2023 Christmas Eve
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Children’s Pageant – 4:00 p.m.
Service of Story and Song – 5:30 p.m.
Candlelight Communion Service – 8:00 p.m.
WELCOME

ON THIS HOLY NIGHT, we engage 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, pray, sing, and 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

We welcome everyone to Westminster Church for these Christmas Eve services. We extend a special welcome to visitors and those who return for the holiday. If you live in the Wilmington area and do not have a church home, we hope you will consider uniting with our church family. To learn more about our community of faith, please contact the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson at sniesenthompson@wpc.org or (302) 654-5214 ext. 103.

Our Christmas decorations are labors of love by: Linda Watson; Clark and Donna Collins, Kevin and Chelsea Collins and their children Parker, Grayson and Warren; Jill Getty, Mary Field, Suzie Hurlock, Linda and Paul McGregor, Carol Mosher, Robin Rosser, Lois Underhill, Sue Weissinger and Susan Williamson. We extend our deep thanks to all who helped decorate our church for Christmas.

The trees in the Sanctuary and Rodney Chapel have been decorated with 160 beautifully handmade ornaments called Chrismons (Christ + Monogram). We hope these Christian symbols will prompt you to contemplate Christ and the meaning of Christmas. For more information, please see the December Chimes article on the Chrismons.

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.

Cover Image Credit: Nativity art by Darcy Lee Saxton

Church Office Holiday Hours: The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25. The church office will be OPEN December 26-29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All donations POSTMARKED on or before December 31, 2023 will be credited to your contribution record as received in 2023, so there is no need to physically drop off donations to receive credit. Secure online donations can be made until December 31 for 2023 year-end giving. If you need assistance with online giving, contact Colleen Falasco at cfalasco@wpc.org.

PASTORAL STAFF
The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

MUSIC STAFF
Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Music/Organist
Section Leaders: Rebecca Hughes, Margaret Mezzacappa, Teddy Austin, Jerry Polman
Emily Haas, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Cole Walker, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

VIDEOGRAPHERS
Tanner Freeman, Rich Albert, Drew Holmes, George McAllister, Chip Pfleegor, Roger Reinicker, Aaron Wemhoff, Sophia Wolff, and Deanna Sparling

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION STAFF
Kathleen Kennan, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry
Sydney Walker, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Grace Anderson, Youth Leader
Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries
Beatrice Taylor, Nursery

SUPPORT STAFF
Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Mary Clark, Administrative Assistant
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Doug Gerds, Manager of Accounting and Reporting
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Sextons: Robert King, Daniel Steele, Joan Truitt, John Young
There were thousands of babies
born that day
all helpless
dependent
needful of love
warmth
and sustenance
some would grow up to be kings
queens
leaders
others slaves
prostitutes
beggars
murderers and thieves
most however
would live ordinary lives
among ordinary people
and live and die
whilst the world scarce noticed
their existence
But not you
Who rose from the most ordinary
to the extraordinary
from stable to cross
and beyond
whilst the world tried its best
to ignore you
and failed

Author Unknown (from FaithandWorship.com)
Children’s Pageant – 4:00 p.m.

Passages in bold print may be spoken by all. At the asterisk (*) please stand in body or rise in spirit.

TOWER CHIME
Craig Checkel

CALL TO WORSHIP
Sudie Niesen Thompson

With the angels, whose chorus announced Christ’s birth,
we come to proclaim the good news.
With the shepherds, who stood in awe before his manger bed,
we come in wonder to worship him.
With the Wise Ones, who welcomed the newborn king with precious gifts,
we come with gifts of love and praise.
Come, let us adore him!
Let us worship the Lord!

*CAROL NO. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!

ADESTE FIDELES

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
Refrain

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
Erin, Scott, Hudson, and Crosby Downing

“Good news of great joy,” the angel said,
“for to you a Savior is born.”
“Peace on earth,” the choir said,
“for God reigns in the highest.”
“Follow me,” the star beckoned,
“for Hope was born in Bethlehem.”

The Christ candle is lit.
The light shines in the darkness.
And the darkness will never overcome it.

ANTHEMS

Away in a Manger
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Westminster Children’s Choir
Please see page 8 for a list of participants.
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.

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, wonders of his love.

PRAYER
Gregory Knox Jones

Living God,
on this holy night we gather—
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.
May the good news of this night inspire us
to tell the world of our great joy:
Jesus Christ is born! Amen.

LES SONS AND CAROLS

Carol No. 140
Once in Royal David’s City

Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

THE JOURNEY AND THE BIRTH
Nativity: Kelly, Eric, and Charlotte Olsen

Carol No. 146
Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth;
Wise men sought and found him;
Heaven’s star sone brightly forth,
Glory all around him
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

THE ANGELS APPEAR
Luke 2:8-14
**Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**
**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?

**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!**

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**The Shepherds Go to Bethlehem**

Luke 2:15-20

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**There's a Star in the East**

Solo:
There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
Rise up, shepherd and follow. **Refrain**

Refrain, sung by all:
Follow, follow;
Rise up shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow

Solo:
If you take good heed to the angel's words,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
You'll forget your flocks; you'll forget your herds.
Rise up, shepherd and Follow. **Refrain**

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**We Three Kings of Orient Are**

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,*
*star with royal beauty bright,*
*westward leading, still proceeding,*
*guide us to thy perfect light!*

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.

**Refrain**
Gifts for the Christ Child

As the magi brought their gifts to the Christ child, tonight we offer ours to his work in the world.
The entire Christmas Offering is given to those in need beyond our walls. Please see the back cover for details.
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Offertory Solo

Gesù Bambino

Pietro A. Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,
And at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Christmas Prayer

Holy One, on this holy night
we kneel before your manger bed,
amazed that you would put yourself in our hands.
And we pray that you would open our hearts
to receive your gift of grace.
Help us to be like Mary –

to bear Christ into this world
with powerful praise and thoughtful love.
Help us to be like the angels –

to sing your glory and proclaim your peace
to those the world thinks deserve it least.
Help us to be like the shepherds –

to respond to good news of great joy
by telling others what we have heard and seen.
Help us to be like the wise ones –

to seek you out, to follow your star,
to make of our lives a gift to you.

Holy One, on this holy night
we kneel before your manger bed,
amazed at the fullness of your love.
Send us out with joy in our hearts
to echo the angels' song:

to us is born a Savior, Christ the Lord!

Carol No. 122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Children's Choir: 
Sung by All:
Silent night, holy night!
Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
‘round yon virgin mother and child!
With the angels let us sing,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Alleluia to our King:
sleep in heavenly peace,
Christ the Savior is born;
sleep in heavenly peace.
Christ the Savior is born.

(Service concludes on next page)
Go to bring light to those who sit in darkness,
and joy to those in despair.
Go with the songs of angels in your ears,
and the love of God in your hearts.
Go in wonder to share the good news:
Jesus Christ is born!

*Carol No. 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

Special thanks to Kara Francis, Robin Rosser, and Teresa Wemhoff
for shepherding our shepherds, angels and animals.

Westminster Children’s Choir

Stella Baddorf        Hudson Downing        Fionn Murphy
Amelia Blackford     Penny Gnade           Iona Thompson
Samuel Blackford     Zetta Gnade           Cooper Wemhoff
Jack Burkhardt       Garrett Hoopes        Griffin Wemhoff
Kaylea Donaghy       Charlie McAllister
Service of Story and Song – 5:30 p.m.

Passages in bold print may be spoken by all. At the asterisk (*) please stand in body or rise in spirit.

TOWER CHIME
Susan Spilecki

PRELUDE
Rejoicing
George Philip Telemann

THE BIRTH FORETOLD
Isaiah 9:2, 6
Gregory Knox Jones

*CAROL NO. 119
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
MENDELSSOHN

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!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
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!”

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
Carol and Wheeler Neff

“Good news of great joy,” the angel said,
“for to you a Savior is born.”
“Peace on earth,” the choir said,
“for God reigns in the highest.”
“Follow me,” the star beckoned,
“for Hope was born in Bethlehem.”

The Christ candle is lit.

The light shines in the darkness.
And the darkness will never overcome it.
PRAYER

Living God –
On this joy-filled night,
we come to adore you
and to receive your gift of love.

In quiet celebration,
we join Mary in pondering the mystery in our hearts.
In resounding praise,
we raise our voices with the heavenly host:
Glory to God in the Highest Heaven!
And on earth, peace to all!

As we listen again to your story,
enter our searching hearts,
and illumine our wondering minds
that we might know your hope, peace, joy, and love,
and share these gifts with others. Amen.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

CAROL NO. 140  Once in Royal David’s City  IRBY

Once in royal David’s city
He came down to earth from heaven
stood a lowly cattle shed,
who is God and Lord of all,
where a mother laid her baby
and his shelter was a stable,
in a manger for his bed:
and his cradle was a stall;
Mary was that mother mild;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
Jesus Christ, her little child.
lived on earth our Savior holy.


CAROL NO. 128  Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  WŻŁOBIE LEŻY

Infant holy, infant lowly,
Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
for his bed a cattle stall;
vigil till the morning new
oxen lowing, little knowing
saw the glory, heard the story,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
tidings of the gospel true.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
oxels ringing, tidings bringing:
praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe was born for you!

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth.
Ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.
Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

SHEPHERDS GO TO BETHLEHEM
Luke 2:15-20
Jill Getty

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

THE KINGS FOLLOW THE STAR
Matthew 2:1-12
Luke Máthé and Kyle Carrick

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and
mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!
Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.
Refrain

CAROL NO. 145
What Child Is This
GREENSLEEVES

CAROL NO. 151
We Three Kings of Orient Are
KINGS OF ORIENT

GIFTS FOR THE CHRIST CHILD
As the magi brought their gifts to the Christ child, tonight we offer ours to his work in the world.
The entire Christmas Offering is given to those in need beyond our walls. Please see the back cover for details.
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**Offertory Anthem**

*Oh Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam
arr. Craig Courtney

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 your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!

Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise his holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!  
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger:  
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

**Celebration of the Lord’s Supper**

The Lord’s Supper is open to all who trust in Christ. To receive communion by intinction, please approach the station on either the lectern or pulpit side, take a piece of bread and dip it in the chalice. If you prefer packaged communion elements, you will find those in the bread basket. Please return to your seat to partake of the packaged elements. If you are unable to come to a station, please tell an usher so that you may be served. Those sitting in the balcony will be served in their pews.

**Invitation to the Table**

Set the table of grace,  
**and bring additional chairs.**  
Make a bountiful meal,  
because angels, magi, and shepherds,  
entire oceans, fields, and forests,  
**and everything that lives is coming**  
to the **arrival of the Prince of peace.**

**Carol No. 123**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven’s all-gracious King”:  
the world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Eternal God...
**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION**

Astounding God,
at this table, in this meal,
we have been met by Christ –
the reflection of your glory,
the imprint of your being.
As we go from this place
may our lives be a joyful song,
proclaiming the good news
of your justice and peace
for all the world. Amen.

**CAROL NO. 122**

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*

The ministers will light their candles from the Christ candle and then pass the light to the end of each pew.
Each person, in turn, shares the light with his/her neighbor.
Following the service, you may keep your candle or deposit it in a box near the doors.

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.

(Service concludes on next page)
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.

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.
CHORAL INTROIT

Carol of the Bells
(Ukrainian Bell Carol)

Leontovich
arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

Hark! How the bells; sweet silver bells all seem to say “Throw cares away.”
Christmas is here bringing good cheer to young and old, meek and the bold.
Ding, dong, ding, dong, that is their song, with joyful ring, all caroling.
One seems to hear, words of good cheer, from everywhere filling the air.
O, how they pound, raising the sound, o'er hill and dale, telling their tale.
Gaily they ring, while people sing, songs of good cheer, Christmas is here!
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas! Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas!
On, on they send, on without end, their joyful tone to every home.

THE BIRTH FORETOLD

Isaiah 9:2, 6

*CAROL NO. 133

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, be-gotten, not created!

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

David Cole and Dave Brinkley

“Good news of great joy,” the angel said,
"for you a Savior is born."
“Peace on earth,” the choir said,
"for God reigns in the highest."
“Follow me,” the star beckoned,
"for Hope was born in Bethlehem."

The Christ candle is lit.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness will never overcome it.
PRAYER OF ADORATION

God of new beginnings and surprising opportunities, we celebrate your coming into our lives. By your birth you underscored your love for the world and the importance of life on earth. Through your ministry you showed us how to live a God-filled life and called us to join you in healing the wounds of the world. Fill our hearts this night with your love and grace so that we may become conduits of your compassion for a world yearning for peace. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Sudie Niesen Thompson

*CAROL NO. 141

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us.

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

IDEO O-O, IDEO O-O,
IDEO GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

IDEO O-O, IDEO O-O,
IDEO GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

His the doom, ours the mirth when he came down to earth Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him.

On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing

IDEO O-O, IDEO O-O,
IDEO GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

IDEO O-O, IDEO O-O,
IDEO GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

Jill Getty

Anthem

What Sweeter Music

What sweeter music can we bring Than a carol, for to sing The birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, And give the honor to this day, That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn Smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn, Thus, on the sudden? Come and see The cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth Gives life and luster, public mirth, To heaven, and the under-earth.
We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart
Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour, who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.
What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
—Robert Herrick, 17th Century

Scripture Lesson
Luke 2:15-20

Christmas Message
Gregory Knox Jones

*Carol No. 119

_Hark! The Herald Angels Sing_

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!”_

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

_Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”_

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
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 Offering

The entire Christmas Eve Offering is given to those in need beyond our walls.
Please see the back cover for information on these ministries.
Contributions intended for any other purpose (e.g. 2023 pledge) should be clearly noted.

Offertory Anthem

_O Holy Night_

Adolph Adam
arr. John West

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

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Lord’s Supper is open to all who trust in Christ. To receive communion by intinction, please approach the station on either the lectern or pulpit side, take a piece of bread and dip it in the chalice. If you prefer packaged communion elements, you will find those in the bread basket. Please return to your seat to partake of the packaged elements. If you are unable to come to a station, please tell an usher so that you may be served. Those sitting in the balcony will be served in their pews.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Tonight old dreams are surpassed as new dreams come to life. 

Hope paves the way to joy and prayer leads to proclamation.

The Light of the World has come!

This light is a light for all, igniting a flame within our souls as we break bread together.

God is born among us and within us.

Glory to God in the highest!

May there be peace and goodwill to all.

CAROL NO. 129  

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

Sung by All:
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

Sung by Choir:
Isaiah ‘twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love a right
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent ws the night.

Sung by All:
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.

ES IST EIN’ ROS

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sudie Niesen Thompson

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Eternal God...
**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Words of Institution**

**Communion of the People**

**Prayer Following Communion**

Christ among us, Light of the World,
heal our brokenness and make us whole.
Give us a new heart and a new song,
that our prayers and deeds may be one.
We ask it in the name of your Love-Made-Flesh,
who lives and reigns with you now and forever. Amen.

**Carol No. 122**

**Silent Night, Holy Night!**

The ministers will light their candles from the Christ candle and then pass the light to the end of each pew.
Each person, in turn, shares the light with his/her neighbor.
Following the service, you may keep your candle or deposit it in a box near the doors.

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
‘round yon virgin mother and child!
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.

Benediction

**Carol No. 134**

**Joy to the World**

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.

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, wonders of his love.
Participants

Westminster Children’s Choir (4 p.m.)
Westminster-by-Heart Storytellers (5:30 p.m.)
Westminster Choir (8 p.m.)

Instrumentalists
Ted W. Barr, piano (5:30 and 8 p.m.)
Harvey Price, timpani and percussion (5:30 and 8 p.m.)
Chris Underwood, trumpet (5:30 p.m.)

Choristers
Teddy Austin, tenor (5:30 and 8 p.m.)
Rebecca Hughes, soprano (5:30 and 8 p.m.)
Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano (4, 5:30, and 8 p.m.)
Jerry Polman, bass (5:30 and 8 p.m.)

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In Loving Memory of:
Bill Albert
Carol and Gene Hopkins
Bernie Alexander and other loved ones
Toni D’Alessandris
Mary Sue Lang
My parents, Grace and Richard Baker
Bill Deans and Ken Barnaby
Em and Jim Bercaw
Wally and Jane Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. David Bernhard, Grandparents
Mr. Victor Lawryniuk, Grandparent
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Becker, Grandparents
Mr. John R. Becker, Uncle
Mrs. Marianne Wizgall, Dear Friend
Lewis and Pauline Black
Our parents and other loved ones
Betty and Bud Bryde and Frank and Fay Staats
Robert L. Checkel
Maury Colbert
Helen Jeannette Cole
Deanna Hartman and Kim Hebebrand
Jo and Phil Collins
Dolly Windsor
Ana Jane Mercer and Phyllis Muir
David Downing, Ray and Dottie Barkes
Paul, Anna Mae, David, and Gregg Collins
Ed and Rita Falasco
June Marie Fleming
Cheryl Tanverdi
Ethel and John A. Gavenonis, Sr.
Minnie and Zelino Vici
Jackie and Dean Gooderham
El Graef and Dr. and Mrs. Charles Graef
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Williams
Jack Graham, William Harron and Ebo Eberling
Nicholas Marcopulos
Elizabeth and Rodney Higgins
Our Parents
John and Dot Hunter
The Hurlock and Frie Families
Our Parents
Robert and Roberta Jolly
Anna Mae and Harry Robinson

Given By:
Rich and Taryn Albert
Rich and Taryn Albert
The Alexander Family
Anonymous
Susan and Stella Baddorf
Gerry Baker
Fay Deans Barnaby
Nancy and Walter Bercaw
Nancy and Walter Bercaw
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Lewis Black, Jr.
Nancy and Herb Boden
Gary and Sue Bryde
Jeanne Checkel and Family
Nancy Colbert
David Cole and Dave Brinkley
David Cole and Dave Brinkley
Donna and Clark Collins
Donna and Clark Collins
Heather and EJ Dealy
The Downing Family
Colleen and Marty Falasco
Colleen and Marty Falasco
Nancy Anne Fleming and Dan Weintraub
Gloria and William Galloway and Ata Tanverdi
The Gavenonis Family
The Gavenonis Family
Rob Gooderham and Eileen Maroney
Sally W. Graef
Sally W. Graef
The Harron Family
Cathy Higgins
Cathy Higgins
Tom and Carol Hogue
Beth, John and Amy Hunter
Suzie Hurlock
John and Dede Johnston
Richard Jolly and Charles Ingersoll
Richard Jolly and Charles Ingersoll
Ann Enderle, Karl Kniel and Stokes Walesby
Eben C. Lang and Stephen Gemmell
Jerry Lee
Loved Ones
Our parents, Charles M. Krick, Jr. and Ann E. Linderman
Marilyn Lockfeld
Loved Ones
Our parents Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Daut
Our parents Mr. and Mrs. Bascomb Love
Ted and Dolly Pollock
Don and Myra McFarland
Larry and Polly McPheeters
Robert and Evelyn Barto
Jeffrey Bross
Carrie Peters and Ray Peters
Martha Patrick, George Patrick and Barry Broadwater
Don Mattson
Jack and Janet Foster
Sara Jane Evans and Charles Pfleegor
Our parents Estelle and Jim Sherman and Spencer Qualls
Jean Reynard
J. Morton Gregg
Fred Schmitt
Bruce Z. Shaeffer
Ann, Jay, Bobo, Grammy, Dottie and Bernie
Janet and Bob Eissner
Jane and Dave Stabler
Dorothy and Paul Steen
Barbara Hoover
Fred and Betty Thurman
Lowell Underhill
My Parents
Peter John Wayne
Stephen Wemmers and Sally Wemmers
Rick Zumsteg
Chris Waisanan
Barbara Hoover
Fred Schmitt
Rich's parents Dick and Lynn Williams
Linda's parents John and Louise Fortner
Joseph F. Zultewicz

Kali Kniel
Cathy Lang
Virginia Lee and Family
Virginia Lee and Family
Sue and Bob Linderman
Beth and Bill Lockfeld
Margie Lounsby
Cindy and Robert Love
Cindy and Robert Love
John and Penny McFarland
John and Penny McFarland
Susan and Jon McPheeters
Susan and Jon McPheeters
Stephanie Muscara and Megan Olveren
The Patrick Family
The Patrick Family
Chris and Lynne Perkins
Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor
Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor
Spencer J. and Kristine Sherman Qualls
Janice and Dave Reynard
Patti (Gregg) and Bob Ridout
Julie Schmitt and Family
Robin Shaeffer
Jerry and Sue Spilecki
Eissner and Stabler Families
Stabler and Zellmer Families
Barbara Steen
Judy and Paul Stoffer
Ted Barr and Tony Thurman
The Underhill Family
Linda Budd Watson
Hannah Wayne and Family
Craig Wemmers
Westminster Choir
Westminster Choir
Westminster Choir
Westminster Choir
Rich and Linda Williams
Rich and Linda Williams
Jessica Zultewicz and Alex Shephard
In Honor of:
Sara Dubberly
Our grandchildren Benjamin and Scarlett
Richard T. Jolly
Jill Getty, Tara Lee and Jerry Spilecki
Ellen and Doug Clarke
The Perkins Girls
Joyce Cardwell Qualls
Henry Cooper Ramage

Given By:
Paula Dubberly
Wes and Beth Emmons
Charles Ingersoll
Sue Lease and the Grief Support Group
Pattie Morgan Miller
Chris and Lynn Perkins
Spencer J. and Kristine Sherman Qualls
Margo and Gary Ramage
Dear Members and Friends of Westminster,

Our Christmas Offering bolsters the work of Christ as we empower our brothers and sisters worldwide, shelter and support individuals and families experiencing homelessness, 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 (30%)** – Global programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, and Palestine that promote peace, provide humanitarian assistance, and offer sustainable income opportunities for those in poverty, education and empowerment for women and girls.
- **Friendship House (25%)** – A Wilmington organization supporting those facing houselessness (loss of one’s physical residence) and homelessness (loss of community) through programs which include the Clothing Bank, Empowerment Centers, Code Purple, Code Orange, Financial Assistance, and Transitional Housing.
- **New Life Furnishings (15%)** – A ministry of Westminster that provides furniture and household goods to individuals with limited resources who are moving from transitional housing and programs into independent living.
- **Delaware Center for Justice (15%)** – Upholds a long tradition of strong, non-partisan policy advocacy, with a focus on support for victims of violence, transitional programs for men and women moving out of incarceration, and connecting children with parents who are detained.
- **Center for Structural Equity (15%)** – A Wilmington non-profit, founded in 2020, offering youth programs, workshops, resources, and social activities that foster growth, cultivate social justice values, and build a foundation for a more equitable society. Many of its participants have been affected by violence.

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

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

– John 1:5