

Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

Westminster Presbyterian Church
400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, Virginia
www.westminsterva.org · 434-293-3133



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elcome visitors, newcomers, and friends worshipping with us today! If you're interested in joining our church community, please speak to a pastor after worship or contact the church office, 434-293-3133. We hope you will worship with us again, whenever possible.

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci júbilo'

Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome

◆ Call to Worship

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest!

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

Glory to God in the highest!

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Glory to God in the highest!

◆ Hymn 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

Call to Confession

In the midst of great joy and celebration, we sometimes find ourselves needing God's grace more.

We need to know that God loves us and offers us forgiveness. And so in this Christmas season, we turn to God in prayer.

Prayer of Confession

In this Christmastide, as another year draws to a close,

we come together before God

and with one another,

confessing the ways in which we have been caught up in the

frenzied spirit of the holidays and turned away from your Spirit of peace.

We confess those times we have focused so much on our own lives

and desires that we have neglected the voices of your children who cry out for justice.

We have turned away from hurting people

and broken places in our world in need of healing.

God of the angels and shepherds, forgive us.

Your Word has come to reshape our lives;

your Light has come to show us the way home;

your Son has come to make us your family.

Have mercy and make us new people.

Silent Prayers

**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 Forgiveness

Hear the good news of Christmas.

Today God reveals to us the wonders of divine love.

**For unto us a Child is born;
 unto us a Son is given.
 His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
 the Mighty God,
 the Everlasting Father,
 the Prince of Peace.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

◆ Sung 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 the Peace

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

God's Word to Us

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 63:7-9

Solo

Sweet, Holy Child

Mary Caldwell

Sophie Caplin, soprano

What shall I bring for the sweet, holy Child
 Who has but the straw for a bed?
 Shall I bring stars for a wee silver crown
 To place by his dear little head?
 Gold from the sun shall I bring for a light,
 Softest of moonbeams to garland the night.
 Gentle white lambs for his delight,
 Sweet Jesus, the Lord of my heart.

What shall I bring for the sweet, holy Child
 Who smiles as he wakes from his sleep?
 Roses so fair and a soft blanket warm,
 All these the young Jesus may keep.
 Songs for his joy and delight I shall bring,
 All of my heart for this dear little King.
 Love and devotion the tribute I bring,
 Sweet Jesus, the Lord of my life.

Lullay, lully, thou sweet, holy Child,
I bring thee a lullaby song.
Dreamless thy slumber for night winds are still,
The wise men and shepherds have gone.
Far in the eastern sky shadows appear.
Hush, little Princeling, there's nothing to fear.
Soft as an echo thy name I hear,
Sweet Jesus, the Savior of all.

Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 4:7-11

Sermon

Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra

Responding to God's Word

◆ Affirmation of Faith

adapted from "First Coming" by Madeleine L'Engle

**God did not wait till the world was ready,
till nations were at peace.**

**God came when the heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.**

**God did not wait for the perfect time.
God came when the need was deep and great.
God dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.**

**God came to a world which did not mesh;
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made flesh,
the maker of the stars was born.**

**We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
For to share our grief, to touch our pain,
God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!**

◆ Hymn 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Prayers of the Congregation and the Lord's Prayer

Glory to God Hymnal, p. 35

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season.
May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us,
for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 136

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

GO TELL IT

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

In dulci jubilo

James Engel

- ◆ Please stand, as you are able.

The organist for today's service is Alice Layman.

What's Happening *at Westminster*

Sunday, January 2

11 a.m. In-person Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion

Wednesday, January 5

7 p.m. 20/30 CreW Wednesday Wind-Down

Thursday, January 6

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 9

8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. In-person Worship in the Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Church School

12:15 p.m. Singers Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 11

7 p.m. Tuesday Evening Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, January 13

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Westminster Staff

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Assistant Sexton

Through a series of online and in-person messages, devotionals, and worship opportunities, we hope to keep you connected to — and nurtured by — the Westminster community. Make sure you're signed up for our eNews, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, @westminsterville.

Visit www.westminsterva.org.