Christmas Eve
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Traditional “Sharing the Light” Service – 8:00 p.m.
WELCOME

ON THIS HOLY NIGHT, we immerse ourselves in one of the deep mysteries of our faith. In celebrating Christmas, we try to push away the cares of the moment and the rush of things to do. As we worship, we create a wide, sweet space to listen, to pray, to sing, and to receive the gift of God’s presence. No one will ever make sense of how God, the Infinite, was revealed in the finite. So we tell a story and simply wonder at it all. Welcome to a house of wonder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The tree in our Sanctuary is decorated with beautifully handmade ornaments created by Westminster members called Chrismons (Christ + Monogram). We hope these Christian symbols will prompt you to contemplate Christ and the meaning of Christmas.

Our Christmas decorations are labors of love by: Linda Watson; Ross and Jill Getty, and Linda and Paul McGregor.

The Chancel flowers this evening are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles M. Krick, Jr. and Ann E. Linderman by Sue and Bob Linderman.

If you have 2020 year-end donations, please mail them as soon as possible or use our online giving option. The USPS has stated it is experiencing unprecedented volume increases and limited employee availability due to the impacts of COVID-19.

We welcome guest soprano soloist Evelyn Santiago. She is winner of the Metropolitan Opera District Auditions in Puerto Rico and a frequent soloist with Opera Philadelphia’s mainstage productions and community outreach performances. Equally at home on the concert stage, Ms. Santiago has been soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Lancaster Symphony, the Symphonic Orchestra of Bayamon (Puerto Rico), and Philomusica Chorale. She is a graduate of Westminster Choir College and St. Joseph’s University and lives in Voorhees, N.J., with her husband Dale.

December 27 Worship Service Led by New Castle Presbytery

Ministers in New Castle Presbytery will provide Westminster’s online worship service on Sunday, December 27. This will be a wonderful opportunity to experience worship led by others and will be the Christmas gift of a well-deserved break for our staff and videographers. With no in-person worship that Sunday, please go to the “Sunday Worship” box on the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org) for the link to this service.
8:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

TOWER CHIME
Susan Spilecki

PRELUDE: (7:50 p.m.)
Two Christmas Carols
Joel Raney

Silent Night, Holy Night
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Ted Barr and Tony Thurman, four-hand piano

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
Jen, Dave, Luke and Greg Máthé

Light one candle for Christ,
because the world is broken and the wait is long but Christ is with us through it all –
in a humble manger,
on a convict’s cross,
in every heart and home where hope, peace, joy, and love endure.
So we light one candle, because Christ is with us.

_The candle is lit._

The light shines in the darkness,
_and the darkness will never overcome it._

CAROL NO. 133
_O Come, All Ye Faithful_  
ADESTE FIDELES
Vs. 1 & 3

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!

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, Christ, the Lord!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

_God of grace and truth, we pray that you will come into our lives
and fill us with such love and wonder,
that with shepherds and wise men,
we may come to adore the Holy Child, the promised King.
As you came in the stillness of night,
pierce through the darkness of our lives with the light of Christ among us,
that we may clearly see the path to walk,
know the truth we need to speak
and embrace the life to live as he has taught us. Amen._

SCRIPTURE LESSON
Luke 2:1-7

ANTHEM
_Sussex Carol_  
English Carol/arr. David Wilcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.
Then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?
When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place.
Angels and all with joy may sing all for to see the new-born King.
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to all, now and for evermore, Amen!"
SCRIPTURE LESSON
Luke 2:8-20

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.”
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
Gregory Knox Jones

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 soul rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! Oh, night divine when Christ was born!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, he guardeth us from danger; behold your King! Before the lowly bend!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
Sudie Niesen Thompson

CAROL NO. 122
Silent Night, Holy Night!
Vs. 1 & 4

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!
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.

BENEDICTION

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Advent Candle liturgy is adapted from “One Candle: An Advent Liturgy for 2020” by the Rev. Karen Ware Jackson (used with permission).

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Guest Soloist: Evelyn Santiago
Piano: Ted Barr

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Karen Beer, Sally Buttner, Chad Chandler, Bob Cox, Rich Diver, Michael Enderle,
Jessica Fischer, Peter Gildner, Carol Hogue, Carla Krupanski, Faith Kuehn, David Mathé,
Kelly McCulloch, David Michener, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor, Todd Piercy, Roger Reinicker,
Carrie Saathoff, Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Barb Stratton, Mary Vane, Susan Williamson

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Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker, Dr. Mary Mikhail
Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band
Guatemala – CEDEPCA, AJPU, Rosario Diaz and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development
CHRISTMAS 2020 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:
Carol and Gene Hopkins
William Albert
Agnes McGeehan
Bernie, Maurice and Eleanor Alexander
Charles Babcock, Sr. and Esther Babcock
Leland Chamberlain and Pauline Chamberlain
William Deans and Kenneth Barnaby
Teddy Bedrossian
Mr. and Mrs. David Bernhard, Grandparents
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Becker, Grandparents
Mr. John R. Becker, Uncle
Mr. Victor Lawryniuk, Grandparent
Mrs. Marianne Wizgall, Dear Friend
Our Parents and Other Loved Ones
Sandy White
Our Parents
Bob Checkel
Inez and Bill Cobb
Maury Colbert
Art Connolly, Jr.
Janet and Bob Eissner
Charles and Emily Evans
John and Grace Reighard
Edward Falasco
Paul, Anna Mae, David and Gregg Collins
Conrad L. Hoover
John and Dot Hunter
Sarah and David Frie and son David
Fred Hurlock, Frances and Fred Hurlock Sr.
Our Parents
Robert E. Joslin, husband
Jerry Lee
Harold and Marion True
Amy Michener Lengel
Devon Lengel
Loved ones: Lewis, Thompson, Saunders
Matthew Hammond Mah
Presley Braun
Carolann Nice

Given By:
Rich and Taryn Albert
Rich and Taryn Albert
The Alexander Family
The Alexander Family
Charles and Sharon Babcock
Charles and Sharon Babcock
Fay Deans Barnaby
Ned Bedrossian and Family
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Nancy and Herb Boden
Pam, Kristina, and Reuben Busick-White
Polly and Jim Carter
His Family
Rosemary and Barry Cobb
Nancy Colbert
Joan Connolly
The Eissner and Stabler Families
George and Sandra Reighard Evans
George and Sandra Reighard Evans
Colleen and Marty Falasco
Colleen and Marty Falasco
Barbara A. Hoover
Beth, John and Amy
Suzie Hurlock
Suzie Hurlock
John and Dede Johnston
Ruth A. Joslin
Virginia Lee and Family
Virginia Lee and Family
Eric, Katie, Jason and Justin
Eric, Katie, Jason and Justin
Ralph L. Lewis
Dennie and Marsha Mah
Jordan Maxwell
Jordan Maxwell
CHRISTMAS 2020 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:
Alice, Arnold and Charles Sharpley
Amy M. Lengel
Lillian, John and Mildred Michener
Dr. Johnetta Morrison, my wife
Our Parents
George Patrick, Raymond Peters, Carrie Peters, Martha Patrick, George H. Patrick
Janet and Jack Foster
Sara Jane Evans and Charles Pfleegor
Jay, Ann, Grammy, Bobo and Grandpap
Doe and Paul Steen
William F. Parker
Lowell T. Underhill
My Parents, Edward and Elizabeth Budd

Given By:
Bunny and Jack Michener
Bunny and Jack Michener
Bunny and Jack Michener
KC Morrisson
Mary Lu and Roland Pamm
The Patrick Family
Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor
Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor
The Spilecki Family
Barbara Steen
Judy and Paul Stoffer, Nya Li Parker
The Underhill Family
Linda Budd Watson

CHRISTMAS 2020 POINSETTIAS

In Honor of:
Eloise Crawford
Julia Crawford
Jane Iobst
Fred Iobst
Dawn Iobst
Ben Iobst
Emily Crawford
Travis Crawford
The Phix-it Corps
Westminster Staff
Westminster Clergy

Given By:
Jordan Maxwell
Jordan Maxwell
Jordan Maxwell
Jordan Maxwell
Jordan Maxwell
Jordan Maxwell
Jordan Maxwell
Jordan Maxwell
An Appreciative Church Member
An Appreciative Church Member
An Appreciative Church Member
Dear Members and Friends of Westminster,

Our Christmas Offering bolsters the work of Christ as we empower our brothers and sisters worldwide, shelter homeless families, support children and young adults, assist those living with mental illness, and work for justice and peace. Every dollar you give goes beyond our walls to ministries that share the love of God with those in need. This year, your gifts will be distributed to:

✧ **Church in the World Projects (25%)** – These global programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, and the Middle East promote peace in areas of conflict, help reduce the adverse impacts of using wood as a cooking fuel, provide humanitarian assistance for those in poverty, and educate and empower girls and women.

✧ **Family Promise (20%)** – Family Promise of Northern New Castle County is a non-profit organization that prevents and ends homelessness for families, enabling them to stay together as they work toward housing independence. Westminster’s building and our dedicated volunteers provide temporary shelter and hospitality to these families four weeks each year.

✧ **UrbanPromise (20%)** – UrbanPromise Wilmington equips children and young adults with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, personal growth, and servant leadership according to Christian principles. Our members serve as tutors.

✧ **National Alliance on Mental Illness (15%)** – The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) strives to improve the lives of individuals and their families living with mental illness. Through education programs, public policy advocacy, and public awareness events, NAMI and its Delaware chapter combat the stigmas that further harm those living with mental illness in our community.

✧ **Delaware Center for Justice (15%)** – Seeking justice for all Delawareans, the Delaware Center for Justice envisions a community that promotes safety, equity, and healing. DCJ facilitates crime prevention and intervention programs, pursues legislative reform, and helps victims of crime.

✧ **Churches for Middle East Peace (5%)** – Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is a coalition of 29 national church denominations and organizations that works to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote a comprehensive resolution to conflicts in the Middle East with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Thank you for your generous support of Christ’s work!