

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Friday, December 24, 2021 | 3p, 5p, and 7p | streaming at wpc-online.org

*Carol "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

- 1) Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**
- 2) Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**
- 3) Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ,
the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

* Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Anthem "Angel's Carol" Rutter

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 9:2-7* p. 555

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 2:1-20* p. 832

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Homily "A More Familiar Christmas" Ben Dorr

Responding to **God's Word**

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

* Lighting of the Candles and "Silent Night" STILLE NACHT

The first verse of "Silent Night" will be sung as a solo by Mark Kemp. The congregation will join in on the second and following verses. **We will conclude by repeating the first verse.** As "Silent Night" is being sung, the lights will be dimmed, and the pastor will light a candle from the Christ candle on the Advent wreath. The pastor will light the candles of the ushers. They will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to be lighted. Before leaving their pews, worshipers are requested to extinguish their candles.

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- 1) 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.**
- 2) 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!"**
- 3) 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.**
- 4) 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

* Carol "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH

- 1) Joy to the world, The Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**
- 2) Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3) No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4) He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude Postlude on ADESTE FIDELIS Mitchell

*All who are able may stand

Plates will be placed at the rear of the Sanctuary Narthex
for those desiring to leave a retiring offering

Leading Worship **this Evening**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*; Lauren Slingerland, Amos Workman (3p), *liturgists*;

Leigh Stuckey, Lauren Slingerland, Julia Watkins (5p), *liturgists*;

Leigh Stuckey, Julia Watkins (7p), *liturgists*

Mark Kemp, *Music Director*; Nancy Smith, *organist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble (all services)

Graham Wallner and Kate Merrell (3p), Daniel Knauer (5p),

Cam Warren (7p), *acolytes*

Brandon Coker (3p), Bryant Puntch (5p), Parks McLeod (7p), *head ushers*

The Pastors and Staff of Westminster wish you
a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

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Church Staff

Ben Dorr
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Mary Kathleen Duncan
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Lauren Slingerland
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Julia Watkins
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Nancy Smith
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Cara Puntch
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Wendy Bagley
Secretary
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Aly Friend
Director of Nurseries
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Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

CHRISTMAS TREES

To make our sanctuary, entrance pavilion, and sanctuary atrium festive for the Christmas season, the Women of Westminster, our Youth, and the Lightly Seasoned Fellowship Group decorated this year's Christmas trees. Thank you to all!

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall. Also, our green parking lot will be lit for the services.

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 2:30 - 8:30p to help people cross the street from the TD Bank on the other side of Augusta Street.

NURSERY

A nursery is available for infants through four-year kindergarten at 3 and 5p. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 WORSHIP

Sunday, December 26, we will have only one worship service at 11:15a with no Sunday School. There will be a fellowship hour with donuts at 12:15p in the Sanctuary Atrium.

PLEASE FULFILL YOUR 2021 PLEDGE

As of Monday, December 20th, we have received \$2,003,890 (86%) toward our 2021 goal. Our auditing firm has informed us that we must close our books on December 31st. Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2021 statement to the church office by the 31st.

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | December 24, 2021 | No. 33



Prayer of Preparation

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night, draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Prelude Christmas Carol Medley arr. Smith

Welcome & Lighting of the Christ Candle

3p – Brian & Lindsey Donlan, Mason, Vivian, and Sloane

5p – Jonathan & Emily Cole, Lucy, and Annie

7p – Julie Woodhouse, Brice, and Alex

*Call to Worship

Leader: Glory to you, almighty God,
for you sent your only-begotten Son,
that we might have new life.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for you became flesh and lived among us
that we might become your people.**

Leader: Glory to you, Holy Spirit,
for you direct and rule our lives.

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

All: **Let us worship God!**



Third Sunday of Advent

Preparation for **Worship**

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a Jimmy & Kristen Cox, Delaney, Braden, Caroline, and Audrey

Prelude "Of the Father's Love Begotten" arr. Held

* Call to Worship Zephaniah 3:14-17

Leader: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

**People: Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!**Leader: The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
God has turned away your enemies.**People: On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.****The Lord, your God, is in your midst.
All: Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No.109 "Blest Be the God of Israel" MERLE'S TUNE

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we have returned to tired habits, old fears,
perpetual grudges, and false gods,
when you ask that we return to you.****Forgive us for taking the easy road that increases
our comfort but lets our faith remain shallow.****Forgive us for heeding conventional wisdom
about how to spend our time and money,
instead of obeying you.****Give us the courage not simply to apologize, but to repent.****Help us to grow into the generous and gracious people
you created us to be,
so that the winding ways of our hearts
would be made straight,
and we would be ready when your Son is born anew.****In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* Gloria Patri (Hymnal, No. 581)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

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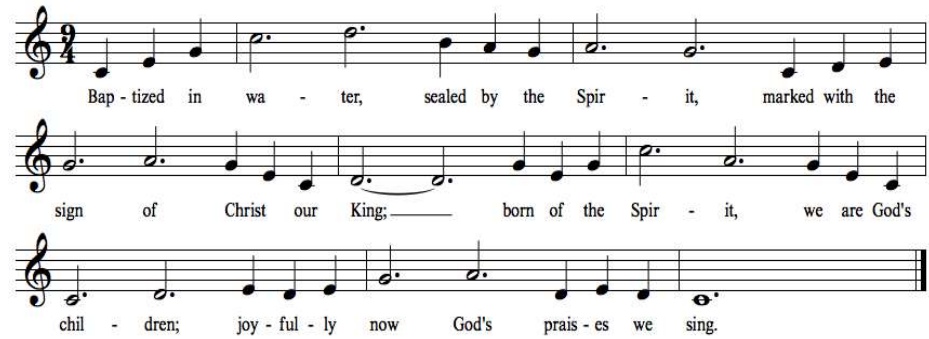
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The Sacrament of Baptism 9a *Bennett Craig Waller*
Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" Bunessan



Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God's Word**

Anthem "Prepare the Way" Croushorn
Prayer for Illumination
Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 40:1-5* p. 581
Gospel Lesson, *Luke 3:1-18* p. 834
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Sermon "A Preacher With Only One Sermon"

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Offering

Offertory "Christmas Praise" arr. Phillips

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God,
all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly
host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn No. 143 "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" REGENT SQUARE

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "Wondrous Tidings" Simone

**All who are able may stand*

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The Sacrament of Baptism 9a *Bennett Craig Waller*
Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" Bunessan



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Anthem "Prepare the Way" Croushorn
Prayer for Illumination
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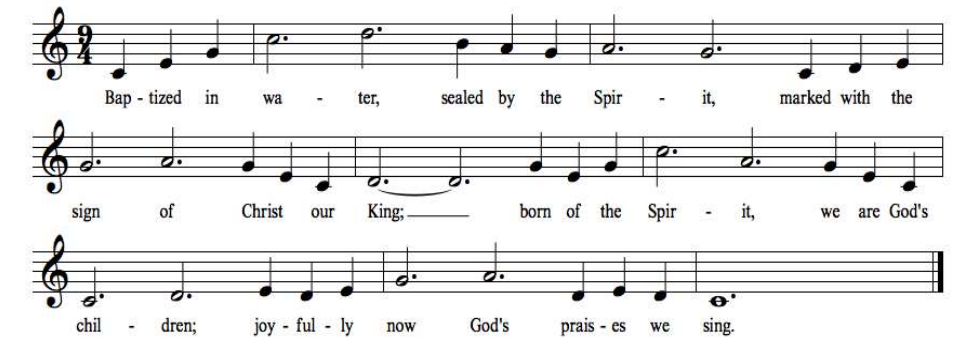
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