



**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
CHRISTMAS EVE 2020 + 7:30 P.M.**

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary A Boy is Born

Everett Titcomb

***Ringing of the Bell** *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower bell.*

***Call to Worship**

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.

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

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

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

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

Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.

***Hymn** 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!

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!

CHRIST'S BIRTH AND KINGDOM ARE FORETOLD BY THE PROPHET ISAIAH.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

Carol Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Music: German carol,
Dale Adelman, arr

THE CHARACTER OF GOD'S KINGDOM IS REVEALED BY THE PROPHET ISAIAH

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Congregational Carol Joy to the World

Antioch

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.

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.

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.

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.

The Third Lesson Luke 1:26-33

Ben Parker

THE ANGEL GABRIEL SPEAKS TO THE VIRGIN MARY

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Carol There is Faint Music

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 one snow.
A shelter from the winter storm, a straw-lined manger, safe and warm,
And Mary singing lullabies, to hush her baby's sleeping sighs.
Her eyes are fixed upon his face, unheeded here in time and space;
Her heart is filled with blinding joy, for God's own Son, her baby boy.

Music: Dan Forrest
Words: Nancy Buckley

The Fourth Lesson Luke 2:1-7

Kristina Hemberger

LUKE TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Carol The Sussex Carol

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.
New of great joy, news of great mirth; News of our merciful King's birth.
Then why should men on earth be so sad since our redeemer made us glad.
When from our sins he set us free. All for to gain our liberty.
All out of darkness we have light which makes the angels sing this night.
Glory to God and peace to men. Now and forevermore, Amen.

Music: English Carol, June Nixon, arr.
Words: Traditional, Mrs. Verrall, Monks Gate Sussex

Carol La Nativité

La Crèche
Les Anges
Les Bergers
La Sainte Famille

Music: Jean Langlais

Meditation

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Congregational Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht

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.

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."

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.

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.

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Jai Ireland

THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

THE WISE MEN ARE LED BY THE STAR TO JESUS

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

...they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ... they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Carol Brightest and Best

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid:
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Music: Eric Thiman
Words: Bishop R Heber

A Prayer for Christmas

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

Carol A Child is Born in Bethlehem

A child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia, Alleluia.
And joy is in Jerusalem, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Rejoice, rejoice, sing high, sing low, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Benedicamus Domino. Alleluia, Alleluia.

To thee O Lord be glory paid. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thou son of Mary, mother maid, Alleluia, Alleluia.
To Holy Trinity give praise. Alleluia, Alleluia.
With *Deo Gracias* always. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Music: Philip Stopford
Words: 14th Century Latin Hymn

***The Seventh Lesson** John 1:1-5, 14

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being in the Word 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 God's glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Blessing and Sending

*Congregational Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

*During 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!

*Ringing of Christmas Bells

In ancient times, the bells of church towers were silenced through the four weeks of Advent. However, during the singing of the angelic song, Gloria in Excelsis Deo, the bells rung out in peals of joy. At Westminster, our ringing of the bells of Christmas follows this old tradition.

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.

Participants in the Christmas Eve Service

The Reverend Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer, Pastor
The Reverend Trajan Iliff McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life
The Reverend Christian Ko Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
Dale Thomas Rogers, Director of Music and the Arts
Eleanor Van Deventer, soprano Adam Miller, counter-tenor
Jamie Greenwald, tenor Lyle VanDeventer, Bass
Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers
Mary Ray, Safety Team

Westminster High School Seniors:

Grace Batterman, Kristina Hemberger, Jai Ireland, Ben Parker, Avery Pound

WESTMINSTER'S CENTENNIAL 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 the Light coming into the world in a manger in Bethlehem.

SENIOR CLASS OF 1967



Back Row: Steven Steer, Dan Byers

Front Row: Jan Bertschinger, William Hughes, Judy Ireland, Roy Filson, Kent Cochran,
Larry Barrer, George Atkinson, Betsy Blanchard, Karen Hockenyos, Stephen Ritchie,
and Mary Gail Knock (Romack)