

Service for the Lord's Day

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022, 8:30 p.m.

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



*W*elcome visitors, newcomers, and friends worshipping with us today!
We hope you will worship with us again. Blessings and Christmas peace.

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

Pastorella

J. S. Bach

*Canonic Variations on Vom Himmel hoch
In dulci jubilo*

◆ Hymn 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

◆ Lighting of the Advent Candles (Christ is Born!)

The Oakland-Takahashi family

Tonight we tell the story that we tell every year—the story of Christ's birth, the story of love made flesh. It's a story that weaves through every generation. It's a story that picks up the bits and pieces of our narrative and draws us together.

So tonight we light the Christ candle, because from generation to generation, our story belongs to God. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Welcome and Christmas Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we admit we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

We are not familiar with angel choruses.

We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,

and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.

Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,

we whisper this good news.

Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.

Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much,

we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.

Forgive us for our silence.

Forgive us for our hesitation.

Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.

Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation.

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

Friends, this is the good news...

... 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.**

God's Word to Us

Anthem

Lullay Lord Jesus

arr. George Thalben-Ball

Lullay Lord Jesus, dear babe in the manger.
Mother is guarding Thee safe from all danger.
Lullay, oh Lullay, the angels watch o'er Thee,
Mother and angels forever adore Thee.

Closed are Thy weary eyes, now softly sleeping,
Born of God's love and secure in God's keeping.
Lullay, oh Lullay . . .

Reading

Luke 2:1-20

NT p. 54

◆ Hymn 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Christmas Meditation

Come to the Stable

Jewell-Ann Parton

Responding to God's Word

◆ Christmas Affirmation of Faith

*We believe that for generations people have gathered together on this holy night,
because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us.*

**We believe in bundling up this hope,
this good news, and passing it on—
to each other, to our neighbors,
to the world around us.**

**We believe our voice can make a difference.
We believe this story can make a difference,
so we will not stay quiet.**

**We will tell this story—of a love that makes room for all.
We will sing this story—of a love that knows our name.
We will live this story—because love has come again.
We believe that words have power.
We will not stay quiet.**

The Offering

The offering this evening will benefit the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center's Eko Ise program, which provides arts education for African-American children ages 8 to 18.

Offertory

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

arr. David Brunner

Beautiful star of Bethlehem,
Shining afar through shadows dim,
Giving the light to those who long have gone,
Guiding the Wise Men on their way
Unto the place where Jesus lay.
Beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

Beautiful star, the hope of light,
Guiding the pilgrims through the night,
Over the mountains 'til the break of dawn.
Into the light of perfect day
It will give out a lovely ray.
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on.

Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem,
Shine upon us until the glory dawns
Give us the light to light the way
Unto the land of perfect day.
Beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

Beautiful star, the hope of rest,
For the redeemed, the good and the blessed.
Yonder in glory when the crown is won.
Jesus is now that star divine,
Brighter and brighter He will shine.
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on.

◆ Presentation of the Bread and Cup

Glory to God hymnal 144

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

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...***

... As Jesus taught us to pray

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

Communion Music

Maria Wiegenlied

Max Reger

Mary sits by the rose bower and rocks her little Jesus,
Softly through the leaves the warm wind of summer blows.
A brightly coloured bird sings at her feet:
Go to sleep, sweet child, it's time to go to sleep!
Your smile is lovely, your happy sleep lovelier still,
Lay your tired little head against your mother's breast!
Go to sleep, sweet child, it's time to go to sleep!

Hymn 128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE LEZY

Prayer after Communion

**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. 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.)*

◆ Hymn

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.**

◆ Benediction

(Please extinguish candles.)

◆ Hymn 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Postlude

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

Johann Pachelbel

◆ Please stand, as you are able.

Participating in the service:

Megan Sharp, Leah Patek, and Sophie Caplin, soprano;
Dana Patek, Jennifer Politano, alto; Steve Patek, tenor; Paul Schakel, bass;
Meg Bowen, violin

*Poinsettias and Other Seasonal Decorations have been given
in honor of...*

the newly married couple, Billy and Sarah Livermon, by the Livermon family
the Jalenaks' extended stay in Charlottesville by James Burch
loved ones by Dick Haines
the church by Carol and David Hogg
our triune God for gifts of life, love, support, and faith
James and Elizabeth Burch by the Office Staff



in loving memory of...

Alan Williams by Lou Williams
Irv Brownfield by the Brownfield family
Kitty and Bob Stroud by Margaret and Rob Stroud
JoAnn Foreman by Gene Foreman
Bob Bedford by Faith Andrews Bedford
Charlie and Ida Patterson by the Heuchert family
Charles Heuchert by the Heuchert family
Virginia Cilimberg and Paul Powers by the Cilimberg family
the members of Westminster families who have lost loved ones
Dr. and Mrs. Claiborne G. Whitworth III by the Knollmann, Whitworth and Kirby families
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Whitworth, Sr. by the Knollmann, Whitworth and Kirby families
Mary Virginia Garrett, Mary Elizabeth Rovnyak, Julius Burke, and Jim Pickley by Virginia Rovnyak
Bill Anderson, Carroll Houle, and Betty Gallagher, by Virginia Rovnyak
Mary and Albert Andersen and Virginia Bud and Fred Invernizzi by Ellen and Willie Andersen
George and Kay Bartel, Christa Livermon's parents, by the Livermon family
Bill Tom and Miriam Livermon, Randy's parents, by the Livermon family
Laura Curtius Lewis (1974-1981) by Lee Lewis, father, and John J. Lewis, brother, and family
the members of the church that we have lost this year by Lucille and Ken Digges
George Telford and thanksgiving for friends and family by Sally Telford

What's Happening at Westminster

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary (no live-stream)

December 26 - January 2

Church office closed

Sunday, January 1

New Years' Day

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

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

Westminster Staff

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This Advent season 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.



O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

145

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.

Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, ti-dings bring-ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
 Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6-20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means "He lies in a cradle" or "In manger lying."

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Hark! The herald angels sing." It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff. The music is in a common time signature, indicated by a 'C' on the treble staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.