



Service for the Lord's Day

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2018
at 8:30 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

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 *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Awake, the voice is calling us)* J. S. Bach
Meine Seele erhebt den Herren (My soul exalts the Lord)
Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter (Come thou, Jesus, down from heaven)
Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her (From heaven high to earth I come)
 Pastorella
Von Himmel kam der Engel Schar (From heaven came the angel host)
In dulci jubilo (In sweet rejoicing)

◆ Carol 41 **O Come, All Ye Faithful** *Adeste Fideles*

Welcome

The Prophets Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol 44 **O Little Town of Bethlehem** *St. Louis*
 First Verse

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
God, our Light and Salvation,
forgive us for those moments when we have walked in darkness,
stumbling in the wilderness of quarrels, division, and bickering.
You have called us to follow you and to fish for people
but too often we think that our way is the only way to do your will.
Forgive us, Lord, for the brokenness that we bring upon ourselves.

Silence

Carol 44 **O Little Town of Bethlehem** *St. Louis*
 Third Verse

God, the Stronghold of our Life,
hear our cry as we come to you for unity.
Send your Spirit to gather us as you desire us.
Remind us that unity does not mean uniformity.
Teach us that the "same mind" you call us to have is not ours,
but the mind of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Silence

Carol 44 **O Little Town of Bethlehem** *St. Louis*
 Fourth Verse

Assurance of Pardon

Do you feel it? God's tender mercy rests on you, heals you, transforms you.
Do you see it? God's Light breaks into our lives, and shows us the way.

**Renewed and made whole, we see the path God has prepared for us —
 the way of hope, the way of peace,
 the way of joy, the way of love. 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.**

◆ Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Carol 28 **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice** *In dulci jubilo*

God's Word to Us

Gospel Lesson Luke 2:1-14 NT pg. 54

Solo *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* arr. Healey Willan
 Text can be found at hymn 61

Psalter Psalm 85 OT p. 514

Sermon Searching for a Christmas Prayer Ken Henry

The Offering

Offertory *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; it is the night of our dear savior's birth.
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
 Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
 So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wise men from the Orient land.
 The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend;
 He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger; behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another, his law is love, and his gospel is peace;
 Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease.
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name;
 Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

- ◆ Presentation of the Bread and Cup
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

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Hymnal pg. 16

Breaking of the Bread

Communion Music

O Come, O come, Emmanuel

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

What Child Is This

Prayer after Communion

To you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son,

light in darkness and hope of the world, whom you sent to save us.

With singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story,

that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down,

acknowledging your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Please extinguish candles

- ◆ Carol 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

- ◆ The Benediction

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas to all!

Closing Voluntary

Postlude on 'Mendelssohn'

David Willcocks

Liturgists

Lynne Clements

Ken Henry

Ushers

Saunders Midyette (head),

Shirley Midyette,

Paul Schakel

Greeters

Billie Best

Lucy Burnette

Sound Engineer

Elton Oliver

Deacon of the Day

Cheryl Oliver

Harp

Betty Ashton Mayo

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

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 return on January 13, 2019.

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.

Portions of the service are reprinted by permission from the *Book of Common Worship*, copyright © 2018 Westminster/John Knox Press and *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*. Kimberly Bracken Long, ed. WJK: Louisville, KY, 2015. Words to the choral responses are reprinted by permission.

Hearing Enhancement – Westminster is equipped with personal hearing assistance devices for use by our worshippers. These are available in the narthex, to be checked out from the ushers before services. Our sanctuary is equipped with "T-coil" technology.

Large-Print versions of *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, and our own *Hymnal Supplement* are available for use during the service. If you would like to use any of these large print copies, please ask an usher.

Children and Worship – Families are encouraged to worship together, whenever possible. We strive to include children who are first graders and older in our worship service. Children's pew Bibles, children's bulletins, and worship bags are available from the ushers. A "comfort room" is available downstairs for those with small children who might need a place to rest or play. A speaker in that room makes it possible to hear the service.

Westminster StaffKen 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.*



*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