

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.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL...

PROCURE A CANDLE IN THE NARTHEX

PRELUDE Pastorale in F, Parts I and II

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Buran F. Phillips

***HYMN NO. 41** (blue hymnal) O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Adamcik Family

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

People: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Leader: And this shall be a sign for you.

People: You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Leader: And suddenly there was, with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

***HYMN NO. 116** (red hymnal) Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

Rev. John Muntz

JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT...

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

***HYMN NO. 53** (blue hymnal) What Child Is This

Greensleeves

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Kay Price

SCRIPTURE Psalm 96:1-6, 10-13

Connor Sears

***HYMN NO. 40** (blue hymnal) Joy to the World!

Antioch

SCRIPTURE Titus 2:11-14

Wes Gosselin

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-14

Eric Adamcik

***HYMN NO. 31** (blue hymnal) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

ANTHEM O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till he appear'd, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees! oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is Peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His Holy name. Christ is the Lord, then ever praise we, His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

Placide Cappeau

trans. John Sullivan Dwight

Deborah Phillips, Soprano

Terrance McCracken, Baritone

Margaret Harrison, Piano

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Tonight we will be celebrating Holy Communion by the method of intinction, where worshipers may come forward and take a piece of bread to dip into the cup. The ministers and ushers will direct you.

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION (the congregation singing)

Hymn No. 44 (blue hymnal) O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

Hymn No. 25 (blue hymnal) Away in a Manger

Mueller

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING ...

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:15-20

Rev. John Muntz

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 the final hymn, the ministers will lead a silent processional to carry the light outside, weather permitting. After everyone has gathered in the front courtyard, we will sing the first verse of "O Come All Ye Faithful."

***BENEDICTION**

*Indicates standing.

OUR THANKS to Margaret Harrison, Terrance McCracken, and Deborah Phillips for their enrichment of our worship this evening.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and thanks to all of you for our year together from your staff:
Angela Grobe, John Muntz, Buran Phillips, Pete Trofatter, Peter Van Eenam, Renee Wiesehuegel, and Sandra Williams.

NEWS FROM THE FLOWER GUILD

2010 FLOWER CALENDAR is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please remember to choose a date for 2010 in honor or memory of family or friends. A reminder card will be sent to you. We ask for a \$60.00 donation made payable to Westminster Flower Guild. If you have any questions, contact the church office.

Symbolism of the Lights

The significance of the Candlelight Service is twofold. First, in the distribution of the lights, we see dramatized before us the spreading of the Gospel Message and the growth of the church through the centuries. The pastor's candle is symbolic of Christ, the living Word, and is an extension of the Christ candle in the Advent wreath. The ushers who carry the light to the congregation represent the Apostles whom Christ sent out to spread the Word and draw the world to Him. The church has grown because men and women and young people who have heard the Good News have been faithful in telling someone else about it, and this is symbolized by your passing the light to the person beside you. The ushers will light the candle closest to the aisle. As each candle bursts into flame and the sanctuary gradually brightens, we catch the significance of Jesus' statement that we are "the light of the world," and that we should spread this light to the "very ends of the world." Secondly, we find significance in the lights during the singing of the dedication hymn. During the singing of the first verse, we hold our lights close as we 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 once again to him. During the last verse, we hold our candles high as we rededicate our part of His church here to the task of taking the Gospel Light to every corner of the earth. After the Benediction, please extinguish your light. Receptacles for the spent candles are located in the narthex.

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 or carpet. Children must be carefully supervised. For safety's sake, it is requested that children under six should "share" their parents candle.

READERS: Kay Price, Connor Sears, Wes Gosselin, Eric Adamcik

USHERS: Middle School and High School Youth

ELDERS: Jeff Bendy, Michael Yates, Bonny Naugher, Dave Woehr, Lisa Ellis, Wes Williams, Scott Brunger

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN on December 31. Please make sure you get your 2009 contributions and any pre-paid pledges for 2010 in no later than 1:00 p.m. December 31.

DECEMBER 27 WORSHIP SERVICE will be held at 11:00 a.m. (no early service).

Advent Flowers 2009

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions to our service with the beautiful flowers that were given during the Advent season.

Given By:

Anonymous. In celebration of Advent
Laura and Jack Barron. In honor of Laura's mother, Harriette D. Rowe
. . . In memory of Lester Rowe and Viola and John Barron
Carol Beilharz, children and grandchildren. In loving memory of Clark
The Bonnyman family In honor of Westminster's staff
Gary and Fidelia Boshears. In memory of Barbara Schilling
. . . and Barbara Finney
Sharon Boyce and Jack Woodall. In memory of Eloise Woodall,
. . . Jack Woodall, Sr., Erwin Boyce and Lee Boyce
. . . In honor of Virginia Boyce
Marlene Browning In memory of Larry Browning
Sara Cantrell In memory of Bob Cantrell and Scott Dean
Scott and Jerry Carley In honor of Georgann and Tom Byerley
The Dean Family In memory of Scott and Carter Dean
Christie Dowling. In honor of her mother, Betty M. Caldwell
Andrew, Kristi, Maggie and Lucy Gordon
. . . In memory of our dear friend, Deborah Rhatigan
Ross and Suzanne Graham In honor of their children
John and Betty Hanes
. . . In memory of Anne Knox Dobbins Oldham and Muriel R. Hanes
Gary, Katherine, Kaitlyn and Nathan Harmon. . . In memory of Benjamin Harmon
Russell Holt In memory of Edith Diane McFadden
Sky and Kathy Huck In memory of Kathy's parents, Albert and Phyllis Clark
Thomas and Lee Ingram In honor of Audrey Belyea
Lucy, Buz, John, Bill and Katie. In honor of Mary Watson
. . . In memory of John Watson, Bernice Johnson,
. . . Ewing Johnson and Judy Durant
Anne and John Langley In honor of Mrs. Robert B. Shepard
. . . In memory of Robert B. Shepard, Clarmont J. and Anne Langley,
. . . and Robert W. Langley
Meredith Harrison Mackay
. . . In honor of her grandmothers, Barbara Harrison and Audrey Belyea
. . . In memory of Joilinn
June Martin In celebration of Advent
Norman, Linda and Caroline McRae
. . . In memory of Norman's grandmother, Nora Orr Icenhower

Ibbie and John Muntz In memory of Laura Joy Muntz
The Murrian Family
. . . In memory of Betty S. Smith, Albert K. Murrian and William M. House, Jr.
Rookie and Jane Norton. In memory of their parents, Elmer and Edith Norton
. . . and Julius and Frances Hegedus
Rick and Janice Rawe In honor of Maggie, Sammy and Nina
Lacy, J.B. and Lily Reafsnyder In memory of JoAnn Reafsnyder
The Reafsnyder Family In memory of JoAnn Reafsnyder
Tim, Joyce, Matt, Tiffany and Chandler Ryan, Lauren and Brandon Bice
. . . In honor of Helen Ryan
John and Elizabeth Salsbery In memory of Chris Salsbery and Scott Dean
Jay and Debbie Schmid. In memory of Jay's parents, Jim and Flip Schmid
. . . In memory of their sister-in-law, April Schmid
John and Kathy Shilling In memory of Frank and Doris Thrams,
. . . Harvey and Doris Shilling and Sam J. Smith, Sr.
Kathleen and Larry Tragesser
. . . In memory of Justine Dukas, Clovis Tragesser and Gene Tragesser
. . . In honor of George Dukas, Chloe' and Lacey Tragesser
Robin and Joe Ben Turner. In honor of Joel, Ashley, Will, Nathalie and Bennett
Renee Wiesehuegel. In loving memory of Shirley Jean Rechenbach
Wes, Sandra and Spencer Williams
. . . In memory of N.W. McCown and Rev. Ryan Dearman
The Woehr Family. To the glory of God and in thankfulness for Jesus' birth
Jim and Linda Yates. In memory of Bob Cantrell, Barbara Finney,
. . . Chris Salsbery and Barbara Schilling