



A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

2021 CHRISTMAS EVE  
7:30 P.M.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Ding, Dong, Merrily on High

16<sup>th</sup> Century French

**\*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

*Fideles Adeste*

A Prayer for Christmas

Rev. Christian K. Choi

**The First Lesson**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Madison Kruger

**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

Caroline Haynor

**\*Congregational Carol 134**

Joy to the World

*Antioch***The Third Lesson**

Luke 1:26-33

Bryce Pound

**Carol**

Still, Still, Still

Austrian Carol

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.  
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,  
Holy star its vigil keeping.  
Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.  
The night is peaceful all around you,  
close your eyes, let sleep surround you.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.  
While guardian angels without number  
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.  
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

## The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Louisa Eldridge

## Carol

In the Bleak Midwinter

Stephen Main

In the bleak mid-winter, 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 mid-winter, long ago.

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.

## 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**    Letting Go

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

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

*Stille Nacht*

**The Fifth Lesson**    Luke 2:8-16

Emily Brower

**\*Congregational Carol 119**    Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Mendelssohn*

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

Samantha Magalis

**Presentation of Gifts  
and Prayer of Dedication**

**Offertory Carol**    O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on you knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

**The Seventh Lesson**    John 1:1-5, 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 juniors and 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.

### **Westminster High School Juniors and Seniors:**

Braden Barton  
Emily Brower  
Louisa Eldridge  
Caroline Haynor

Madison Kruger  
Samantha Magalis  
Mia Marcy  
Bryce Pound

### **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, Eleanor VanDeventer, Soprano, Lyle VanDeventer, Bass  
Adam Miller, Tenor, Mia Marcy, Liturgical Dancer  
Julie McDonough (head), Terry Haynor, Rachael Hickman, Gregg Humphrey,  
Mary Ray, Mike Sundquist, TBD, TBD Ushers  
Mary Ray, 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](http://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 joins 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.*