

Worship for the Lord's Day
the 65th Annual Service of Lessons & Carols
presented by the Westminster Sanctuary Choir with Westminster Brass



Sunday, December 21, 2025 | 9a & 11:15a
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA), Greenville, South Carolina

From the Pews, *Blake Hoffman*

Darkness is not merely the absence of light. Darkness is also the weight of uncertainty, the exhaustion of hope, and the ache of longing. It is from this relatable and very human darkness that today's text from the Prophet Isaiah proclaims a coming light. The light of which Isaiah references is not the result of human goodness, but because God has acted.

In shining a light through a child, God chooses nearness over dominance, and presence over power. Yet this little child carries titles that stretch the imagination: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Each name speaks to a different human need: guidance, strength, belonging, and rest. In this season of Advent, these human needs are present evermore so.

Additionally, Isaiah reminds us that peace is not passive. The reign of this child is marked by justice and righteousness, established and upheld forever. This peace confronts chaos, heals what is fractured, and restores what has been bent out of shape. It is not temporary relief, but a lasting transformation. The kingdom described here is expansive and enduring, growing quietly yet relentlessly, fueled not by human effort but by the zeal of the Lord.

In our own lives, we often know what it is to walk in darkness, with seasons of grief, doubt, injustice, and fear. Isaiah's words do not deny the reality of that darkness; instead, they challenge its finality. Light has the last word. The child has been given. The reign has begun.

As we hear the lessons and carols today, let us each be mindful and open to not only receive the light, but to live as people shaped by it. If the Prince of Peace reigns, then we are called to embody that peace. If justice and righteousness define his kingdom, then they must mark our lives as well. Isaiah's vision lifts our eyes beyond present shadows and anchors us in a future that is already breaking in. It is a future where light shines, peace reigns, and hope endures forever. Amen.

Worship for the Lord's Day The Fourth Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP: Christ our Lord, you are the hope of the world, the song of the angels, the treasure of our hearts, and the glory of God among us. Call us to worship you in the places where your love is born anew: wherever kindness prevails, justice flourishes, and peace reigns. Send us out to serve you, sharing good news of great joy, and praising God through you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Ben Dorr

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a — Paul & Susan Grier, Elizabeth Grier

11:15a — Ron & Pam Shive

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, arr. Willcocks

stanza 1 — Berkeley Blumer, 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

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel; by faith I know, but ne'er can tell
the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

—anon.

*DOXOLOGY, HYMN. 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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

(11:15a) Children K5 & First Grade are invited to Children's Church.

THE 65TH ANNUAL 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 FIRST LESSON, Genesis 3:8-15

Bowen Mullins

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

CAROL

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God
who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

—Revelation 22; adapted by Ruth Manz

THE SECOND LESSON, Genesis 22:15-18

Caroline Walker

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 132

IN DULCI JUBILO, arr. Miller

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

THE THIRD LESSON, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Megan Revson

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**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!**

THE FOURTH LESSON, Isaiah 11:1-9

Ben Edwards

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

CAROL

The Dream Isaiah Saw

Glen Rudolph

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay,
leopards will join with the lambs as they play,
wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade,
blood will not darken the earth that God made.

*Little child, whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart,
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: life redeemed from fang and claw.*

Peace will pervade more than forest and field:
God will transfigure the violence concealed
deep in the heart and in systems of gain,
ripe for the harvest the Lord will ordain.

...bring the dream Isaiah saw: justice purifying law.

Nature reordered to match God's intent,
nations obeying the call to repent,
all of creation completely restored,
filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

*...bring the dream Isaiah saw: knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.
—Thomas Troeger*

THE FIFTH LESSON, Luke 1:26-33, 38

Susan Clark

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

CAROL

The Wexford Carol

Irish Carol,
arr. Howard Helvey

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind
what our good God for us has done in sending his beloved son.
With Mary holy we should pray, to God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angel did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.
"Prepare and go," the angels said, "To Bethlehem, be not afraid;
for there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus, born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,
and as God's angel had foretold, they did our Saviour Christ behold.
Within a manger he was laid and by his side a virgin maid,
attending on the Lord of Life, who came on earth to end all strife.

THE SIXTH LESSON, Luke 2:1-7

Joanie Martin

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 115

"Away in a Manger"

MUELLER, arr. Hansen

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

THE SEVENTH LESSON, Luke 2:8-16

Al Norris

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

CAROL

The First Nowell

English Carol
arr. Dan Forrest

Noel, noel, noel. Born is the King. Noel.

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our lives hath bought.

THE EIGHTH LESSON, Matthew 2:1-11

Paula Monroe

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

CAROL

The Coventry Carol

15th century.
arr. Victor Johnson

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, bye-bye, lully lullay.

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

Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day
his men of might, in his own sight. Bye-bye, lully, lullay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee! And every more and day,
for thy parting neither say nor sing bye-bye, lully lullay.

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

Ben Dorr

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES
arr. John Ferguson

**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!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**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!**

**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!**

*The Blessing

*Choral Response *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, the power of Satan breaking,
our peace eternal making, our confidence and joy shall be,
—*Johann Rist; tr. John Troutbeck*

*Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach

Leading in Worship

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

The Sanctuary Choir

Marlon Hurst, *music director*; Todd Monsell, *organ and piano*

Westminster Brass

Craig King, Gary Malvern, *trumpets*

Mark Britt, Art Haecker, *trombone*

Andrew Knauer, *percussion*

Jeff Reynolds (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), *head ushers*

Mike Peters, Anne Howson, Ingrid Erwin,

Stephen Ridgeway, Bill Ballinger (9a), *greeters*

Mike Peters, Nancy Johnson, Amanda Warren,

Carrie Marguet, Walker Miller (11:15a), *greeters*

Worship on Christmas Eve

Westminster has two identical candlelight services on Wednesday, December 24th. Join us for worship at 4p or 6p.

The Atrium will serve as an overflow space for worship. Nursery for infants through four-year kindergarten will only be available at the four o'clock service.

Worship the first Sunday after Christmas

On Sunday, December 28th we will have one worship service at 11:15a followed by a reception in the Atrium. We will resume two services on Sunday, January 4th.

2025 Stewardship Campaign

As of Monday, December 15th, we have received 94% of our pledge goal for 2026! If you have not yet turned in your 2026 pledge, we need you! If half the congregation raises their pledge by \$1000 and half by \$500, we will reach our goal. Every pledge is important, and no pledge is too small.

Please Fulfill Your Current Pledge

By the second week of December, WPC has received 92% of anticipated pledge income. Please check your quarterly giving statements to see where you stand with your 2025 giving. Thank you for your generosity with Westminster.

Retirement Giving

Westminster members age 70.5 and older can support the church with a gift from their Individual Retirement Account. Qualified charitable distributions from IRAs may offer tax advantages while benefiting WPC's local and global ministries. Contact the church office for more information.

Bus "Sale!"

You may soon notice that Westminster's fleet of vans has gone from three to one. After months of discussion, and at the recommendation of the Administrative Committee, we decided to sell the busses that once helped fuel our ministries. The reasons are myriad: we have literally outgrown the fleet, and even with the busses needed to rent or charter vehicles to support the Weekday School, WPC Kids, and WPCYG, the costs of maintaining seldom-used vehicles outpaced our need. More importantly, however, we saw an opportunity to support community partners. Both Soteria and Pleasant Valley have concrete transportation needs that our busses could help meet. This month we finalized the sale of one bus to Soteria and will sell the second to the Pleasant Valley Connection. Each will be sold for \$1. The estimated worth of each is \$8,000, representing an in-kind donation of \$16,000. We are so grateful that PVC and Soteria will be able to use the busses, and hope you will give them a friendly wave when you see them around town!

Mobile Mammography at WPC

On Tuesday, January 20th, we will have a mobile mammography event on campus. Call (864) 675-4875 to schedule.

**The poinsettias decorating
our Sanctuary
have been given by the following:**

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

*Gwyn Anderson
in memory of **Dr. Vernon Anderson***

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

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

*Aaron Cizon
in honor of **Eliot Cizon***

*Aaron Cizon
in honor of **Adelaide Cizon***

*Anna Wallace, Hughes, and Nan
in memory of **their Papa,
William Henry Edwin Nock, III***

*Anna Wallace and Hughes Clark
in memory of
their GranAnn, Ann Beard Clark*

*Libba & Diana Dailey-Mattison
in memory of **Jeanie & Benton Dailey***

*Libba & Diana Dailey-Mattison
in memory of **Kay Cothran Mattison***

*Ed & Sandra Dobson
in memory of **his parents,
Dennis & Frances Dobson
and her parents,
Stanley & Bonnie Holtzclaw***

*Ed & Sandra Dobson
in memory of **his son,
Allan McGill Dobson
and her son, Bradley Glenn Godfrey***

*Kim, Trey, Ellie, Cara, Jack,
and Ben DuBose
in memory of **Bo Caraway***

*Kim, Trey, Ellie, Cara, Jack,
and Ben DuBose
in memory of **Sonny Caraway***

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

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

*HJ & Kay Fleming
in memory of **John Hammond***

*HJ & Kay Fleming
in honor of **Bonnie Hammond***

*HJ & Kay Fleming
in honor of **Joyce Fleming***

*Beth Gaddy
in honor of **her granddaughters,
Kylie and Kathryn Byrne***

*Beth Gaddy
in honor of **her Florida grandchildren,
Walker, McLean,
and Emma Bailey Gaddy***

*Brenda & Gray Geddie
in memory of
Betty Dalton Geddie*

*David and Kris Goff
in memory of **their loved ones***

*Brad, Meredith, Ford, and Tom Gower
in memory of **John Newton Walker***

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

*Susan & Paul Grier
in honor of **Samuel Perkins Grier***

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

*Susan & Paul Grier
in honor of **Westminster's Staff***

*The Grier Family
in memory of
Dr. & Mrs. John Miller Grier*

*The Grier Family
in memory of **Mr. & Mrs. David Guritz***

*The Grier Family
in memory of **Mickey Brown***

*The Grier Family
in honor of **The Brown Family:
Theresa, Kevin, Kyle, and Kate***

*Brad & Amy Hawkins
in memory of **Ed Keelen***

*Henry, Garrison, and John Hill
in honor of **their grandmother,
Kathryn Algary***

*Spence Hughes
in memory of **her mother
and former WPC secretary,
Martha Hebb***

*Spence Hughes
in honor of **Ross Hughes and family***

*Spence Hughes
in honor of **Genie Oplinger and family***

*Do & Bob Kaiser
in honor of **their family***

*The Kaplan and Leary Family
in memory of **Thomas John Kaplan***

Lydia Kellett
in memory of **Bill Kellett**

Kimey Kyker
and Dennis Whatley & Family
in memory of **Sherry Kyker**

Gretta Lawson
in memory of **Ron Lawson**

The Children of Don Lester
in memory of **Don Lester**

The Children of Don Lester
in honor of **Dolores Lester**

Liz McClenaghan
in memory of **Bill Ellis**

The McKernan Family
in memory of **Joseph & Lena Maglia**

The McKernan Family
in memory of **Edward & Marda Suliga**

The McKernan Family
in honor of **Cynthia DeSantis**
and in memory of **Donald DeSantis**

The McKernan Family
in memory of **Francis**
and **Mildred McKernan**

The McKernan Family
in memory of **Patricia Benjamin**

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

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

Blair, Jon, Campbell,
and Emmons Miller
in memory of **Paul E. Miller**

Blair, Jon, Campbell,
and Emmons Miller
in memory of **Elaine G. Miller**

Blair, Jon, Campbell,
and Emmons Miller
in memory of **Hazel Austin**

Walker, Leigh, Lillian, and Robert Miller
in memory of **Martha A. Miller**

Mark & Mandy Pruitt
in honor of **Joyce Pruitt**

Mandy Pruitt
in honor of **Mark, Luke,**
and **Ellison**

The Pruitt Family
in honor of **Madeline & Allen Freeman**

Allen & Katie Reid
in memory of **Edwina Meade**

The Rentz Family
in memory of **Will X. Hand**

Megan & Will Revson
in memory of **Anita Nalley**

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

Melissa, Tony, Lillian,
and Miles Threatt
in memory of **Virginia & Lloyd E. Hill**

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

Melissa, Tony, Lillian,
and Miles Threatt
in honor of **Lee Ann & Jerry Threatt**

Sam & LeAnne White
in memory **Margaret Bishop**

Sam & LeAnne White
in memory of **Laurie Jeanes**

Sam & LeAnne White
in memory of **Robert "Bo" Jeanes**

Freddie, Tiffany, Kass,
and Lindlee Williams
in memory of
Toufie, Linda, and Tina Kassab

Freddie, Tiffany, Kass,
and Lindlee Williams
in memory of **Will Hand**

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

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**

Rand & Kim Wilson
in memory of **David Wilson**

Rand & Kim Wilson
in memory of **Don Seemuller**

Rand & Kim Wilson
in memory of **Elizabeth Seemuller**

Lynn & Janie Yeargin
in memory of **Bob Yeargin**

Lynn & Janie Yeargin
in memory of **Charlie Hindman**

Lynn & Janie Yeargin
in memory of **Charlotte Goblet Hindman**

Lynn & Janie Yeargin
in honor of **Mary Ellen Sitton Yeargin**

Ryan, Sarah, Lilly, and Beau Beasley
in memory of
Dr. & Mrs. J.T. O'Hanlan

Susan, William, Thomas, and Tj
in memory of **Howard Boyd**

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

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

Linda Carpenter
in memory of **Rick Carpenter**

Jack & Roxanne Cromartie
in honor of **Sam & Nancy White**

Jack & Roxanne Cromartie
in honor of **Meg, Tod, Mary Hunter,**
and Thomas Hyche

Jack & Roxanne Cromartie
in honor of **Sam, LeAnne, Grayson,**
and Sarah Katherine White

Joan Edwards & Family
in memory of **Dave Edwards**

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

David & Kris Goff
in memory of **their loved ones**

Roger & Martha Gower
in honor of **WPC Musicians**

Ryan, Sarah, Lilly, and Beau Beasley
in memory of **Ben Dull**
and Mary Jane Dull Hoffman

Mike & Ellen Hall
in memory of **his parents,**
Martha & Floyd Hall

Mike & Ellen Hall
in memory of **her parents,**
Edna & Elmer Johnson

Mike & Ellen Hall
in memory of **his brother, Reggie Hall**

Betty King
in memory of **Gerry King**

Katherine & Bill Mattice
in memory of **Patrick O'Halloran**

Sadie and McCrae Mattice
in memory of **SuSu Moore**

Sadie and McCrae Mattice
in memory of **Poppy McCrae**

Sadie and McCrae Mattice
in honor of **Mary Kathleen Duncan**

Sadie and McCrae Mattice
in honor of **Donn James**

Sadie and McCrae Mattice
in honor of **Anna Hanor**

Sadie and McCrae Mattice
in memory of **Rip Harris**

Sadie and McCrae Mattice
in memory of **Uncle Steve Schroeder**

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

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

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

Pat Shufeldt
*in honor of **WPC Staff***

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

Sam & LeAnne White
*in memory **Margaret Bishop***

Sam & LeAnne White
*in memory of **Laurie Jeanes***

Sam & LeAnne White
*in memory of **Robert "Bo" Jeanes***

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

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***

Bill Young, Jr.
*in memory of **Bette Young***

The Heritage Lecture Fund supports Westminster's long-standing lecture series. The purpose of the series is to expand the religious horizons of our community by inviting world-class lecturers to teach and preach one Sunday each year. **The following gifts have been made to the Heritage Lecture Fund:**

Talitha, Bill, Emily, and William Allen
*in memory of **James (Jimmy) L. Rogers***

Talitha, Bill, Emily, and William Allen
*in memory of **Merv & William K. Allen***

Adam & Deshia Breaux
*in memory of **Charles Russ***

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

Kim, Trey, Ellie, Cara, Jack,
and Ben DuBose
*in memory of **Bo Caraway***

Kim, Trey, Ellie, Cara, Jack,
and Ben DuBose
*in memory of **Sonny Caraway***

David & Kris Goff
*in memory of **their loved ones***

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

Diane Hughs
*in memory of **Dan Hughs***

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

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

Kay Kelly
*in memory of **her aunt, Betty T. Parker***

Pat Shufeldt
in honor of
The WPC Library Volunteers

Musette Stern
and Amanda & Frank Stern
*in memory **Musette & Frank Williams***

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 the college. After his experience as an army chaplain in the First World War he had become convinced that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. Milner White's original service was 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.

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 from Benson's 1880 order, has remained virtually unchanged.

In 1928, the BBC began broadcasting the King's College service. It was quickly adapted for churches and congregations throughout the world, from Asia to the British Isles and right here in Greenville, South Carolina where, in 2025, we celebrate its 65th 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." The center of the service is still found by those who "go in heart and mind" and who consent to follow where the story of God's unfolding redemption leads.

Adapted from Kings College Chapel Bulletin, 2014