

Worship for the Lord's Day
the 63rd Annual Service of Lessons & Carols



presented by the Westminster Sanctuary Choir with Westminster Brass
Sunday, December 24, 2023
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA), Greenville, SC

From the Choir Loft, *Marlon Hurst*

Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the day on which we focus on God's LOVE. But *this* December with Advent 4 and Christmas Eve bumping right up against one another, I'm placed in the mindset of "almost, but not quite yet!" In fact, if I'm honest, as I read the news from across the globe, my mindset is more like, "How long, O Lord? Will your promise of the Peaceful Kingdom ever be realized for even the least of your children? Or will we forever be squinting our eyes at the horizon, struggling to keep faith in a world filled with such discord and suffering?"

In such a world, it is easy to lose heart. But at this time of year, a Service of Lessons and Carols can remind us that we are not alone in our journey of faith. The marriage of word and music, texts and tradition, and carols both old and new can strengthen us while we await God's inbreaking presence.

As we journey through today's service, we make our way from the "lowly cattle shed" to the promise that the Christ child, "weak in infancy" will lead us to "peace eternal." Along the way, we will encounter starkly contrasting images – the ringing bells of heaven with the grief of the lonely exile; the love of a mother who rocks her child born into a weary land; the magnificence of an angelic chorus and the murderous deeds of a raging king. Such are the contrasts of the story; such are the contrasts within our own lives.

Traveling together, I invite you to reflect upon your own journey. For what do you long? For what do you rejoice? For what do you wait? For what measure of justice are you praying and working? And throughout I invite you to SING! Join your voice **boldly** here in this place – with your neighbors in the pews, with the choir, with the instruments – knowing that even as we wait for God's reign to break forth, in our togetherness we are not alone.

Then as we come to the close of today's journey, perhaps we will recall the words of the opening carol when we sang, "and our eyes at last shall see him." And when we do, may we realize that throughout our "tears and smiles" God, in Jesus and through the Spirit, has been with us all along the way. Amen.

COVER IMAGE: Black Madonna with Child, provenance unknown.

Worship for the Lord's Day

Sunday, December 24th, 2023, 10:00a • The Fourth Sunday of Advent
The 63rd Annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Welcome and Announcements

Ben Dorr

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

10a — Randy Umstead & Bronwen Forbay

The fourth candle is the candle of love.

It symbolizes God's love for the world in sending the only Son to be our Savior.

Processional Hymn (140)

“Once in Royal David's City”

IRBY

stanza 1 — James Knauer, soloist

stanza 2 — choir

*stanza 3 (all)

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

*stanza 4 (all)

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

Service of Giving

Offertory

Personent Hodie

German Tune, 1630
arr. Lara Hoggard

Personent hodie
voces puerulae
laudantes iucunde
qui nobis est natus,
summo Deo datus
et de virgineo ventre procreates

*Let resound today
the voices of children,
joyfully praising
Him who is born unto us,
given by the most high God,
and conceived in a virgin's womb.*

In mundo nascitur
pannis involvitur,
praesepe ponitur
stabulo brutorum,
rector supernorum
perdidit spolia princeps
infernorum

*He was born into the world,
wrapped in swaddling clothes,
and laid in a manger
in a stable for animals,
the master of the heavens.
The prince of Hell
has lost his spoils.*

Magi tres venerunt
munera offerunt,
parvulum inquirunt,
stellulam sequendo,
ipsum adorando,
aurum thus et myrrham
ei offerendo

*Three Magi came,
they were bearing gifts,
and sought the little one,
following a star,
to worship him,
and offer him
gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Omnes clericuli,
pariter pueri
cantent ut angeli,
advenisti mundo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
--Medieval Latin

*Let all the clerics
and also the children
sing like angels:
"You have come to the world,
Glory to God in the highest!"*

*Doxology (Hymn 143)

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king!***

*Prayer of Dedication

Children K5 & First Grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

THE BIDDING PRAYER & 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.**

THE LESSONS

At the conclusion of each reading the reader will say, "The Word of the Lord."
The congregation will respond by saying, "**Thanks be to God.**"

THE FIRST LESSON, Genesis 3:8-15

Ella Heegard

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman
shall bruise the serpent's head.*

CAROL

I Saw Three Ships

arr. William Averitt

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning
And what was in those ships all three...
Our Saviour Christ and his lady...
Pray whither sailed those ships all three...
O they sailed into Bethlehem...
And all the bells on earth shall ring...
And all the angels in Heaven shall sing...
And all the souls on earth shall sing...
Then let us all rejoice amain on Christmas Day in the morning.
--Traditional English

THE SECOND LESSON, Genesis 22:15-18

Rush Sheppard

*God promises that, through Abraham,
all the peoples of the world will be blessed.*

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL (143) "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!***

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!***

**Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!***

THE THIRD LESSON, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Elizabeth Campbell

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

CAROL

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

--Latin prose, pre-9th c.

THE FOURTH LESSON, Isaiah 11:1-9

Lizzy Holt

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL (144)

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

CRANHAM

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.**

**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.**

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

CAROL

Hail Mary!

William L. Dawson

Mary had a little baby born in Bethlehem,
every time the little baby cried, she rocked Him in a weary land.

Ain't that a-rockin' for the world, Oh, she rocked and rocked, she rocked Him in a weary land.

He was born in a lowly manger, 'cause there was found no room in the inn;
every time the little baby cried, she rocked Him in a weary land.

Yes, there were shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch o'er their flock by night.
"Unto you a Babe is born this day,"
said the angel of the Lord to the shepherds in the field.
Angel called Him "Christ the Lord," but I call my Jesus "King Emmanuel."
Every time the little baby cried, she rocked Him in a weary land.

Hail! Mary, Virgin Mary, "Child of God." Hail!
--Spiritual

THE SIXTH LESSON, Luke 2:1-7

Jackie McLeod

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL (117) "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

WINCHESTER OLD

**All: While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.**

**Low voices: "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind:
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind."**

**High voices: "To you, in David's town this day, is born of David's line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:**

**Low voices: "The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all humbly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid."**

**High voices: Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:**

**All: "All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
Good will to all from highest heaven begin and never cease!"**

THE SEVENTH LESSON, Luke 2:8-16

Shelden Timmerman

Angles appear to the shepherds in the field and announce the birth of the Messiah.

CAROL

Fill the Night

Nancy Gifford

Dancing angels of the night fill the sky with wings of gold.
never was there such a sight, never such a story told.

*Gaudeamus! Rise and sing praises to the newborn King.
Gaudeamus hodie, Christ our Savior, born this day.*

Chanting angels of the night, shepherds fallen to the ground;
nearly blinded by their light; nearly deafened by their sound.

Shining angel of the night leads the shepherds from their fear,
telling them that all is right, telling them that God is near.

Guiding angels of the light share the message of good will:
“For to you is born this night Christ the Lord, Emmanuel.”

Dancing angels of the night leave the shepherds on their way.
Still they make the heavens bright; still they sing on Christmas Day!

--Nancy Gifford

THE EIGHTH LESSON, Matthew 2:1-11

Joanne Sweeny

Magi from the East are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL

Coventry Carol

arr. Martin Shaw

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, By by, lully lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day
this poor youngling, for whom we do sing, by by, lully lullay?

Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day
his men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee! And ever morn and day,
for thy parting neither say nor sing by by, lully, lullay!

--Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, 15th c.

*THE NINTH LESSON, John 1: 1-5,14

Ben Dorr

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL (133)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

**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!*

**True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created!**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!**

*THE BLESSING

*Choral Response (Hymn 130)

“Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light” from *Weihnachtsoratorium*

J. S. Bach

Break forth, o beauteous, heavenly light and usher in the morning.
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel’s warning.
This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

--*Johann Rist; tr. John Troutbeck.*

*Postlude

Sing We Now of Christmas

Hudson

LEADING IN WORSHIP
Ben Dorr, *liturgist*
The Sanctuary Choir
Marlon Hurst, *music director*
Todd Monsell, *organist*

Westminster Brass:
Craig King & Gary Malvern, *trumpets*
Mark Britt & Henry Niehaus, *trombone*
Connor Lynn, *tuba*
Kip Brock & Andrew Knauer, *percussion*
and Allie Ablewood, *soloist*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*
Hastings Blumer, Stan Pendergrass, Jara Jones,
Nikki Grumbine, Toni Paylor, *greeters*

2024 Stewardship Campaign

As of Monday, December 18th, we have received \$2,379,826 in pledges toward our 2024 pledge goal of \$2,688,000. For your convenience, you may pledge online or send your pledge via email or USPS to the Church Financial manager, Lynn Bennett, lbennett@wpc-online.org.

Please Fulfill Your 2023 Giving

\$455,940 remains outstanding from our 2023 Pledge Campaign. Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2023 contribution statement postmarked by December 30, 2023, or you can hand deliver to the Church office on or before December 29, 2023. You can also place your offering in the plate on Sunday, December 31st. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners.

Retirement Giving

Make Qualified Distributions from your IRAs: Westminster members age 70.5 and older can support the church with a gift from their Individual Retirement Account. Qualified charitable donations from IRAs may offer tax advantages while benefiting our congregation and outreach.

Worship Notes:

Nursery: Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The Family Lounge, located down the stairs from the front office, is

available for any child and caretaker, and includes a direct feed of worship, comfortable seating, and a changing table.

Worship this Evening

Westminster has two identical candlelight services this evening at 4p and 6p. The Atrium will serve as an overflow space during both services. Nursery for infants through four-year kindergarten will be available at the 4p service.

Worship the first Sunday following Christmas

On Sunday, December 31st we will have one worship service at 10a followed by a time of fellowship. Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

The 2024 Heritage Lecture

Announcing the 2023 Heritage Lecturer, the Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes. Join us on Sunday, January 21 to hear Dr. Barnes preach at both 9a and 11:15a. He will also lead the adult Sunday School class. Barnes is the author of several books including *When God Interrupts*, *Pastor as Minor Poet*, and *Diary of a Pastor's Soul*.

Connect with Westminster

Looking for ways to be involved? Please complete a Connection Card located in the Ritual of Friendship and place it on the offering plate and we'll be in touch!

**THE BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS
IN THE SANCTUARY
HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY THE FOLLOWING:**

Vernon & Gwyn Anderson
in memory of **Lynn Foushee Rowell**

Vernon & Gwyn Anderson
in memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Sam Foushee**

Vernon & Gwyn Anderson
in memory of **Dr. & Mrs. E.V. Anderson**

Mary Ashmore
in honor of **John Ashmore & Lindsey Rowe**

Sarah & Ryan Beasley
in memory of **Bob & Vera Reid**

Sarah & Ryan Beasley
in memory of **Dr. J.T. & Elizabeth O'Hanlan**

Sarah & Ryan Beasley
in memory of **Ben Dull & Mary Jane Hoffman**

Sarah & Ryan Beasley
in memory of **Clara Grace Frick**

Dr. & Mrs. James R. Bloodworth, Sr.
in honor of **Dr. James R. Bloodworth, Jr. & Dr. Elizabeth Bloodworth**

Dr. & Mrs. James R. Bloodworth, Sr.
in honor of **James R. Bloodworth, III**

Dr. & Mrs. James R. Bloodworth, Sr.
in honor of **Benjamin Bloodworth**

Dr. & Mrs. James R. Bloodworth, Sr.
in honor of **Tom & Laura Waghorne**

Hastings & Kristen Blumer
in honor of **Michelle Little**

Hastings & Kristen Blumer
in honor of **Westminster Blue Champs Girls Basketball Team**

Adam & Deshia Breaux
in memory of **Haynes Morrow**

Margaret & Duff Bruce
in memory of **Ben Sprague**

Circle 6
in honor of **Liz Einstein**

Circle 6
in honor of **Sherry Tate**

Circle 6
in honor of **Diane Hughs**

Aaron Cizon
in honor of **Eliot Cizon**

Aaron Cizon
in honor of **Addy Cizon**

Katy & Spencer Cox
in memory of **James Phillip Cox "Papa"**

Edward & Sandra Dobson
in memory of **Allan McGill Dobson and Bradley Glenn Godfrey**

Jim & Mary Jane Duncan
in honor of **David, Mary Kathleen, Mary Eliza, and Teddy Duncan**

Ben & Alissa Edwards
in memory of **Dave Edwards**

Ben & Alissa Edwards
in honor of **Joan Edwards**

Will & Beth Edwards
in memory of **Dave Edwards**

Will & Beth Edwards
in honor of **Joan Edwards**

John Elingburg
in memory of **Joyce Kemp**

The Eller Family
in memory of **David Eller**

The Eller Family
in memory of **Kathy Genevie**

Diane J. Ellison
in memory of **Roy J. Ellison, Jr. and Roy Ellison, III**

Gray Geddie
in memory of **Betty Geddie**

The Gettys Family
in memory of **Robert Gantt**

The Gettys Family
in memory of **Joan Coleman**

Katy Glidewell
in memory of **Jim Glidewell**

Katy Glidewell
in honor of **the Westminster Staff**

Brad, Meredith, Ford, and Tom Gower
in memory of **Tommy Gower**

Paul & Susan Grier
in honor of **Hayward Grier & Elizabeth West Grier**

Paul & Susan Grier
in honor of **Elizabeth Grier**

Paul & Susan Grier
in memory of **Dr. & Mrs. John Miller Grier**

Paul & Susan Grier
in honor of **Elizabeth Guritz**

Paul & Susan Grier
in memory of **David Guritz**

The Grier Family
in honor of **Westminster's Staff**

Brad & Amy Hawkins
in memory of **their grandparents**

Brad & Amy Hawkins
in honor of **their parents**

Michael, Terri, Katie, and Alex Hoffman
in honor of **Dorothy Smith**

Michael, Terri, Katie, & Alex Hoffman and
Dorothy Smith
in memory of **Donald Smith**

Sam, Jamie, Rachel, and Nate Inman
in memory of **Sam Inman, III**

Sam, Jamie, Rachel, and Nate Inman
in honor of **Sue Inman**

Sue Inman
in honor of **Sam, Jamie, Rachel, and Nathan Inman**

Kathy Jabara
in memory of **her husband, Rodger Jabara**

Kathy Jabara
in honor of **her new family in WPC**

Jara Jones, Hunt, and Meredith
in memory of **Dr. John M. Bolinger**
Jara Jones, Hunt, and Meredith
in honor of **Marcella Bolinger**

Jerry & Dianne Jones
in memory of **Ryan Montgomery**

Becky Kaplan
in memory of **Tom Kaplan**

Lydia Kellett
in memory of **Bill Kellett**

Lydia Kellett
in memory of **Paul O'Neal**

Reed & Harriett-Graham Kramer
in memory of **Sarah Jane Hardrath Kramer**

Kaye & Tim Lindler
in memory of **Ruth & Skip Lindler**

Kaye & Tim Lindler
in memory of **Emily B. Boyd**

Kaye & Tim Lindler
in honor of **their grandchildren, Rivers & Madelyn Houlihan**

Kaye & Tim Lindler
in honor of **their granddaughter, Emma Haag**

Ross, Emily, and Foster Lordo
in memory of **Ross's grandfather, Tommy Wilson**

Sarah & Brad Lucas and Family
in memory of **Brad Whitlock**

Sarah & Brad Lucas and Family
in memory of **Tommy Sinn**

The Marguet Family
in memory of **Nancy Billings**

Bruce & Brenda Meyer
in memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Foster Brown**

Bruce & Brenda Meyer
in memory of **Mr. & Mrs. William Meyer**

Blair & Jon Miller Family
in memory of **Elaine Miller**

Blair & Jon Miller Family
in memory of **Paul E. Miller**

Lee Anne, Jack, Alex, and Chap Montgomery
in memory of **Ryan Montgomery**

Lee Anne, Jack, Alex, and Chap Montgomery
in memory of **Haynes Morrow**

Lee Anne, Jack, Alex, and Chap Montgomery
in memory of **Nancy Billings**

Lisa Nalley
in memory of **Beverly Royster and Ann
Dukes**

Lisa Nalley
in honor of **David, Mary Ashton, and Ella
Dukes;**
Bennett and Annie Nalley,
Weston, Emily, and Bud Nalley

Anne Nuttall
in memory of **Nancy Quinn**

Emma Kate, Hayes, and Reece Hudson,
Anna, Claire, and Charlie Puntch
in memory of **Charles "Bubba" Puntch**

Caroline & Harris Quinn
in memory of **Louise & Ryburn Bailey**

Caroline & Harris Quinn
in memory of **Martha Wilson**

Caroline & Harris Quinn
in honor of **Kay Quinn**

The Rentz Family
in honor of **Mills B. and Mildred Rentz**

The Rentz Family
in honor of **Pete Holman**

Jim & Susan Robbins
in memory of **Bill & Nancy Patterson**

Neil, Jennifer, Emma, and Shaw Shurley
in memory of **their mothers and
grandmothers,**
Anne Boroughs and Betty Shurley

Andrew & Cynthia Smith, Mason and Whitney
in memory of **Ryan Montgomery**

Jordan & Hunter Smith
in honor of **Jo Walkup**

Jordan & Hunter Smith
in honor of **the WPC Choirs**

Jordan & Hunter Smith
in honor of **the Westminster
Weekday School**

Jordan & Hunter Smith
in memory of **Dale Comer**

Jordan & Hunter Smith
in memory of **Dick Wood**

Gaye & Joel Sprague
in memory of **Ben Sprague**

Drew & Elizabeth Stamm
in memory of **Lisa Stamm**

Drew & Elizabeth Stamm
in honor of **Cris & Gareth Crain**

Drew & Elizabeth Stamm
in honor of **Will, Jennifer, Thomas, and
Anna McDavid**

Jean Z. Stevens
in memory of **Douglas J. Stevens, Sr.**

Jean Z. Stevens
in honor of **her family**

Leigh & Jen Stuckey,
Brigham, Tatum, and Pierce
in honor of **Mom-mom & Pop-pop**

Leigh & Jen Stuckey,
Brigham, Tatum, and Pierce
in honor of **Mary Jane & Heyward**

Pete & Joanne Sweeny
in memory of **Nancy Quinn**

Bill & Alice Thalheimer
in memory of **Bill & Erma Thalheimer**

Bill & Alice Thalheimer
in memory of **Paul & Virginia Neal**

Payne & Elizabeth Thomas
in memory of **William Hughes Gage**

Melissa, Tony, Lillian, and Miles Threatt
in memory of **Nancy Quinn**

Melissa, Tony, Lillian, and Miles Threatt
in memory of **Judy Vick**

Melissa, Tony, Lillian, and Miles Threatt
in honor of **Jane Hill Morrow**

Melissa, Tony, Lillian, and Miles Threatt
in honor of **Kathryn & Harry Baker**

Stacy & Trey Warren
in memory of **FE Warren, Jr.**

Stacy & Trey Warren
in honor of **Everett Warren**

Margaret Williams Rich
in memory of **her husband,**
James D. Semans

Margaret Williams Rich
in memory of **her mother,**
Margaret C. Williams

Margaret Williams Rich
in memory of **her father,**
Braxton H. Williams

Thom Wood
in memory of **Judy Vick**

**THE FOLLOWING HAVE GIVEN TO
WESTMINSTER'S ENDOWMENT FUND:**

Tom Billings
in memory of **Nancy Billings**

Susan, William, Thomas, Jamie Leigh,
and TJ Boyd
in memory of **Howard Boyd**

Linda Carpenter
in memory of **Rick Carpenter**

Linda Carpenter
in memory of **Fred Carpenter**

Linda Carpenter
in memory of **Nancy Quinn**

Linda Carpenter
in memory of **Sam Inman**

Linda Carpenter
in honor of **Marian Carpenter**

Marian Carpenter
in memory of **Fred Carpenter**

Anna Wallace Clark, Hughes Clark,
and Nan Partridge
in memory of **Bill Nock "Papa"**

John Elingburg
in memory of **Joyce Kemp**

Ingrid Erwin
in memory of **her father, Frank Blackwelder**
and **her sister, Julie Blackwelder**

Roger & Martha Gower
in memory of **Fred Carpenter**

The Mike & Ellen Hall Family
in memory of **Mike's parents,**
Floyd & Martha Hall

The Mike & Ellen Hall Family
in memory of **Ellen's parents,**
Elmer & Edna Johnson

The Mike & Ellen Hall Family
in memory of **their uncle and aunt,**
Al & Joan Stark

The Houston Family
in memory of **Eddie Houston**

Sue Inman
in memory of **Sam Inman**

Jara Jones, Hunt, and Meredith
in memory of **Dr. John M. Bolinger**

Jara Jones, Hunt, and Meredith
in honor of **Marcella Bolinger**

Kay Kelly
in memory of **her parents, Pat & Don Taylor**

Kay Kelly
in memory of **Peggy Phillips**

Kay Kelly
in memory of **Lynelle Sik & Marge Sik**

Bill, Katherine, McCrae, and Sadie Mattice
in memory of **John "Poppy" McCrae**

Bill, Katherine, McCrae, and Sadie Mattice
in memory of **Susan "SuSu" McCrae Moore**

Bill, Katherine, McCrae, and Sadie Mattice
in memory of **Rip Harris**

Bill, Katherine, McCrae, and Sadie Mattice
in memory of **Haynes Morrow**

The Nuttall Family
in memory of **Carl Nuttall**

Margaret Paylor
in memory of **John Hill Paylor, Jr.**
and in honor of **her children, grandchildren,**
and **great-grandchildren**

Pete & Frances Roe
in memory of **Fred Carpenter**

Pete & Frances Roe
in memory of **Paul O'Neal**

Pete & Frances Roe
in memory of **Dave Edwards**

Sandra Wallace
in honor of **Julia & Henry Bellew**

Margaret Williams Rich
in honor of **Circle 5**

Margaret Williams Rich
in honor of **Kelly Moorhead**

Margaret Williams Rich
in honor of **Libby & Meg Holleman**

Margaret Williams Rich
in honor of **Charles Gentry**

Mary Ellen Yeargin
in memory of **Bob Yeargin**

Jim Young
in memory of **his parents,**
J. Leland & Maudalene Sullivan Young

Jim Young
in memory of **his sisters,**
Maudalene Young Reed and
Leanna Young Parker

**THE FOLLOWING HAVE GIVEN TO
WESTMINSTER'S HERITAGE LECTURE FUND:**

Sarah Brice
in memory of **Art Howson**
and in honor of **Anne Howson**

Margaret & Duff Bruce
in memory of **Tom & Ducky Gower**

Grier, Roger, and Margaret
in memory of **Tommy Gower**

The Family of Tommy Gower
in honor of **Ben Dorr, Terri Price,**
and **Amos Workman**

Brad, Meredith, Ford, and Tom Gower
in memory of **Tom & Ducky Gower**

Diane H. Hughs
in memory of **Dan Hughs**

Diane H. Hughs
in memory of **Carolyn Walton**

Kay Kelly
in honor of **Hal Phillips**

Kay Kelly
in memory of **her parents,**
Pat & Don Taylor

Betty King
in memory of **Gerry King**

Susan, George, and Ellis McLarty
in memory of **Jim Glidewell**

Edna Ruth Miller
in memory of **Vernon Miller**

Pat Shufeldt
in honor of **the Library Committee**

Barbara Von Hofe and The Pasko Family
in memory of **Stan Von Hofe**

About the Service of Lessons & Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 at King's College, Cambridge. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who, at the age of thirty-four, had just been appointed Dean of King's after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919 involving rearrangement of the lessons. From that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in Royal David's City.' In almost every year the choice of carols has varied, and some new ones have been introduced. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged. The original service was, in fact, adapted from an order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1880.

The service is held during the Advent and Christmas season throughout the world, from the East Indies to the British Isles and Greenville, South Carolina. In 2023 we celebrate its 63rd year as a centerpiece of the life and worship of Westminster.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. "The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God [seen] through the windows and the words of the Bible.' Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light.' The center of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who consent to follow where the story leads.

Adapted from Kings College Chapel Bulletin, 2014