



How does a weary world rejoice?

An Advent series in Luke's Gospel



Westminster Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2023 | 10:00 a.m.

THE Celebration OF Worship

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Sinfonia from Christmas Oratorio
Großer Herr, o starker König
Vinay Thomas, baritone

J.S. Bach

Great Lord, O mighty King, dearest savior,
how little you care about earthly splendor!
He who sustains the entire world, who created its
magnificence and beauty, must sleep in a hard manger.

Welcome and Announcements

*Share the Peace of Christ

*Candle Lighting (Rebecca and Neal Stoczynski)

Leader: How does a weary world practice love?

People: **By sending cards and picking up the phone.**

Leader: By practicing empathy and assuming the best in others.
By learning people's stories and finding common ground.

People: **By advocating for justice and saving a place at the table.**

Leader: There are a million ways to practice love.
So today we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge.

People: **With God's help, may we bring love into a weary world.**

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
More days than not, hope feels like the rain.
We try to hold onto it with cupped hands,
but eventually, it slips right on through.
Forgive us for holding hope so loosely.
Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow.
We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray:
turn us into those people.
Teach us how to sing songs of hope for the world.
With open hearts we pray ...

(A time of silence for personal confession)

*Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

*Sung Response

Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; his name is called Emmanuel.

Prayers of the People

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.

Congregational Response

THREEFOLD AMEN

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:67-80

New Testament, page 26

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Sing Songs of Hope

Jo Forrest

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

Offertory Anthem

This Is My Wish

Lauer and Lauer

This is my wish, my wish for the world: that peace will find its way to every boy and girl.
This is the time, the time for harmony. Let love be the song that everybody sings.
Fill the air with joyful noise, ring the bells and raise your voice.
Let there be peace on earth. Lift your light, let it shine.
Let every voice be heard, let there be peace on earth.
I hear the sweetest sound, the sound of hope to come.
Together we could bring goodwill to everyone.
Let it start with you, let it start with me. Let every nation rise and sing this melody.

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*Closing Hymn No. 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on *In Dulci Jubilo*

J.S. Bach

Leading in worship: Jo Forrest, Nolan Daniele, Jim Burns, and Vinay Thomas

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.

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Westminster Staff Contact Information

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