

Christmas Eve

TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Baby Jesus by Mike Moyers

Westminster Presbyterian Church



December 24, 2023 | 9:00 p.m.

THE Celebration OF Worship

Prelude

Do You Hear What I Hear

arr. Harry Simeone

Away in a Manger

arr. Mack Wilberg

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Katy Williams, soprano

Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle (Sue and John Free)

Leader: How does a weary world hold onto hope,
practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

People: **How does a weary world combat cruelty?**

Leader: How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

People: **We do all these things with God's help.
For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.**

Leader: Tonight, Christ draws near.

People: **Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.**

Leader: Tonight, we are not alone.

People: **God is near. Love has drawn close.
Rejoice! For God loves this weary world.**

***Opening Hymn No. 133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

1. O come, all ye 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.

2. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (*Refrain*)
3. 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*)

***Prayer for Christmas Eve**

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

People: Living God, on this holy night we gather—
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.
May the good news of this night inspire us
to make room in our hearts.
Unto us a child is born.
Unto us grace is given. Amen.

Anthem

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Lucy Livingston, oboe

arr. Dan Forrest

Prayer of Illumination

A Lesson from the Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

Anthem

Sleep, Little Lamb

Joseph M. Martin

Prayers of the People 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.

Hymn No. 128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

POLISH HYMN TUNE

(remain seated)

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, Noel's ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

2. Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

A Lesson from the Gospel

Luke 2:15-20

Meditation

We Make Room

Jo Forrest

Offertory Anthem

Angels from the Realms of Glory

arr. Dan Forrest

Bringing the Light Into the World

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

As the worship leaders walk down the aisle, pausing at each pew to light the end candle, offer the light to your neighbor and greet them with "the peace of Christ be with you." After all the candles are lighted, the congregation will join in singing "Silent Night." During the last verse, carefully raise your candle aloft. Please extinguish your candle following the benediction and place them in the receptacles in the narthex as you leave

Closing Hymn No. 122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

(remain seated)

Choirs & Congregation

- 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.

***Benediction**

—Continued

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.

Leading in worship: Jo Forrest, Hamish Forrest, Jim Burns, Christine Hestwood, Lorraine Milovac, Katy Williams, Lucy Livingston, the Chancel Choir

Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church, a community of faith committed to bringing people to Christ through worshipping God, teaching the faith, and serving in mission. We grow together in the trials and joys of life with laughter and mutual support.

At Westminster, children and families are essential members of our community, and we encourage all ages to participate in worship. As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, we invite your family to wiggle, sing, dance, color, and make a joyful noise with the congregation. Coloring sheets and a family restroom can be found in the lobby.

If you'd like a little more space to wiggle while you worship, the Wiggle Room provides a safe space for families to step away and listen to the service.

Whether you are visiting for the first time or a longtime member, we are blessed to have you join us on this holy evening. We invite you to return often and consider making this your church home.

STAFF PROGRAM / MINISTRY CONTACTS

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New Year's Eve Worship Service

December 31, 2023 – One Worship Service | 10 am in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Loose Offering In this season of joy and giving, there are those in our communities who experience hardships and lack basic necessities. We think of and pray for these homeless men, women, and children. We recognize all that we have in our lives and seek to bring some light to theirs. The Christmas Eve offering will be given to Street Moms, a community outreach initiative that hand delivers needed items and personal connection to the homeless population in Wheeling, WV. WPC engages in hands on mission with Street Moms, making meals, supplying tents and other necessities. The offering also will be shared with Proud Haven, a local shelter for homeless LGBTQIA+ youth, an organization selected by the youth of Westminster as a meaningful cause.

The Chancel Guild wishes to thank all who contributed Christmas poinsettias. They add greatly to the beauty of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Poinsettias will be available on December 24 following the 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. services, and from December 26 through 28, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. All donated flowers will be delivered to one of our members in care.

OUR PRIORITIES

LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

Accept **EVERYONE
WITH LOVE**

Inspire **WONDER AND
MEANING**

seek **JUSTICE, WITHOUT
EXCEPTION**

Energize **THE NEXT
GENERATION**



2023

Christmas Memorial/Honoree Poinsettias

Given by:

All who loved her

Barbara & Richard Allwes

Emily & Troy Bailey

The Balsinger Family

Bea Bartko

John Baumiller

Kristy & Raymond Berrott

David E. Berry

Knox & Lynn Brown

Jane & Rae Burton

Von & Suzanne Campanella

Donna Carroll

Bobbie Copeland

Barbara Cox; Jason & Carrie Golvash

Janis Davis

Bill, Karlyn & Tommy Davis

R. Loraine Dellaria

Lynn Cummings Dempsey

Jay Descalzi

Susan Fitzsimmons

Hamish Forrest

Mary Gilleland & Family

In Memory of:

Denise Burke

Grace & Harry Blinn, parents

Grandparents; Ball, Allwes, Davidson, and Blinn Families

Georgette Bailey

William Bailey

Loved Ones

David R. Bartko

William & Mary Baumiller

Ron & Ruth Berrott

Linda Rae Berry

Our parents

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

In memory of John Carroll & Family

David Jay Copeland, loving husband and father

Carl D. Fazio, loving husband of Kay Fazio

Philip M. Cox and Loved Ones

Robert Davis

Carl & Jean Daube

Tom & Sandy Daube

Arthur & Jackie Davis

Eleanor J. Davis

Howard I. & Anne Richey

Mary Jane Richey Lonick

Loved Ones

Joan Descalzi

Gilbert Fitzsimmons

Jack & Margaret Forrest

Woody Gilleland

Given by:

Sally Grabowski

The Hammel Family

Drew Hauth

The Heilman Family

Bev Hilty

Isabelle Holzapfel

The James C. Ickes, Jr. Family

Ernest & Dora Kern & Family

Karen & Russ Kern

Wilma Knapp

Catherine Kramer

The Krock Family

Ted & Sara Kyle

Nancy Langston

Bill & Maureen Ludwig

Frank & Marge McCabe

Tim & Jane McConnell

The McCormick Family

Charlotte McDaniel

Joni & Ruth McMillen

Patricia May & W. Rodgers Moore

Andie & Bob Noah

Ruth O'Brien

Susan Phillips-Castelli

Bridgette Pierce

Hedy & George Pitcairn

Platt & Bacheson Families

Robert & Maryanne Purdy

In Memory of:

Florence & Ben Milcarek, parents

Loved Ones

Chuck & Jane Hauth

Dick & Donna Heilman

David Hilty

John Holzapfel

James & Emma Ickes
Harry & Virginia Simmons
Samuel Ickes

Homer W. Kern
George & Thelma Smith

Dr. George Carrick
Ren Simmons

David W. Knapp, husband
Michael Knapp Brindley, grandson

Loved Ones

Ruth & George C. Krock
Betty & Dan Heiple

Kenneth Kyle

Richard Everett Langston, Jr.

Bill & Christine Ludwig
Jack O'Brien

Frank & Eileen McCabe
Adrian & Betty Oskam

Our Parents, Ruth & Bill McConnell
Janice McConnell, sister

Loved Ones

Linda Serene

Francis & Lillian McMillen

Orveal & Betty Ann May
Bill & Anne Moore

Our Parents

Jack O'Brien

Family & Friends

Barbara Miller, mother

Edward & Grace Streets
Katheryn & George W. Pitcairn Sr.

Bob & Flo Lawrence

Our Parents

Given by:

Richard, Kelly & Maura Ralston
Robert Ralston

Jim, John & Aki Roberts

Bill & Denise Rost
Harry Serene

Sandy Shanahan
The Simon Family

Lois Singleton

Joan & Peter Stephans
Craig, Leslie, Matt & Kate Stiffler

Bonnie Thompson
Tim & Sandy Thompson

Claire Thornburgh

Joan E. Watson
Karen Williams

Jackie, Jeff & Craig Wilson
Jeff & Mary Zora

In Memory of:

Abbey Victoria
Karen Ralston
Abbey Ralston

John M. Roberts
Jane F. Skutt

Loved Family Members

Linda Serene
Clara & Michael Serene
Margaret & Frank Hootman

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

William Singleton, husband
Amelia Kelly, mother

Our Parents and Grandparents

Callie Christner

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Jack & Helen Watson, my wonderful parents

Dorothy, Thomas & John Watson

Paul & Marthe Haupt, parents
Gregg Yeager

John H. Wilson

Warren Dean

Given by

Anonymous
Knox & Lynn Brown
Rick & Ethel Collins
Charlotte McDaniel
Bill & Denise Rost
Charlie & Claire Thornburgh

In Honor of:

Rev. Dr. Jo Forrest
Kira & Addie Brown
Our children: Beth, Jeanne, and Billy
Family and friends
Our grandchildren
Brooks Watson Thornburgh, grandson