



In the stillness of the quiet,
if we listen, we can hear
the whisper of the heart
giving strength to weakness,
courage to fear, hope to despair.

-Howard Thurman,
The Mood of Christmas

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

INTROIT Gaudete arr. Robert J. Batastini
Refrain: Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary. Rejoice!
Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger. *Refrain*
Angels sang about his birth, Wise men sought and found him.
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, Glory all around him! *Refrain*
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story!
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory! *Refrain*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Van Beke Family
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELIS
*CALL TO CONFESSION Isaac Shelby
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**
Loving Christ,
When the shepherds heard that you were born,
they dropped their things and ran.
They trusted the angels' invitation.
They believed that your love existed for them.
We wish that we were more like that.
Instead, somewhere between the angels' song and the manger,
we tend to lose our way.
We doubt ourselves.
We doubt the invitation.
We doubt that love could know our names.
Remind us that your love is personal and specific.
Remind us that the good news of this day is for us.
With hope we sing, we pray, and we run.
Amen.

*RESPONSE 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!
*ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
*PASSING OF THE PEACE
*RESPONSE GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis deo.

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-14
ANTHEM Sussex Carol arr. David Willcocks
On Christmas night, all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring-
News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should all on Earth be so sad, Since our redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin He set us free, All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs, before his grace, Then life and health come in its place;

Angels and all with joy may sing, All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to all. Now and forever more, Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:15-20
HOMILY "After the Counting, Glory" Rev. Dr. Richard Coble
*HYMN NO. 134 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.

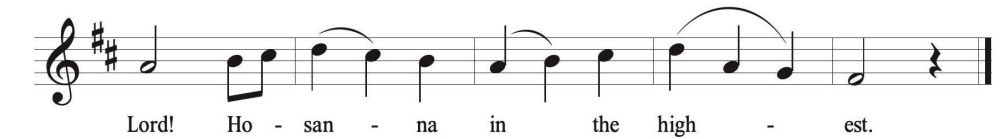
OFFERTORY ANTHEM Coventry Carol arr. Mark Sedio
Coventry Carol, 15th cent. English

Lully, lulla, thou tiny child, by by, lully, lullay. O sisters too, how may we do
for to preserve this day. This poor youngling for whom we do sing, by by, lully,
lullay. Herod the king, in his raging charged he hath this day. His men of might
in his own sight, all young children to slay. That woe is me, poor child, for thee!
And ever mourn and day, for thy parting nor say nor sing, by by, lully, lullay.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE
GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Responsive) Rev. Gradye Parsons
and Barbara Adamcik, CLP

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.
One: Creator God... forever sing to the glory of your name.



One: Jesus came as teacher... we proclaim the mystery of faith.

The Order of Worship

December 24, 2024
8:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

THE CHURCH GATHERS . . .

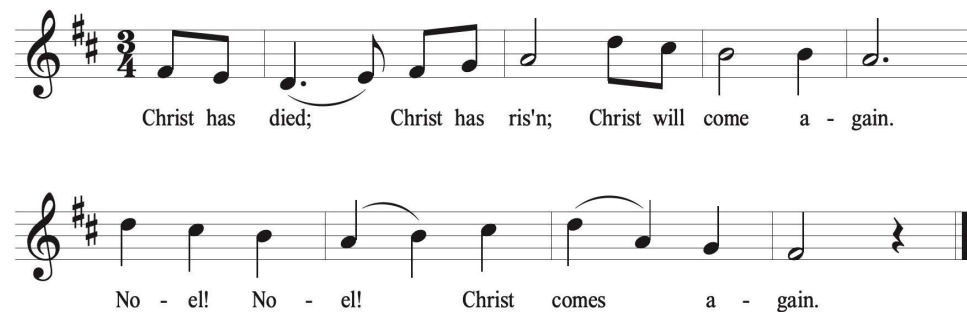
Welcome to Westminster Church! We are a family of Christians gathered from many traditions and neighborhoods, worshipping here with the goal of connecting faith and life. If you are a visitor, we pray you will feel welcome and blessed by our worship. We invite you to consider making Westminster your church home. Please let us have your contact information so we may be in touch. When the prelude begins let us quietly prepare for the worship of almighty God.

PRELUDE

A Wreath of Carols
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
CALL TO WORSHIP**

Margaret Sandresky
Johann Pachelbel
Meghan Oros

One: In those days,
in the beginning,
Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.
He was to be registered,
and she was expecting a child.
The time came for Mary to give birth,
so she delivered her child,
wrapped him in bands of cloth
and laid him in a manger.
And the angels sang,
All: Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth, peace to all whom God favors.
One: Let us worship our with-us God.



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. 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
 **Liturgy from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

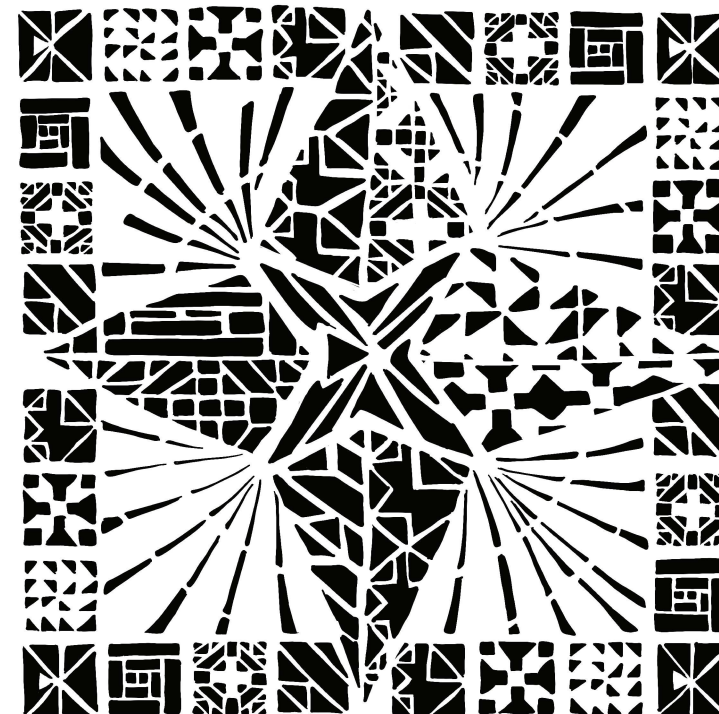
NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS
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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS/ HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY
 LITURGISTS: Isaac Shelby, Meghan Oros
 MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Chancel Choir; Handbells - Jan Barber, Becky Connelly,
 Renee Wiesehuegel
 USHERS: Ken Hughes, Carol Beilharz, Tim and Joyce Ryan, Judy Jorden

PRAYER LIST (Please keep the following names in your prayers this week)
 Juanita Campbell, Sonja Jones, Judy and Joseph Moon, Lalla Phillips, Kitty Rasa,
 Doris Solomon, Vicki Chapman, Jonah McCollum, Karen and her son Brian, Anne
 Hector (Mary Jo Mann’s niece), Janice Jennings, Salma Alami, Becky and Cathy Cagle
 (Gloria Borum’s dear friends), Rob Elliot (Brenda Seip's brother), Rhys “Bebes”
 Claiborne (Julia Whipple’s mother), Rev. Dan Park.



OUR EPIPHANY STAR The Star hanging above the choir tonight is the product of many, many hours of diligent work from Westminster artists of all generations, including many WPC children who worked on it throughout Christmas Craft Night! Over the past few weeks, our artists gathered to trace, paint, and stitch together this beautiful piece of art to adorn our Sanctuary for the Christmas and Epiphany season. A special thanks goes out to Melissa Everett, who coordinated this effort, reached out to our artists, and put the final product together as a quilt that will endure for many seasons.

“For we observed his star in the east, and have come to pay him homage.”

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 Rev. Gradye Parsons, Parish Associate
 Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus
 Dr. Edie Johnson, Music Director/Organist
 Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries, CLP
 Allie Brewington, Interim Director of Children's Ministries
 Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
 Joanna Warren, Administrative Assistant
 Linda Judge McRae, Parish Nurse
 Debbie Bendy, Abbey Editor
 Sawyer Warren, Worship Tech

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

Anthem The Infant King arr. Edgar Pettman

The congregation is invited to sing the hymns with the choir.

HYMN NO. 145 What Child is This GREENSLEEVES
 HYMN NO. 114 Away In a Manger CRADLE SONG
 HYMN NO. 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-5,14-18

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING...

After the scripture is read, the lights will be dimmed, and the ministers will light a candle from the Christ Candle. The ministers 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;

Advent Flowers 2024

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

Donor(s)	Dedication
Jan Barber	In honor of our amazing church staff
Laura Barron	In honor of the Westminster Presbyterian Family, Pastor and Staff
Beeler Family	In memory of Brooks Beeler
Carol Beilharz, children and grandchildren.	In loving memory of Clark
Mary Boyd.	In loving memory of Andrew Boyd
Donna Davis and Ivan Beltz	In memory of Virginia and Bertram Raskin, Joyce Beltz Wyble, George and Edna Beltz, Issac Groves, and Nancy Beltz
Jean and Brian Bonnyman.	In memory of Kenny Baker
Brewington Family.	In loving memory of Ruthie Landis Carey
Lila, Jack and Rosie Brewington.	In honor of Bart Carey “Pops”
Gail, Rob, April and Ayres Clark	In loving memory of Bo Clark
Anne Davidson.	In memory of Bud and Jean Davidson
Jack Draper	In memory of Shirley Draper
Leigh Dunlap	In memory of Louise and Julian Dunlap
Melissa and James Everett.	In honor of Cole and Eli Everett
The Fox-Kendziorski Family.	In memory of Bruce Canan and Nancy Goyer
Gibbons and Fuller Families.	In memory of Ernie Fuller
Maria and David Gall	In memory of their dear parents
Jan Gross	In memory of John Gross (husband), Jeffrey Allen Gross (son), Dan Newman (brother) and (parents) Sue and Chalmer Newman, Lillian-Marshall Gross
Kathy and Sky Huck	In honor of grandchildren Turner, Elle Kate, Schuyler, and Hadley
Leslie Hull and family.	In memory of Helen Wedekind, Amy Hull Ransdell and Emma Kathyrn Ransdell
Lee and Bitsy Ingram.	In honor of Robert and Megan, Thomas and Meg, Charles and Simone
Anne and John Langley.	In honor of grandchildren, Bryson, Molly and Anna
Melanie and Daniel Lewis	In honor of grandmothers, Betty Davis and Rose Thomson
Nancy Lowe	In memory of Elizabeth Jones (mother of Nancy Lowe and Harold Jones)
MacKay Family.	In honor of Linda Yates, Alysse’s fabulous confirmation mentor
Ed, Cile, Hannah and Eva Mathews and Danielle Mathews Hemsley.	In memory of Matt Mathews
Charlie and Alice Mercer	In honor of the beautiful choirs at WPC
John and Ibbie Muntz	In memory their parents, their brothers and their daughter, Laura Joy Muntz
Rick and Kathryn Oakes	In memory of Fritz and Barbara Schilling and Lester and Kathleen Oakes
Gradye and Kathy Parsons	In appreciation for the Property Team Boys
Mark and Pam Potocik	In honor of Peggy Davis, Jon and Rayann Potocik, and Chris and Jessi Potocik
Marty, Allison, Jackson and Grace Ann	In memory of Jim Pryor
Amy Rawe.	In honor of Richard and Janice Rawe, from their granddaughters - Margaret, Nina, and Sam
Rick and Janice Rawe.	In honor of their granddaughters, Margaret, Sam, and Nina
Rev. Max E. Reddick	In memory of “Momma Jo” Reddick
Scott and Linda Rutherford	In memory of brother Bill Rutherford and parents Cecil and Georgia Rutherford

Tim and Joyce Ryan	In honor of our WPC congregation and as a genuine welcome to our newest families and friends
John and Elizabeth Salsbery	In memory of Sara Cantrell and in honor of Robin Turner, and Jim and Linda Yates
Kathy Shilling	In memory of John Shilling and in honor of the Flower Guild
Larry and Kathleen Tragesser.	In honor of their children, Chloé and Philip Vaccaro, Lacey and Noah Williams
Robin and Joel Turner family	In memory of Joe Ben Turner
Jackie Vanden Dorpel and Alexandra McDonald	In memory of Neil Vanden Dorpel
Renee and Bill Wiesehuegel	In loving memory of Amy McBrayer, Jim Smith and their precious mothers
Ginger Williams and Wray Williams Jr.	In memory of Shelley Williams
Jack Woodall and Sharon Boyce.	In memory of Lauren Boyce Woodall Roady
Jim and Linda Yates.	In memory of Bob and Sara Cantrell, Betty and Chris Salsbery, Joe Ben Turner