



A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Johann Michael Bach

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower bell.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all.**

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen God's glory. The light of the world has come.

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

Leader: This light is a light for all: illuminating our lives with the love of the God who would join us in our humanity.

People: **Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.**

***Processional Hymn 133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

A Prayer for Christmas

Rev. Christian K. Choi

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Kristianna Eastvold

Carol Lo, How a Rose

Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

The Second Lesson Isaiah 61:1-2, 11

Will Hovey

***Congregational Carol 134** Joy to the World

Antioch

The Third Lesson Luke 1:26-33

Sam Simonson

Carol **Good People, Be Ye Glad** Henry Purcell
Good people, be ye glad this night of all the year.
Light ye a candle and sing a song so dear.
This Christmastide, this Christmastide, this Christmastide is here.

The Fourth Lesson Luke 2:1-7 Kristianna Eastvold

Carol **There is Faint Music** Dan Forrest
There is faint music in the night, and pale wings fanned by silver flight;
A frosty hill with tender glow of countless stars that shine on snow.
A shelter from the winter storm, a straw-lined manger, safe and warm.
And Mary singing lullabies to hush her baby's sleepy sighs.
Her eyes are fixed upon his face, unheeded here is time and space,
Her heart is filled with blinding joy for God's own Son, her baby

Festival of Light Rev. Christian K. Choi

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Carol **La Nativité** Jean Langlais
La Crèche
Les Anges
Les Bergers
La Sainte Famille

Meditation **The Work of Christmas** Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Solo When the Song of Angels is Stilled Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The Work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among
peoples, to make music from the heart.

The Fifth Lesson Luke 2:8-16 Will Hovey

***Congregational Carol 122** Silent Night, Holy Night! *Stille Nacht*

The Sixth Lesson Matthew 2:1-2, 9b-11 Sam Simonson

**Presentation of Gifts and
Prayer of Dedication**

Offertory Carol Rejoice and be Merry David Halls

Rejoice and be merry in songs and in mirth!
O praise our redeemer, all mortals on earth!
For this is the birthday of Jesus our King,
Who brought us salvation, his praises we'll sing.
A heavenly vision appeared in the sky;
Vast numbers of angels the shepherds did spy.
Likewise a bright star in the sky did appear,
Which led the wisemen from the east to draw near;
They found the Messiah, sweet Jesus our King,
Who brought us salvation, his praises we'll sing
And when they were come, they their treasures unfold,
And unto him offered myrrh, incense, and gold.
So blessed forever be Jesus our King,
Who brought us salvation, his praises we'll sing.

The Seventh Lesson John 1:1-2, 4b-5, 14

***Blessing and Sending**

***Congregational Carol**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

*At the singing of the carol, you are invited
to ring bells during the refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains, in reply,
echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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!

*The carol will be sung twice. The congregation may begin
recessing as the carol is being sung the second time.*

***Ring of Christmas Bells**

(Stand as you are able.*

Westminster's Annual Candle Lighting Service

In 1920, twelve high school seniors from the Christian Endeavor Society planned and led a candlelight service during the Christmas season at Westminster. From this simple beginning with twelve red candles on the communion table, the service has grown in beauty and importance for the congregation. Three things have remained the same over the years: the leadership of the high school seniors, the singing of the carols, and the lighting of the candles to represent God's Light coming into the world in a manger in Bethlehem.

Westminster High School Seniors:

Rose Ballantyne
Charlotte Beatty
Matthew Bright
Cearra Davis

Finley DuBois
Kristianna Eastvold*
Will Hovey*
Sam Simonson*

*participating in tonight's service

Participants in the Christmas Eve Service

The Reverend Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer, Pastor

The Reverend Christian Ko Choi, Associate Pastor for Parish Life

Dale Thomas Rogers, Director of Music and the Arts

The Westminster Choir, Amelia Tungett, soprano, Adam Miller, tenor

Julie McDonough (Head), Sabrina Holmes, Melanie Humphrey, Terry Haynor,
Mervice Alah Abung, Bruce Strom, John McNutt, Jess Weitzel, Ushers

Mary Ray, Worship Leader, Safety Team

The paraments on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table and the clergy stoles are white, the liturgical color for Christmastide. On the pulpit, the embroidered symbol is a Cross Etoile, a compound symbol combining cross forms with trefoil finials, which create a star. We are grateful to Susan and Scott Day and the late Kathie Nenaber for this splendid parament set.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Westminster Presbyterian Church, welcome to worship this Christmas Eve. If you are considering becoming a part of a faith community, we hope you will consider Westminster. We are a community of faith within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), founded as an abolitionist congregation in 1835. We seek to continue that spirit of advocacy for justice and mercy in our world today.

Our worship service, rich in liturgy and a variety of musical styles, is held in our Sanctuary and live streamed each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. The service can be viewed anytime during the week at www.wpcspi.org. Our worship weaves the spoken word, music and silence in a way that touches the heart, nourishes the spirit, and challenges the mind.

We seek to build a thoughtful, developmentally informed ministry of education and spiritual formation. From the youngest to the oldest, we are committed to life-long learning as we honor the faith journey of each and are present with one another during the unexpected turns along the way.

On this Holy Night, we hope you experience the love and wonder of the God who chose to join us in our humanity.

Grace and Peace,



The Reverend Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

Westminster Mission Statement:

Westminster Presbyterian Church believes that it is in the world for ministry.

With each new day, we reaffirm our common purpose:

to join in the worshipful praise of God,

to teach the children, to lead and inspire the young,

and to call everyone to life-long learning in the church,

to be influential participants in society,

by being accountable to the Gospel,

to show the love and compassion of Jesus Christ toward each other,

and toward those who are hurting,

to be a caring community welcoming both friends and strangers,

to own our Presbyterian heritage, reformed and always reforming,

to be prayerfully open to the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.

Let the door of this church be a way to service.