midst
as the light of the world is born.
This light is a light for the ages
that shines for all to see.
For to us is born this day, in the city of David,
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth!

++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 11:1-4a, 6-9

Kent Riddle

++Carol

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Cranham

Anthem

"Morning Dawn" Shaker Melody, arr. Jordan Sramek
Zion shall arise and blossom like the rose,
Her glorious light shine forth to the islands afar,
As when the star of Bethlehem arose.
Hail! all hail the coming day!
The wilderness shall bloom, hills and valleys rejoice,
Woodlands sing for joy,
and the barren desert smile to hear the Savior's voice.
Hail! all hail the coming day!
Thus saith the Lord, "It shall yet come to pass:
Many people and strong nations shall come to Jerusalem
to seek and to pray before the Lord."
Hail! all hail the coming day!
Viviana Kloostra, Soprano
Sanctuary Choir

Scripture of the Annunciation

Luke 1:26-35

Susan Jennings

++Carol

"Still, Still, Still"

Still, Still, Still

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!
The virgin's tender arms enfolding,
warm and safe the child are holding.
Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep
while angel hosts from heaven come winging,
sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep

Scripture of the Manger

Luke 2:1-7

Paul Karsten

Anthem

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
The text of this anthem can be found in the hymnal on page 129.
Sanctuary Choir

Scripture of the Angels

Luke 2:8-14

Rev. Jen Porter

Anthem

"Mary Had a Baby" Spiritual
arr. William Dawson (1899-1990)
Mary had a baby, My Lord! Born in a manger, My Lord!
What did they call Him? King Jesus!
He is called "King Jesus, Mighty Counselor, King Emmanuel,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Sarah Faasse, Soprano
Sanctuary Choir

Scripture of the Shepherds

Luke 2:15-20

Kent Riddle

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.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

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.

Meditation

"Light Restored"

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

**Offering Our Lives**

Each year during Advent and Christmas, 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 times of need.

**Offertory**

“Christmas Bringeth Jesus” Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

Christmas hath a darkness brighter than the blazing noon,  
Christmas hath a chillness warmer than the heat of June,  
Christmas hath a beauty lovelier than the world can show:  
For Christmas bringeth Jesus, brought for us so low.  
Earth, strike up your music, birds that sing and bells that ring;  
Heaven hath answering music for all Angels soon to sing:  
Earth, put on your whitest bridal robe of spotless snow:  
For Christmas bringeth Jesus, brought for us so low.  
Sanctuary Choir

**Scripture of the Incarnation** John 1:1-5

Paul Karsten

**Spreading the Light**

Please remain seated during the hymn and lighting of candles. The liturgists and ushers will light the candles of those at the ends of the pews. Pass the light to those next to you, holding the lit candle upright and tilting the unlit candle towards it.

**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** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Christopher Uehlein  
(1931-2019)

Music used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.  
Morning Dawn © 2022 Rose Publications, LLC. All rights reserved.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE**

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor  
Liturgists ..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor  
..... Susan Jennings, Minister for Pastoral Care & Mission  
..... Rev. Kyle Kooyers, Parish Associate  
..... Kent Riddle  
..... Paul Karsten

Musicians..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music  
..... Janlee Richter, Organ  
..... Viviana Kloostra & Sarah Faasse, Sopranos  
..... Sonja Fryer & Sarah Faasse, Bell Choir Co-Directors  
..... Bell Choir  
..... Sanctuary Choir & Guests

**AHEAD IN WORSHIP**

**Sunday, December 29, 10:00 a.m.**

**First Sunday After Christmas**

**A Modest Proposal**

Rev. Kyle Nolan  
Colossians 3:12-17

**Sunday, January 5, 10:00 a.m.**

**Epiphany of the Lord**

**Communion Sunday**  
Rev. Jen Porter

**WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER!**

Thank you for joining us in worship today! If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Crystal Hovey at [crystalh@wpcgr.org](mailto:crystalh@wpcgr.org). More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at [westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org). You are welcome and celebrated here!

**ASSISTANCE**

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

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

Today we receive the Christmas Joy Offering. You can find a link to give virtually at [westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org). Click the green “Donation Options” button on the top right corner and select “Christmas Joy Offering.”



616-456-1456 / [westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org) / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Shine by Mike Moyers

**Light Restored**

THE EVE OF  
CHRIST’S NATIVITY

DECEMBER 24, 2024

8:00 P.M.