



Service for the Lord's Day

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2018
at 5 p.m.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Luke 2:15-18

W

Welcome visitors, newcomers, and friends celebrating the Birth of Christ with us tonight! Feel free to take a *Welcome to Westminster* pamphlet from the pew rack. We hope you will worship with us again, whenever possible. If you're interested in joining our church community, please speak to a pastor after worship or contact the church office, 434-293-3133.

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude *Pastorella*

J. S. Bach

◆ Processional Hymn 41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Adeste Fideles

◆ Lighting of the Advent Candles

The impossible is about to happen in a stable.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined!

This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath,

for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.

This is the evening when God came to earth!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

◆ Sung Response

1 2
Pre - pare the way of the Lord, pre - pare the way of the Lord,
3 4
and all peo- ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre-

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of stable, stars and surprises, of light and hope and new life:

Open our eyes and hearts to your presence in our world.

Forgive our obsession with property and possessions;

Forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision.

Open us to your grace, that we might hear again the song of the angels, and respond with a song of justice, mercy and peace in our hearts and in our lives.

Silence

Sung Response

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us has come to us in Jesus Christ who heals, restores and redeems us. So arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

◆ Congregational Response

Let the nations shout and sing, glory to their Savior bring;
All below and all above sing your praise with joy and love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Welcome

Telling the Story

Anthem

Were You There on That Christmas Night?

Natalie Sleeth

Were you there on that Christmas night, when the world was filled with a holy light?
Were you there to behold, when the wonder foretold came to earth?

Did you see how they hailed him King, with the gifts so rare that they chose to bring?
Did you see how they bowed, as they praised him aloud at his birth?

Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang, at the glory of the sight?
Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang, all through the night?

Did you know it was God's own son, the salvation of the world begun?
Did you know it was love, that was sent from above to the earth?

Traveling to Bethlehem

Jesus Is Born

Carol 25

Away in a Manger, vs. 1-2

Mueller

The Shepherd's Story

Carol 56

The First Nowell, vs. 1-2

The First Nowell

The Angel Host

Carol 31

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, vs. 1

Mendelssohn

The Wise Ones Visit

Carol 66

We Three Kings of Orient Are, vs. 1

Three Kings of Orient

◆ Hymn HS 3

When God Is a Child

Moon Beams

The Offering**Offertory***Noel, Noel*

arr. Linda Spevacek

Joyfully we sing noel, noel, spreading to the world the news we have to tell.
O he is born, a babe, the newborn king. He has been born, glad tidings now we bring.

God rest ye merry, Christians all, let nothing you dismay, remember Christ, the Savior, was born on Christmas day to save us all from satan's power when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our great creator a blessed angel came, and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same, how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name. O tidings of comfort and joy.

◆ **Presentation of the Offering**

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; Come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.**

No. 53

◆ **Prayer of Dedication****Passing the Light**

*When candles are lighted, those already lighted should be held straight up;
unlighted ones should be tipped forward to receive the light.*

Carol**Silent Night, Holy 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, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Christmas Prayer

Please extinguish candles.

◆ **Carol 29****Go, Tell It on the Mountain***Go Tell It*◆ **The Benediction**

Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas to all!

Closing Voluntary*Postlude on 'Mendelssohn'*

David Willcocks

Participants in Worship**Liturgist**

Lynne Clements
Ken Henry

Ushers

Paul Schakel (head),
Jim Huneycutt

Greeters

Billie Best
Lucy Burnette

Fellowship Team

Anne Andrews
Ellen Hench
Sabra Timmons

Sound Engineer

Michael Costanzo

Deacon of the Day

Cheryl Oliver

Advent Candle-Lighters

Wayne and Lee Cilimberg

Lay Reader

Virginia Rovnyak

Flute

Cole Smith

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Church News

The church office will be closed, beginning December 24, reopening on January 2. We will be checking voice mail and email, in case of emergency.

Choir Rehearsals in choir room:

Sun., Jan. 6, at 10 a.m. Adult Choir
Thurs., Jan. 10, at 4 p.m. Choristers
Thurs., Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. Adult Choir
Sun., Jan. 13, at 12:15 p.m. Singers rehearsal

Sunday school for adults, youth and children will resume on January 13.

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** is on January 20 after the 11 a.m. worship service.

We'll return to two services, at 8:30 and 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 27.

Westminster Staff

Ken Henry, *Pastor*
khenry@westminsterva.org

Lynne Clements,
Associate Pastor

Megan Sharp,
Director of Fine Arts
Jonathan Schakel, *Organist*
Brittany Caine-Conley,
Interim Dir. of Univ. Mission

Sanford Wilcox,
Church Administrator
Kate Brinkley,
Office Manager

Steve Brown,
Finance Administrator
Tom Mullen, *Sexton*

Alonzo Williams,
Assistant Sexton

**Mission Statement**

*Sustained by grace, we are called to serve Christ,
share God's love, and work for justice in a complex world.*

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

Poinsettias and Other Seasonal Decorations have been given in loving memory of. . .

Mary and Ben Andersen by Ellen and Willie Andersen
George and Kay Bartel, by their daughter, Christa Livermon
Jim and Mary Beard by Kathie and Taylor Beard
Irv Brownfield by the Brownfield family
Irby B. Cauthen, Jr. by Betty Cauthen
Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Dietzler by Debbie and James Wolfe
Mary Virginia Garrett, Mary Elizabeth Rovnyak, Julius Burke, and Jim Pickley
by Virginia Rovnyak
James W. Grove by Margaret M. Grove and family
Family by D. Broward Craig
Charity Haines by Richard Haines
Joyce Kerns by her husband Forrest Kerns, daughter Suzanne and granddaughter
Jaiden Hathaway
Hugh Lucas and Hans Birle by the Lucas and Birle family
Fred and Virginia Invernizzi by Ellen and Willie Andersen
Nelda and Wayne Jacobs, parents of Kirk and Kathy Jacobs
Dr. Harry T. McPherson by the Hadley family
John and Charlotte Stacey by Dick and Pam Stacey Gibson
Marvin and Anna Lee Sutphin by Kathie and Taylor Beard
Lota Lee, her mother, by Kathie and Taylor Beard
Chris and Pamela by Pamela Gale
José Ríos Suárez and Concepción Vázquez Cambón by George Stetkevych
Myrtle Maxwell by Judy Dunscomb
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Kyle Wolfe, Sr. by Debbie and James Wolfe
Edgar and Lydia Woods and Norman and Ruth Peale by John and Lydia Peale

. . . in celebration of family and friends by. . .

Lou and Alan Williams
Carol Hogg
Kathy and Kirk Jacobs