



The Order of Worship

December 24, 2022
5:00 and 8:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We welcome all to this service of worship, especially our visitors and guests. In the time before the service begins, we invite all who worship here to take a moment to offer a prayer lifting up to God the life and work of this family of faith and its pastors.

JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME...

PROCURE A CANDLE IN THE NARTHEX

PRELUDE Noël, sur les flûtes Louis-Claude Daquin
(from *Livre de Noël*s, Op. 2, No. 9)
Tambourin Jean-Philippe Rameau

INTROIT Hodie Christus natus est Gregorian chant
Hodie Christus natus est: hodie Salvator apparuit: hodie in terra canunt
angeli, laetantur archangeli: hodie exsultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in
excelsis Deo, alleluia.

Today Christ is born: today the Savior has appeared: today the angels sing on earth, the archangels rejoice: today the righteous exult, saying: Glory to God in the highest, alleluia.

paraphrase of Luke 2:11,13-14 and Psalm 33:1
Sopranos of the Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Anne McKee

***HYMN NO. 133** (*Glory to God* hymnal) O Come, All Ye Faithful *Adeste fideles*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Bart Carey and Family (5:00)
The Gordon Family (8:00)

Reader 1: Our path through Advent has been lit by candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, signs of the gifts Christ brings into the world for all people.
Reader 2: Tonight, we light the Christ candle, remembering Isaiah's promise, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."
All: **We see Christ's light in a humble stable, in a newborn baby, in a star-lit night, in the song of peace.**

Reader 1: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
Reader 2: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
All: **God of light, our hearts overflow tonight as we gather to tell again the story of Jesus' birth. Shine your light through us, that we may share with all the world your gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. We ask in the name of the one who is God with us, your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***HYMN NO. 119** (*Glory to God* hymnal) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *Mendelssohn*

JOY TO THE EARTH, THE SAVIOR REIGNS...

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2-7 Anna Grace Gilbert (5:00)

Liam Hagan (8:00)

CAROL Christmas Eve Carol Jeffrey H. Rickard
Come, thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free; From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.

Hodie Christus natus est, Salvator apparuit. [Christ the Lord is born today, the Savior has appeared.] Alleluia, born today.

Born thy people to deliver, Born a child, and yet a king; Born to reign in us forever, Angels in the heavens sing.

Charles Wesley and Neil Phillips

Members of the Handbell Choir

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (5:00) Allie Brewington

CHAMBER MUSIC (5:00) Silent Night Franz Gruber
arr. Jon Schmidt, Al van der Beek, and Steven Sharp Nelson

Marguerite MacDonald, Cello

Roland Schneller, Piano

Members of the Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 Bobby Manrod (5:00)

Maggie Gordon (8:00)

CAROL Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Polish carol
arr. David Willcocks

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging Angels singing, Nowells ringing, Tidings bringing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new; Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow, Christ the Babe was born for you!

trans. Edith Reed

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-20 Meghan Oros (5:00)

Lucy Gordon (8:00)

CAROL Ding Dong! Merrily on High 16th century French melody
harm. Charles Wood

Ding dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing; Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, And io, io, io, by priest and people sungen. (Refrain)

Pray you dutifully prime your Matin chime ye ringers; May you beautifully rime your Evetime song, ye singers: (Refrain)

G. R. Woodward

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION "How Silently" Rev. Dr. Anne McKee
***HYMN NO. 134** (*Glory to God* hymnal) Joy to the World *Antioch*

THE OFFERING

Though many of us contribute online or by a check in the mail, your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

HE COMES TO MAKE HIS BLESSINGS FLOW...

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (responsive)

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Prayer continues)... We join the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise:

Sing chorus of "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Gloria, gloria in excelsis deo...)

(Prayer continues)...Remembering these wondrous deeds, we bow down in praise:

Sing chorus of "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Gloria, gloria in excelsis deo...)

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Tonight we will be celebrating Holy Communion where worshipers may come forward and take a piece of bread and cup of juice. The ministers and ushers will direct you.

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION Pastorale in F, Part III, BWV 590 J. S. Bach

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of shepherds and kings, you gather us by the light of the star of promise. You lead us not only to hope for the future, but to trust in your presence and promise in every time and place. As we go from this place may our lives be a joyful song, proclaiming the good news of your peace for the whole world. Amen.

HYMN NO. 121 (*Glory to God* hymnal) O Little Town of Bethlehem *St. Louis*

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING ...

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5, 14-18

After the scripture is read, the lights will be dimmed, and the minister will light a candle from the Christ Candle. The minister will then light the candles of the ushers, who will then light the candles of the first person on each aisle. Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright and the unlighted candle is tipped to the lighted candle.

***HYMN** Silent Night, Holy Night *Stille Nacht*
(*The candle is held close to the breast*)
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.

(The candle is extended outward)
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.”

(The candle is extended upward)
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.

Following the singing of Silent Night, Holy Night, the minister shall lead a silent recessional to carry the light outside, weather permitting. After everyone has gathered, we will sing the first verse of “Angels We Have Heard on High”

***BENEDICTION**

*Indicates standing.

Please use extreme caution in the handling of the lighted candles to prevent accidents with the hair or clothing of the person in front of you and the pews. Children must be carefully supervised. For safety’s sake, it is requested that children under six should “share” their parent’s candle.

Symbolism of the Lights

We light candles on Christmas Eve to make visible the light of Christ that has come into the world. Christ’s light has been passed among each generation of believers, going back to those who first knew of Jesus’ birth, shared his life, and witnessed his resurrection. As we pass the light of our candles, first from the Christ candle and then to one another, we remember those who have shared their faith with us, and those we share Christ’s light with today.

At Westminster, we have had a long tradition of embodying our dedication to Christ as we sing "Silent Night" together. During the first verse, we hold our lights close and rededicate ourselves to Christ. As we sing the second verse, we hold the candle out in front of us as we rededicate our homes and families. During the last verse, we hold our candles high and commit ourselves to carrying Christ's light into every corner of the world. If the weather permits, the minister will lead a procession out to the parking lot, to carry our lights outside. Please follow as quickly as possible, so we can assemble quickly. We all have arrived, we will sing the first verse of “Angels We Have Heard On High.”

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS to Marguerite MacDonald, her family, and members of the Chancel Choir for their enrichment of our worship this evening. Thanks also to Handbell Choir members Becky Connelly, Cindy Pearman, Debbie Schmid, and Renee Wiesehuegel for accompanying the Chancel Choir.

USHERS: Youth and Adults

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Members of the Chancel Choir

Advent Flowers 2022

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions to our Flower Guild during this Advent Season.

Donor(s)	Dedication
Ellen and Ken Anderson	To the glory of God and in thanks to our wonderful Flower Guild
Laura Barron	In memory of Jack Barron and in honor of their family
The Beeler Family	In memory of Jackie Beeler and in honor of Brooks Beeler
Carol Beilharz, children and grandchildren	In memory of Clark Berta Bergia and Alice Magee
	In memory of loved ones gone but with us in spirit always
Mary Boyd	In memory of Andrew Boyd
Sara Cantrell	In memory of Bob Cantrell
Gail, Rob, April and Ayers	In loving memory of Bo Clark
Bud and Carolyn Cunningham	In memory of their parents
Jack B. Draper	In honor of his wife, Shirley W. Draper
Melissa Everett	In honor of her parents, Mark and Gail Noland
Maria and David Gall	In memory of their parents
The Gibbons and Fuller Family	In memory of Ernie Fuller
Suzanne and Ross Graham	In honor of their grandson Thomas G. Daniels
Jan Gross	In memory of her husband John A. Gross and brother Dwight Allen Newman
Gary, Katherine and Nathan Harmon	In honor of CJ Harmon and Aaron Wilso
Paula Hogan	In memory of her father John Hogan and in honor of her mother, Marge Hogan and sisters, Carolyn Leary and Janet McMullen
Bitsy and Lee Ingram	In memory of their parents, Robert and Juanita Newman, and Everett and Kay Ingram
Buz and Lucy Johnson	In memory of their parents; Ewing and Bernice Johnson and John and Mary Watson
Linda Judge McRae	In honor of WPC Sistahs in Christ
Jordan and Virginia Knight	In honor of Betty Jo Smith
Anne and John Langley	In memory of longtime friend and neighbor, John Gross
The Mackay Family	In memory of Zorro Mackay and in honor of Isla Mackenzie
Ed and Cile, Hannah and Eva Mathews, Danielle Mathews Hemsley	In memory of Matt Mathews
Anne McKee and Mark Hulsether .	In memory of Mark McKee and Charles Hulsether
Charlie and Alice Mercer	In memory of their parents
Tricia Monroe	In honor and with lots of love for her three children, Tolson, Shea, and Elena Bell
John and Ibbie Muntz	In gratitude to the WPC Staff
Gradye and Kathy Parsons	In honor of the Property Ministry Team
Rick and Janice Rawe	In honor of their granddaughters, Margaret, Samantha and Nina
Amy Rawe	In honor of her parents, Rick and Janice Rawe
Elizabeth Ridley	In honor of the ministries of Westminster, Second and Graystone churches
Bill and Bonnie Rogers	In gratitude for our family
Scott and Linda Rutherford	In honor of Bill Rutherford on his 85th birthday
Tim and Joyce Ryan	In memory of Rodney and Annie Laurie Bowman and Paul and Helen Ryan
The Salsbery Family	In honor of Jim and Linda Yates and in memory of Chris and Betty Salsbery

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Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus
Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster
Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries, CLP
Allie Brewington, Director of Children's Ministries
Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
Melissa Everett, Administrative Assistant
Sarah Rackley, Youth Assistant
Debbie Bendy, Abbey Editor
Arthur Collins, Worship Tech

Donor(s) (continued)	Dedication
Rachel and Chris Taylor	In loving memory of Jim and Flip Schmid and in honor of Jay and Debbie Schmid
Janet and Peter Tortorelli	In honor of Laura, Chris, Joseph, Renee and Julia
Aunt Julia Tortorelli	In honor of William Joseph and Victor Aaron Martin
Penny Tschantz	In honor of the WPC Flower Guild
Robin and Joel, Ashley, Will, Nathalie and Bennett	In memory of Joe Ben Turner
Jackie Vanden Dorpel and Alexandra McDonald	In memory of Neil Vanden Dorpel
Leslie Versen	In memory of Phyllis Daniels
Susan and Bill West	In memory of Mary McCall and in honor of Ruth Mackay Barnett
Renee and Bill Wiesehuegel	In memory of their sweet moms, Shirley Jean Rechenbach and Natalie Wells Smith
Jim and Linda Yates	In memory of Stanley and Edna Yates, Robert and Inez Rainwater, Bonnee Rainwater, Betty and Chris Salsbery, Bob Cantrell and Joe Ben Turner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: We have received 168 pledges out of 254 households so far for a total of \$ 833,536.00. To compare - last year’s final tally of contributions was 167 pledges out of 273 households for a total of \$835,161. Extra pledge cards, as well as Time and Talent forms, are available in the church office if you need them.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: The Christmas Joy Offering opens doors of opportunity for the leaders who are shaped and supported through our gifts - doors that lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our gifts open doors that lead to relief for church workers and their families when emergency needs arise.

FINAL 2022 CONTRIBUTIONS as well as any 2023 prepaid offerings need to be in the church office by December 27. All offerings received by December 31 will be included in your 2022 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel. The church office will be open Dec. 27, 9:00-1:00; and Dec. 30, 9:00-1:00.

NEW YEARS DAY WORSHIP will be held at 11:00am.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHILDREN’S FELLOWSHIP HOUR (10:00 am) will resume on January 8.