A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 AT 7:30 P.M.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome — Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Voluntary — Ding Dong! Merrily on High — French Carol

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

***Call to Worship** — Juliana Eastvold

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. Sarah A. Bishop

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 — Ben Bassett

Carol Lo, How a Rose — Michael Praetorius, Dale Adelmann, arr.

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 — Eva Pan

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

The Third Lesson Luke 1:26-33 — Taryn Barnett

Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem — Walford Davies

The text for this carol is found at 121 in the Glory to God hymnal.

The Fourth Lesson Luke 2:1-7 — Sam Batterman

Carol All Bells in Paradise — Sir John Rutter

Deep in the cold of winter, darkness and silence were everywhere;
Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness a wonderful sound:
All bells in paradise I heard them ring, sounding in majesty the
news that they bring; All bells in paradise I heard them ring;
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.

Festival of Light — Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Carol La Nativité — Jean Langlais

La Creche,
Les Anges,
Les Bergers,
La Sainte Famille

Meditation Into the Mess — Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Carol O Holy Night — Adolphe Adam

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til 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 your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

The Fifth Lesson	Luke 2:8-16	Macklin Metzger
***Congregational Carol 122**	Silent Night, Holy Night!	*Stille Nacht*
The Sixth Lesson	Matthew 2:1-2, 9b-11	Abigail Eldridge
Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication		
Offertory Carol	Sussex Carol	Traditional English arr. by Elaine Hagenber

On Christmas night all Christian sing,
to hear the news the angels bring
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.
When sin depart before his grace
then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.
All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God in highest heaven,
Now and forevermore," Amen!

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

***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.

***Ringing 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 youth, 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 Students Christmas Eve Readers:

Ben Bassett
Sam Batterman
Abigail Eldridge
Juliana Eastvold
Taryn Barnett
Eva Pan
Macklin Metzger

Participants in the Christmas Eve Service

The Reverend Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall, Pastor

The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

Dale Thomas Rogers, Director of Music and the Arts

The Westminster Choir, Amelia Tungett, Soprano

Christian, Nora, Lilliana Kennerly, Greeters

Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Greg Boutelle, Chris Hickman, Joyce King, Bill Schlosser, Brad Steller, Ushers

Peter Van Gieson, 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.

Join Us on Sundays for Worship at 10:00 a.m.

On January 4 we will join the Wise people in following the star of Epiphany as it commemorates their arrival in Bethlehem to honor baby Jesus. Nursery, Sunday School (preschool-fifth grade) and Confirmation Prep (sixth-seventh grade) and Confirmation classes resume. Our Adult Education Forum following worship in Parish Hall returns as well.

On January 18 we kick off a worship series "Back to the Start." Many of us remember the Bible stories we learned as children—Creation, the Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark, Abraham and Sarah. But as adults, these stories invite us to look again, to wrestle with their questions, and to discover deeper truths about God, humanity, and hope. In this series, we return to the book of Genesis to hear these familiar stories with fresh ears—finding that even in our chaos, doubt, and longing, God is still creating, still calling, and still bringing forth new beginnings.

An invitation to join Westminster programing and events in 2026!

The Westminster Choir resumes rehearsals for our winter season on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Contact Dale Rogers, Director of Music and the Arts, for more information.

A musical adventure, Church Mice, for infants through age four will begin its new year on Saturday, January 17 at 11:00 a.m. in the Second-Floor classroom.

Beginning Wednesday January 7, Upper Elementary age children (third-fifth grade) are invited to our Bridges after-school program on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Upper Room Classroom. Also beginning Wednesdays, January 7, our Westminster Children's Choir (K-fifth grade) resumes rehearsals at 5:00 p.m. in the Music Room.

Children of Abraham, a quarterly gathering of interfaith communities will meet at Grace United Methodist Church on Wednesday, February 4, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Senior High Youth Group (ninth-twelfth grade) meets Sunday January 11 at 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. Dinner is included. Junior High Youth Group (sixth-eighth grade) meets Wednesday, January 28 at 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Dinner is included.

And so much more! Please visit our website or take home a monthly newsletter, The Reporter, to learn more about these and all the other events happening at Westminster.

Year-End Contributions - As the end of the year approaches, we thank all of those who have made donations to the church. Be sure any donations for the 2025 tax year are dated December 31, 2025 or earlier and delivered to the church no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 2, 2026.