

Service for the Lord's Day



January 1, 2023

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

Welcome 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

See What His Love Can Do, from Cantata 85

J. S. Bach

Welcome

◆ Call to Worship

Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...

Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers...

Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...

*Bring your questions, your hope, your faith and your fear
into this space.*

God is here.

◆ Hymn 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of starlight, good news can't be bought or manufactured.

It does not arrive with a push of a button.

Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst.

We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did.

We have to believe that love really can change the world.

We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights.

Forgive us for forgetting that.

Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts.

We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day.

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal 121

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

Friends, I have nothing but good news.

Since the very first day, God has taken the pieces of our hearts that we have offered up and has said, "I can work with that."

Even in our failings, God has washed us with words of grace, belonging, and love.

No matter what star you've followed,

no matter how far you've walked,

no matter how lost you get,

you belong to God.

God loves you. God forgives you. God claims you.

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.

God's Word to Us

A Time with Children and Youth

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Luke 2:15-21

NT p. 55
David Garth

Second Reading

John 1:1-18

NT p. 86

Sermon

Two Voices

Jewell-Ann Parton

Responding to God's Word

◆ Hymn 146

Gentle Mary, Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

◆ Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that faith is active, found on long walks, and in long talks,
in future days, and down memory lane.**

We believe that those who seek will find, although it may not be what they expected.

We believe that God finds us first.

**We believe that God drops breadcrumbs along our way in the shape of people, invitations,
and even starlight.**

We believe that being a seeker—of God, of justice, of community—is a holy thing.

So we strive to live with an open spirit, with soft hearts, and with room to grow.

May it be so.

This we believe. Amen.

Prayers of the Congregation

The Offering

Offertory *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising (German Carol, 18th c.)* arr. Helmut Walcha

- ◆ Presentation of the Bread and Cup Glory to God hymnal 145
**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, 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.**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

GTG Hymnal, p. 35

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

HS 78

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

...great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

HS 79

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God,

we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,

to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- ◆ Hymn 136 **Go, Tell It on the Mountain** GO TELL IT

- ◆ Charge and Benediction

- ◆ Passing of the Peace

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

Postlude

He Is Born (French Carol, 18th c.)

arr. Richard Hudson

- ◆ Please stand, as you are able.

Organist: Diane Kingsbury

What's Happening

at Westminster

Monday, January 2

Church office closed

Wednesday, January 4

7 p.m. 20/30/40 CreW Wednesday Wind-Down (off site)

Thursday, January 5

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room

Sunday, January 8

9:30 a.m. Church school resumes

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. Singers Rehearsal in the Choir Room

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Assistant Sexton

This service features images and liturgy from the series *From Generation to Generation*
by A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Welcome to the Westminster community. Make sure you're signed up for our eNews, Facebook,
Twitter, and Instagram accounts, @westminsterville. Visit www.westminsterva.org.

To give, scan the QR code to the right.



The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / né*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

The image shows a musical score for two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on the top staff, and the bass line is on the bottom staff. The lyrics 'born is the King of Is - ra - el.' are written below the top staff, with hyphens under 'Is' and 'ra' to indicate syllables. The music consists of a series of chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together.

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.
 frankincense. *Refrain*

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child 146

1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;

there he lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.
 heav-en's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.
 he is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.

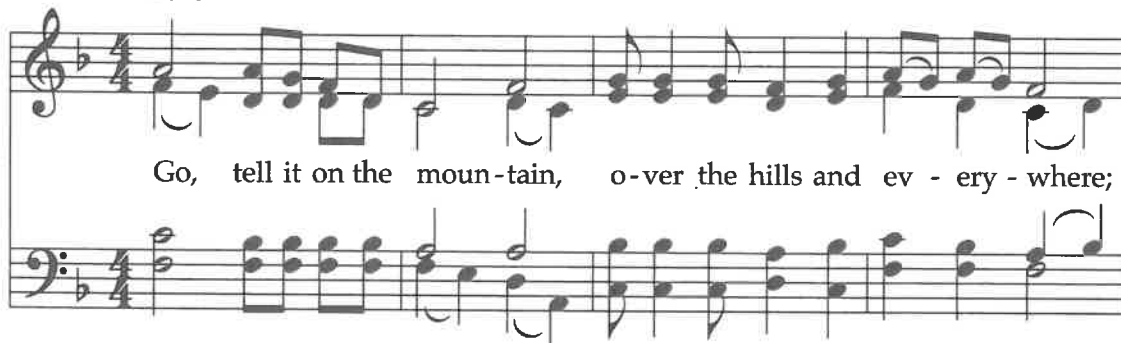
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sav - ior?
 Shep-herds saw the won-drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.
 all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ring - ing.
 praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glo - ry!

This 20th-century Christmas text by an English-born Canadian clergyman was originally a poem called "The Manger Prince." It gains a certain antique flavor by being set to a late medieval song associated with springtime. (The tune name means "The flowering time is near.")

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

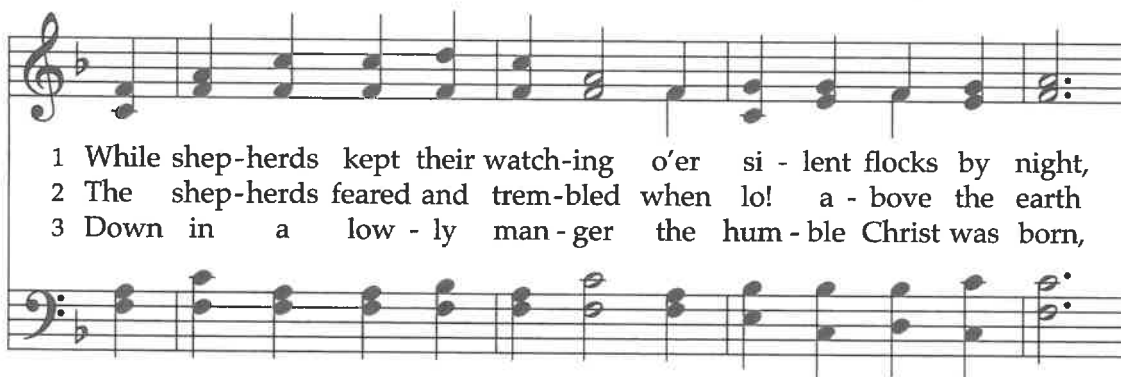


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

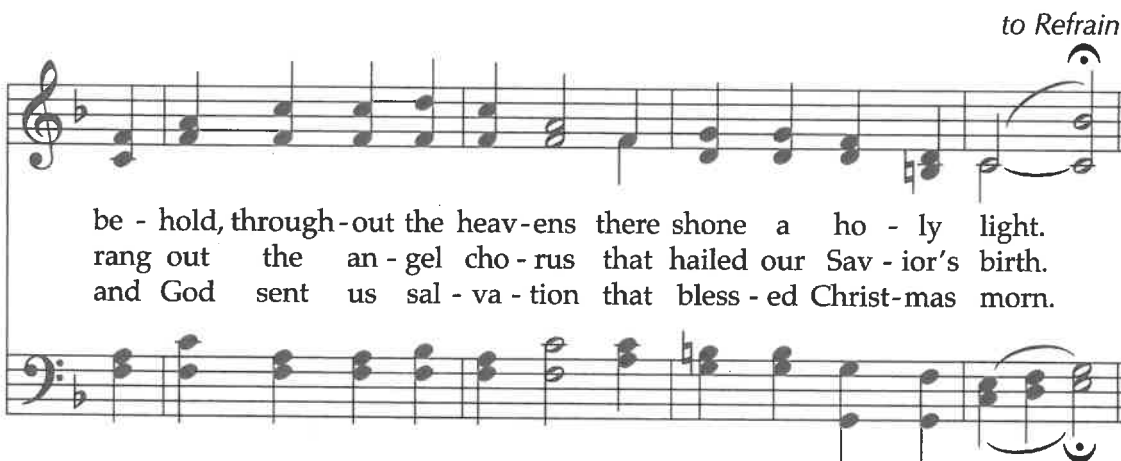


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.