



The Order of Worship **December 24, 2015**
5:00 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.

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING...

PROCURE A CANDLE IN THE NARTHEX

PRELUDE Variations for Organ on “Dix” David P. Dahl
WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Buran F. Phillips
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The Harmon Family
CALL TO WORSHIP Caroline McRae

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. 31** (blue hymnal) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *Mendelssohn*

HAIL THE HEAVEN BORN PRINCE OF PEACE...

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE Micah 5:2-5a Barbara Adamcik
HYMN NO. 43 (blue hymnal) O Little Town of Bethlehem Noah Burgin
(Please remain seated) *Forest Green*

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2,6-7 James Hutzenbiler

SCRIPTURE Psalm 96:1-6 Ruth Ann Bendy

SCRIPTURE Psalm 96:10-13
***HYMN NO. 40** (blue hymnal) Joy to the World!
SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7
SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-14
CAROL On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Maggie Bendy
Antioch
 Joe Hutzenbiler
 Spencer Williams
Personent hodie
 arr. Gustav Holst

On this day earth shall ring With the song children sing To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to save us; Him the Father gave us. Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came down to earth, Bethlehem saw his birth; Ox and ass beside him From the cold would hide him. (Refrain)

God’s bright star, o’er his head, Wise men three to him led, Kneeling low by his bed, Lay their gifts before him, Praise him and adore him. (Refrain)

On this day angels sing; With their song earth shall ring, Praising Christ, heaven’s King, Born on earth to save us. Peace and love he gave us. (Refrain)
 trans. Jane Marion Joseph

Members of the Boys’ and Girls’ Choirs
 Trebles of the Westminster Choristers

SCRIPTURE I John 4:16-19 Buran Phillips
CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION Buran Phillips
***HYMN NO. 41** (blue hymnal) O Come, All Ye Faithful *Adeste fideles*

BORN THAT WE NO MORE MAY DIE...

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 Desseins éternels Olivier Messiaen
Eternal Purposes
 (from *La Nativité du Seigneur*)

“God, in his love, has predestined us to adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, in accordance with His pleasure and will, to the praise of the glory of His grace.”

The Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians 1:5-6

CHANGING OF THE PARAMENTS

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING ...

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:15-20 Leah Milam
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, ushers will direct the back pew to 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.” The text is found below.

***BENEDICTION**

*Indicates standing.

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.

Refrain
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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. Children must be carefully supervised. For safety’s sake, it is requested that children under six should “share” their parents candle.

Our thanks to Maggie Bendy for our bulletin art this evening. Maggie is the daughter of Jeff and Debbie Bendy and granddaughter of Dick and Joanne Bendy.

USHERS: Finn Burgin, Mac Whipple, Rhys Whipple, Ella Baker, Alice Gawne

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR THANKS to choir members Maggie Bendy, Ruth Ann Bendy, Fiona Collins, Nathan Harmon, Gracie Kringen, Eva Mathews, Hannah Mathews, Leah Milam, Griffen Oros, Meghan Oros, Jacob Phillips, and Ella Wright for their enrichment of our worship this evening.

THIS EVENING’S ORGAN MUSIC FOR COMMUNION is offered in memory of the victims of the recent bombings in Paris. French composer Olivier Messiaen’s mystical and deeply serene music transcends violence and hatred as it draws the listener to God’s love for all humankind.

THE FREE ACCOMPANIMENTS heard tonight are by legendary British composer and conductor David Willcocks, whose choral music is well known to Westminster’s congregation and to many others around the world. Director of the famed Choir of King’s College, Cambridge, for many years, he has elevated sacred music through his descants and arrangements of carols, choral collections he has edited, recordings of the great choral literature, and with his interaction with choral directors at many conferences and workshops. Tonight’s free accompaniments are offered in celebration of his life and in his memory after he passed away this past September at the age of 95.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: We will have one worship service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 27 and on Sunday, January 3. Our regular schedule resumes January 10th, with worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be open Monday, December 28 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. We will be closed Tuesday, December 29, Wednesday, December 30 and Friday, January 1. Regular office hours resume on Monday, January 4.

FINAL 2015 CONTRIBUTIONS as well as any 2016 prepaid offerings need to be in the church office by December 31. All offerings received by December 31 will be included in your 2015 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel.

Advent Flowers 2015

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

Robert and Lucinda Albiston

In memory of Lucinda's parents, John and Eileen Moran
Laura and Jack Barron. In honor of their children, granddaughter and husband and 3 precious great-granddaughters

Susan Baughman. In memory of Richard Baughman
Carol Beilharz, children and grandchildren. In loving memory of Clark Dick and Joanne Bendy. In memory of Paula Smartt and Bill Beintema
Jean and Brian Bonnyman. In memory of Betty Hall Kalister and Mrs. June Martin
Abbott and Esta Brayton. In memory of Rev. Douglas and Elinor Brayton
Marlene Browning. In memory of husband, Larry and sons, Steve and Craig
The Burgin Family. In memory of Dr. Lubomir S. Hnilica

Tom and Georgann Byerley. In memory of Bill Beintema
Sara Cantrell. In loving memory of Bob Jack and Kati Carley. In honor of Mason, Monroe, Maddox and McClendon Carley
Chappell children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren

In memory of Bill and Lola Chappell
Barbara Cline. In honor of Gabrielle, Jeff, Lisa, Dan, Faith and Arianna
Debbie and Clifford Cruze

In honor of their grandchildren: Katelyn, Caleb, Heyward and Luke
Bud and Carolyn Cunningham. In memory of their parents
James Dally. In memory of William Hiram Dally
The Dean Family. In memory of Scott, Carter and Mimi
Christie Dowling. In memory of her mother, Betty M. Caldwell
Carol, Scott, Jami and Olivia Faulkner. In memory of Kenneth L. Faulkner
Ruth and Joe Fielden. In memory of George Fielden
and in honor of Barbara Fielden and Bill and Toby Kelly
Friends and Carpool group: Cindy, Jean, Hazel, Ginger and Linda

In memory of June Martin

John and Jan Gross

In honor of their grandchildren: Cate and Ella Connelly and Carter Gross
John and Betty Hanes. In honor of the Flower Guild
John and Margaret Harrison. In memory of Bill and Barbara Harrison,
Herb Belyea and Jane Albright; in honor of Audrey Belyea
Buz and Lucy Johnson. In memory of Ewing and Bernice Johnson
and John and Mary Watson
Anne and John Langley. In honor of Bryson Wilde, Molly and Anna Langley
Cile and Ed Mathews and the Mathews-Hemsley Family

In memory of Matt Mathews
Rob and Susan McKeenan. In memory of their parents and grandparents
Norman, Linda Judge and Caroline McRae. In memory of Huel McRae
and Christine Judge, parents and grandparents
Charlie and Alice Mercer. In honor of friends and family
Rick and Janice Rawe. In gratitude for their granddaughters: Nina, Margaret
and Samantha

David L. Ridenour. In memory of Beth Ridenour
and in honor of Yale and Landis Gunn

Larry and Jeanne Ridley. In memory of Paula Smartt and Bill Beintema
Chandler, Camryn and Connor Ryan and Josie Bice

In honor of their amazing Nana and Papaw, Tim and Joyce Ryan
Joyce and Tim Ryan. In honor of Mrs. Helen Ryan
John and Elizabeth Salsbery. In memory of Chris Salsbery and Bonnee Rainwater
Brenda Seip. In honor and memory of Peter Adams Seip, beloved husband;
and her mother and father, Doris Stone Perkins Elliot and Robert Thomas Elliot
John Smartt. In memory of Paula Smartt
Aunt Julia Tortorelli. In honor of William Joseph Martin
Kathleen and Larry Tragesser. In memory of their parents:
George and Justine Dukas and Gene and Clovis Tragesser
and in honor of Peter Van Eenam

Robin and Joe Ben Turner. In memory of their parents
Renee and Bill Wiesehuegel. In memory of their mothers:
Natalie Smith and Shirley Jean Rechenbach

Claire and Thomas Wilson. In honor of their grandmother, Nancy Dean
Jim and Linda Yates. In memory of Bob Cantrell, Chris Salsbery,
Barbara Schilling and Bonnee Rainwater

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate
Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster
Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries
Angela Grobe, Director of Children’s Ministries
Mary Boyd, Education Coordinator
Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
Sandra Williams, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Friedrich Schilling, Jr., Pastor Emeritus
Debbie Bendy, *Abbey* Editor

BLT: Bible/Lunch/Tuesdays returns on January 12th, continuing our study of the wisdom literature of the Bible. Bring a lunch and join as in a discussion of the book of Job.

WEDNESDAYS WITH WESTMINSTER starts back up on January 13th. Our first evening speaker is Jim Cundall, who is very involved with Honor Air and will tell us stories from trips with veterans. Dinner is at 5:45, and our program begins at 6:30. Childcare is available.

THE SESSION

Class of 2016

Jerry Faerber
Vicki Mayfield
Scott Porter
Elizabeth Ridley
Angela Shilling
Youth Elder: Ethan Partelow
Clerk of Session: Georgann Byerley

Class of 2017

Phil Barnette
Bitsy Ingram
William Milam
Bryan Powell
Brenda Seip

Class of 2018

Leigh Dunlap
Steve Hoadley
J.P. Mackay
Linda Van Beke
Michael Yates

TRUSTEES

John Smartt

Larry Ridley

Paul Jorden