



 **WESTMINSTER**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
7:00 PM - DECEMBER 24, 2024

CAROL SING (See Insert)

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: Do not be afraid to see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.

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

Leader: This will be a sign to you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth
and lying in a manger,

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Leader: Let us now go to Bethlehem.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CHRIST CANDLE - Tom and Carol Lee Iverson

Leader: We light the Christ candle to symbolize the promise fulfilled.

**People: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests
upon his shoulders,**

Leader: and his name is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.

**People: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all
on whom his favor rests.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful, Adeste Fideles¹

verses 1 & 2 - in harmony verse 3 & 4 - unison melody

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Great and Glorious God,
through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us
that the blessed age of grace has appeared
and the hoped-for time of salvation has come.
Yet we cling to the glories of the present age—
worldly passions and impious pursuits,
self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways.
We choose to walk in darkness,
unwilling to see the evil your light exposes.
Cleanse us and free us;

**break the yoke we choose to carry
through Christ, who gave himself for us,
so that we might be your people,
holy and whole** (*silent confession...*)**Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***ACCLAMATION HYMN 137**

*He Came Down, He Came Down*²

Leader: Why did he come?

People: **He came down that we may have light (repeat three times)
Hallelujah forevermore!**

***THE SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Please turn to the back wall and wave to our online worshippers,
offering them the peace of Christ, and then greet each other.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amy Poland

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST LESSON

Luke 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

***HYMN 121**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem, St. Louis*³

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN 140*Once in Royal David's City, Irby*⁴

verse 1 - soloist
verse 2 - choir
verse 3 - all
verse 4 - all

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

HYMN 113Angels We Have Heard on High, Gloria*⁵**THE FOURTH LESSON**

Luke 2:15-16

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

HYMN 147*The First Nowell, The First Nowell*⁶

verse 1 - all
verse 2 - higher voices (soprano/alto); refrain - all
verse 4 - lower voices (tenor/bass); refrain - all
verse 6 - all

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:17-20

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL*Ding Dong Merrily on High, arr. C. L. Alwes*⁷**CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION***Something More*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 144

*In the Bleak Midwinter, Cranham*⁸

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN

*Hear our Prayer, Anderson*⁹

1 Hear our prayer. 2 O Lord now hear our prayer. 3 4
5 Hear our prayer. 6 O Lord now hear our prayer. 7 8
9 When the world is dark, 10 and the way feels drear. 11 12
13 O Lord, let our faith 14 be so much more than our fear. 15 16
17 Hear our prayer. 18 O Lord now hear our prayer. 19 20
21 Speak, O Lord. 22 We lis-ten. 23 24 25 You are there.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY SENTENCES You may give online using this QR code:



OFFERTORY

*My Lord Has Come, W. Todd*¹⁰

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Great God, use all that we have and all that we are as you bring light in every darkness, ease heavy burdens, and turn our endless warring into your endless peace. In Christ's name, we ask it. Amen

SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

HYMN 122

Silent Night, Stille Nacht¹¹

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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.
4. 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!

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***HYMN 134**

Joy to the World¹²

1. Joy to the world, the Lord has 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.
2. Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ. While fields and
floods, rocks, hills and plains. Repeat the sounding joy. Repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.
3. 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.
4. 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.



Leaders Today:



Pastor: Rev. Scott Anderson

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

The Chancel Choir

Ushers/Greeters: The Hayes Family, Andrea Kenny

Liturgist: Karen Stephens

AV/Tech: John Tarr

Dorothy Blotz, piano

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