

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saturday, December 24, 2022 | 4p and 6p | streaming at wpc-online.org

*Carol #133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FILDELIS

- 1) **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**
- 2) **True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**
- 3) **Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**
- 4) **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

* 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.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

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

Anthem *The Wexford Carol* arr. Helvey

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

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Homily "This Will Be a Sign for You"

Responding to **God's Word**

Anthem *O Magnum Mysterium* Lauridsen

*O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see
the newborn Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the virgin
whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!*

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

* Lighting of the Candles and Carol #122, *Silent Night* STILLE NACHT

The first verse of "Silent Night" will be sung as a solo by Rosemary Hughes. 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 pastors will light a candle from the Christ candle on the Advent wreath. The pastors will light the candles of the ushers. The light 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.**

* A Christmas Prayer

* Carol #134 *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

* Choral Response *Gloria in Excelsis Deo!* GLORIA

* Postlude *He is Born* Hudson

*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*

Leigh Stuckey, Mary Kathleen Duncan,

Lauren Slingerland, Julia Watkins, *liturgists*

Bryant Puntch (4p), Ross Glidewell (6p), *head ushers*

Todd Monsell, *organist & pianist*

Rosemary Hughes, *pianist and soloist*

Judy McKenney, *guitar*

The Sanctuary and Chancel Choirs

Sawyer Rentz, Hayden Taylor (4p), *acolytes*

Madeline Hardaway, Catherine McNeely (6p), *acolytes*

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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [wpcgreenville](#) | [wpc-online.org](#) | 2310 Augusta St.

Church Staff

Ben Dorr

Pastor & Head of Staff
bdorr@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey

Executive Associate Pastor
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan

Associate Pastor
mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland

Associate Pastor
lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Julia Watkins

Associate Pastor
jwatkins@wpc-online.org

Amos Workman

Parish Associate
aworkman@wpc-online.org

Rosemary Hughes

Interim Director of Music
rhughes@wpc-online.org

Kathryn Knauer

Children's Choir Coordinator
kknauer@wpc-online.org

Todd Monsell

Organist
tmonsell@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch

Weekday School Director
cpuntch@wpc-online.org

Cynthia Ellison

Financial Secretary
cellison@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little

Office Manager
michelle@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley

Secretary
wendy@wpc-online.org

Aly Friend

Director of Nurseries
alvfriend@wpc-online.org

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!

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 3:30 - 7:30p 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 4 and 6p. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 WORSHIP

Sunday, December 25, we will have only one worship service at 11:15a with no Sunday School. There will be a fellowship hour with cookies and cocoa at 12:15p in the Sanctuary Atrium.

FINANCIAL MINISTRY 2022 BUDGET UPDATE

2022 Pledges	\$2,352,797
Amount Received	\$2,094,570
Pledges Outstanding	(\$258,227)

Our auditing firm has informed us that we must close our books on December 30. Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2022 statement in by December 30, 2022. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners. Thank you.

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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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 *Away in a Manger* setting, Smith

Welcome & Lighting of the Christ Candle

4p - Jay & Kelley Barnhardt, Cameron, Thomas, Patrick, Walker, and Finley

6p - Billy & Teresa Webster

*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!**