



The Order of Worship

December 24, 2023
5:00 pm

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 Partita XI

Georg Böhm

(from the chorale partita on *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele*)
O My Soul, Be Glad and Joyful

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Birdwell Family

Hymn No. 147 (*Glory to God* hymnal) The First Nowell

The First Nowell

**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

TRAVELING TO BETHLEHEM

Hymn No. 121 (*Glory to God* hymnal) O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.**

THE FAMILY ARRIVES

Hymn No. 115 (*Glory to God* hymnal) Away in a Manger

Mueller

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE SHEPHERDS

Hymn No. 119 (*Glory to God* hymnal) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

THE SHEPHERDS ARRIVE

Hymn No. 113 (*Glory to God* hymnal) 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!**

THE MAJI ARRIVE

Hymn No. 151 (*Glory to God* hymnal) We Three Kings of Orient Are

Kings of Orient

**We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!**

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING

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

Adeste Fideles

**O Come, all yet faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O Come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created!**

Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

Refrain

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!**

Refrain

WONDERING AND COMING CLOSE (Congregation's Candles are Lit)

Children join their families.

***Hymn No. 122** (*Glory to God* hymnal) Silent Night

Stille Nacht

**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.**

**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!"**

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lent thy light;
 With the angels let us sing
 Alleluia to our King;
 Christ the Savior is born;
 Christ the Savior is born.**

Advent Flowers 2023

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

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

TAKING OUR LIGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD (Courtyard)

Ushers will direct front half of congregation to the side door by the pulpit.

Ushers will direct the back half of congregation to the Shilling gallery doors.

***Hymn No. 134** (*Glory to God* hymnal) Joy to the World

Antioch

**Joy to the World, the Lord is 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.**

**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.**

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
 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
 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
 The MacKays In memory of Zorro MacKay
 The MacKays In honor of Audrey Belyea
 Ed, Cile, Hannah & Eva Mathews and Danielle Mathews Hemsley
 In memory of Matt Mathews

The 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

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 Rev. Gradye Parsons, Parish Associate
 Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus
 Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster
 Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries, CLP
 Sophia Manrod, Director of Children’s Ministries
 Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
 Joanna Warren, Administrative Assistant
 Linda Judge McRae, Parish Nurse
 Debbie Bendy, Abbey Editor
 Arthur Collins, Worship Tech

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

*Please stand in Body or Spirit

THE SESSION

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Josh Birdwell	Ed Babelay	Bill Farnham
Gloria Borum	Wendy Collins	Lee Ingram
Melanie Lewis	Janet Drumm	Lucy Johnson
Lisa Oros	Stephen Fortney	Kathryn Oakes
Chris Van Beke	Barbara Froula	Richard Ward
Youth Elder: Arthur Collins	Clerk of Session: Bitsy Ingram	

TRUSTEES

Ron Alexander Alice Mercer John Smartt