



The Order of Worship

December 24, 2023
8:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE

THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

*When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn-
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.*

Madeleine L'Engle, "The Risk of Birth"

PRELUDE Canzona No. 7 in G, BuxWV 171
In dulci jubilo

Dieterich Buxtehude
Marcel Dupré

*In Sweet Rejoicing
(from Seventy-Nine Chorales for the Organ, Op. 28)*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Salsbery Family

CALL TO WORSHIP

Meghan Oros, Griffen Oros, Bobby Powell

One: Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy.

All: To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

One: This will be a sign for you: You will find a child wrapped in cloth
And lying in a manger.

All: Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace!

One: Let us go now to Bethlehem.

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

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

Adeste fideles

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Gradye Parsons

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving Christ,

Scripture tells us that you were born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. There was no room in the inn for a woman in need, no room in the inn for an innocent baby.

Forgive us.

We should have learned our lesson by now, but just as others turned their backs on you, we continue to turn our backs on one another. Teach us how to make room for one another. Teach us how to make room for you. Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love, for we do not want to build hostility here.

Guide us forward.

With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 132 (Glory to God hymnal) Good Christian Friends Rejoice

In dulci jubilo

Good Christian friends, rejoice,

With heart and soul and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say:

Jesus Christ is born today;

Ox and ass before Him bow;

And He is in the manger now.

Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Barbara Adamcik

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-3

SCRIPTURE READING Griffen Oros

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL Unto Us Is Born a Son

from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

arr. David Willcocks

Unto us is born a Son, King of quires supernal: See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low, Comes on earth a stranger; Ox and ass
their owner know, Becradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray, And grievously bewilder, So he gave the word
to slay, And slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild This the Christmas story; And O that Mary's
gentle Child Might lead us up to glory!

O and A, and A and O, *Cum cantibus in choro* [With songs in the choir], let
our merry organ go, *Benedicamus Domino* [Let us bless the Lord.].

trans. G. R. Woodward

SCRIPTURE READING Bobby Powell

Luke 2:8-14

CAROL Therefore Be Merry

Mark Sedio

A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell, Hath brought forth a baby, as it
hath befell, To be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin, Which Adam's
transgression hath wrapped us in: And therefore be merry, set sorrows

aside; Christ Jesus our Savior was born on this tide!

The King of all kings to this world being brought, Small store of fine linen to
wrap him she sought, And when she had swaddled her young son so sweet,
Within an ox-manger she laid him to sleep. (Refrain)

Then presently after some shepherds did spy A number of angels that stood
in the sky; They joyfully shouted and sweetly did sing, "To God be all glory,
our heavenly King." (Refrain)

Traditional

SCRIPTURE READING Meghan Oros

Luke 2:15-20

HOMILY

Rev. Dr. Richard Coble

*HYMN NO. 134 (Glory to God hymnal) Joy to the World!

Antioch

THE OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center
aisle. Your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to
our life together in Jesus Christ.*

OFFERTORY HYMN NO. 127 (Glory to God hymnal) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Responsive)

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Many: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION and 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF BREAD

Congregation will come forward to receive the elements.

All pre-cut bread is gluten free.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION Lully, Lulla, Lullay

Philip W. J. Stopford

Lully, lulla, Thou little tiny Child, By, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too how may we do for to preserve this day this poor youngling for
whom we sing By, by, lully, lullay? (Refrain)

Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day his men of might in
his own sight all young children to slay. (Refrain)

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee, and ever morn and day. For Thy
parting neither say nor sing, By, by, lully, lullay! (Refrain)

Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, 15th century

Meredith Mackay, Soprano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE READING

John1:1-5,14-18

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING...

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 chest)
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 ushers will lead a silent recessional to carry the light outside to the courtyard, weather permitting. The front of the congregation will go out the side door by the pulpit. The back of the congregation will go out through the Schilling Gallery. After everyone has gathered, we will sing the first verse of “Angels We Have Heard on High”

HYMN 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.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

*Please stand in Body or Spirit
** Prayer of Confession from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Wendy Collins and Josh Birdwell
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AND HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY
MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Chancel Choir
LITURGIST: Griffen Oros, Meghan Oros, Bobby Powell
SENIOR USHER: Bill Wiesehuegel
USHERS: Brenda Seip, Ken Hughes, Penny Tschantz, Casey Page and Tim Ryan

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHILDREN’S FELLOWSHIP HOUR (10:00 am) will resume on January 7.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE on December 31 at 10:00 am.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: Many thanks to all of you who have come together to offer your time, talents, and financial resources to the glory of God through the ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church. We have received 167 pledges so far from our 255 family units for a total of \$864,958.00. We need EVERYONE’S participation in order to reach our asking budget of \$1,100,28.

FINAL 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS as well as any 2024 prepaid offerings need to be in the church office by December 31 will be included in your 2023 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE for our sweet John Shilling will be held on Friday, December 29 at 2pm in Westminster’s Sanctuary. If you would like to contribute a tray of finger foods for the reception immediately following the service (cookies, nuts, cheese/crackers, fruit, etc.), please notify the church office.

Advent Flowers 2023

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

Donor(s) **Dedication**
Ellen and Ken Anderson In honor of our community of faith at Westminster.
God has so blessed us!
Gail, Rob, April and Ayres Clark In loving memory of Bo Clark
Phil and Judy Barnette. In loving memory of John Shilling
Laura Barron In loving memory of Jack Barron, Lester and Harriette Rowe
Beeler Family In memory of Brooks Beeler
Carol Beilharz, children and grandchildren. In loving memory of Clark
Brewington Family. In loving memory of Ruthie Landis Carey
Brewington Family. In honor of Bart Carey “Pops”
Tim and Anne Crais. In honor of our children and grandchildren
Barbara Cline. In memory of Lisa and Dan, Gabe and Jeff, Faith and Ariana
Rich and Betty Collins . . In memory of our parents, Fred and Shirley, Herb and Cleta
Donna Davis and Ivan Beltz In memory of Virginia and Bertram Raskin
and Nancy Beltz
Anne Davidson. In memory of Bud and Jean Davidson

Donor(s) **Dedication**
Jack Draper In honor of Shirley Draper
Melissa and James Everett. In honor of Mark and Gail Noland
Gibbons and Fuller Families. In memory of Ernie Fuller and Michael Gibbons
Maria and David Gall In memory of their brothers
Don and Connie Graham In honor of our children and grandchildren
Jan Gross In memory of John Gross (husband) Jeffrey Allen Gross (son),
Dan Newman (brother) and (parents) Sue and Chalmer Newman,
Lillian and Marsh Gross
Mary Jennings. In memory of Benny McDaniel
Buz and Lucy Johnson. In memory of our parents - Ewing and Bernice Johnson,
John and Mary Watson
Linda Judge-McRae In honor of the WPC Shepherd Team members
Anne and John Langley In honor of our grandchildren, Bryson, Molly and Anna
Melanie and Daniel Lewis. In honor of Adelina and Owen Lewis
Nancy Lowe and Harold Jones. In memory of our mother, Elizabeth Jones
MacKay Family. In memory of Zorro MacKay
MacKay Family. In honor of Audrey Belyea
Ed, Cile, Hannah & Eva Mathews and Danielle Mathews Hemsley.
In memory of Matt Mathews
Oakes Family. In memory of Fritz and Barbara Schilling,
Fred and Lillian Schilling and Clara Huey
Pam and Mark Potocik In honor of Jon and Rayann Potocik, Chris and Jessica Potocik
Amy Rawe. In honor of Richard and Janice Rawe, from their
granddaughters - Margaret, Nina and Samantha
Rick and Janice Rawe. In honor of all Westminster Volunteers
Scott and Linda Rutherford In memory of Bill Rutherford
John and Elizabeth Salsbery In memory of Chris and Betty Salsbery and Nancy Dean
John and Elizabeth Salsbery In honor of Jim and Linda Yates
Karen and Richard Smith In memory of Nancy, Scott and Carter Dean
Greg and Glenda Tolliver In memory of Terry Jones
Julia Tortorelli. In honor of their nephews, Will and Victor Martin
Penny Tschantz. In memory of her son, Peter Tschantz
Robin and Joel Turner and family In memory of Joe Ben Turner
Leslie Versen. In memory of Phyllis Daniels
Genet Gammon Weber In memory of Peter Tschantz and Joseph Moore Gammon , Jr.
Renee and Bill Wiesehuegel In loving memory of Amy McBrayer
Shirley Wittman In memory of John Wittman
Jim and Linda Yates. In memory of Bob Cantrell, Bonnee Rainwater,
Betty and Chris Salsbery, Joe Ben Turner and Eileen Watt

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