



2024  
*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 visit [wpc.org](http://wpc.org).

**Our Christmas decorations** are labors of love by: Linda Watson, Robin Rosser, Sue Weissinger, Dianne Browne, Mary Field, Lois Underhill, Elizabeth Anderson, Judy Stoffer, Jill Getty, Randy Clayton, Robert King, David Cole, Dave Brinkley, Donna and Clark Collins and their family, Russ Butler, Roger Reinicker, Mac Gardner, Jim Carter, Steve Johnson, Rich Williams, Paul Crothamel. 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.

**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 by Carol Hanson, 1993.

**Church Office Holiday Hours:** The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25. The church office will be OPEN December 26-27 and December 30 - 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All donations POSTMARKED on or before December 31, 2024 will be credited to your contribution record as received in 2024, so there is no need to physically drop off donations to receive credit. Secure online donations can be made until December 31 for 2024 year-end giving. If you need assistance with online giving, contact Colleen Falasco at [cfalasco@wpc.org](mailto:cfalasco@wpc.org).

### WESTMINSTER STAFF (partial listing)

PASTORAL STAFF	The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff The Rev. Dr. Randall Clayton, Bridge Associate Pastor The Rev. Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant
MUSIC STAFF	Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Music/Organist Rebecca Hughes; Margaret Mezzacappa; Teddy Austin; Jerry Polman, Section Leaders Marjorie Eldreth, Director of Music for Children and Youth Madelyn Testa, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth
CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES	Kathleen Kennan, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries Ava Herring and Beatrice Taylor, Nursery Caregivers
VIDEOGRAPHERS	Deanna Sparling (lead videographer), Rich Albert, Chip Pfleegor, Roger Reinicker, Aaron Wemhoff, Sophia Wolff
COMMUNION STEWARDS	Dan Weintraub, Jen Barrington
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS	Colleen Falasco
DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND SECURITY	Paul Crothamel

Visit [wpc.org/staff-leadership](http://wpc.org/staff-leadership) for a full listing of Westminster's staff and leadership.

## BC:AD

This was the moment when Before  
Turned into After, and the future's  
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing  
Happened. Only dull peace  
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans  
Could find nothing better to do  
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment  
When a few farm workers and three  
Members of an obscure Persian sect  
Walked haphazard by starlight straight  
Into the kingdom of heaven.

—U.A. Fanthorpe

# Children's Pageant – 4:00 p.m.

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

TOWER CHIME

Susan Spilecki

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gregory Knox Jones

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*

ADESTE FIDELIS

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

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Robin and Steve Burkhardt and their children  
Reed, Emma, Sullivan, and Jack

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 Christ candle is lit.*

The light shines in the darkness,

**and the darkness will never overcome it.**

ANTHEM

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Spiritual

Joyful Noise 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 of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

PRAYER

Randall T. Clayton

**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.**

<b>LESSONS AND CAROLS</b>
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CAROL NO. 140

*Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

**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

Luke 2:1-7

Nativity: Elizabeth DeFelice and Mark Wishart and their daughter Audrey

CAROL NO. 146

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

**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 shone 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,  
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!**

THE SHEPHERDS GO TO BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:15-20

CAROL NO. 135

*There's a Star in the East*

FOLLOW

**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*)**

**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*)**

***Refrain*  
Follow, follow;  
rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem.  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**

THE MAGI FOLLOW THE STAR

Matthew 2:1-12

ANTHEM

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*  
Joyful Noise Choir

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.  
Contributions intended for any other purpose (e.g., 2024 pledge) should be clearly noted.

OFFERTORY

*O Holy Night*  
Marji Eldreth and Fionn Murphy, piano  
Griffin Wemhoff, steel drum

Adolphe Adam

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!*

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!  
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.**

SENDING

With 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!**

(Service concludes on next page)

**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!”**

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

**Westminster Joyful Noise Choir**

Stella Baddorf  
Amelia Blackford  
Sam Blackford  
Jack Burkhardt  
Kaylea Donaghy  
Crosby Downing  
Hudson Downing  
Penn Gnade  
Zetta Gnade  
Garrett Hoopes  
Quinn Kelly  
Charlie McAllister  
Ezra Mier  
Hezekiah Mier  
Fionn Murphy  
Griffin Wemhoff  
Cooper Wemhoff



# Service of Story and Song – 5:30 p.m.

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

TOWER CHIME

Susan Spilecki

PRELUDE

*Fantasy on Old Carols*

Gustav Holst  
arr. Mark J. LaFratta

THE BIRTH FORETOLD

Isaiah 9:2, 6

Gregory Knox Jones

\*CAROL NO. 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELIS

**1. 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!**

**2. 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!**

**3. 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!**

**4. 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!**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Kim, Kyle and Ron Carrick

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 Christ candle is lit.*

The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness will never overcome it.**

**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.**

<b>LESSONS AND CAROLS</b>
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THE ANNUNCIATION

Luke 1:26-38

Sophia Wolff

CAROL NO. 140

*Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

**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

Luke 2:1-7

Robert Moore

CAROL NO. 128

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

**Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging  
angels singing,  
noels ringing,  
tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of the gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing,  
free from sorrow,  
praises voicing  
greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you!  
Christ the babe was born for you!**

CAROL NO. 119

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

REGENT SQUARE

**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!”**

SHEPHERDS GO TO BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:15-20

Jill Getty

CAROL NO. 145

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

**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

Kyle Carrick and Luke Máthé

CAROL NO. 151

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

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

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

***Refrain:***

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

## 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. Contributions intended for any other purpose (e.g., 2024 pledge) should be clearly noted.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Whisper! Whisper!*

Jay Althouse

Whisper! Whisper! Tiny baby in a manger lay.  
Whisper! Whisper! Tiny baby, he sleep in the hay.  
Whisper! Whisper! Baby born today.  
Shout it out! From the highest mountain.  
Shout it out! Hear what I say.  
Shout it out! To the hills and valleys.  
Tiny baby is born today.  
Shout it out! With a thousand voices.  
Shout it out! Let the music play.  
Shout it out! Go, tell all the people.  
Tiny baby is born today.  
Mary had a baby. Yes, my Lord.  
Glory, glory Hallelu!

## 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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into being.**

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

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

CAROL NO. 123

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

**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

**God of love and light,  
on this night when we ponder the nature of your presence on earth,  
turn us inward to your Spirit that fills us with peace and joy,  
and turn us outward to the needs of this broken, but beautiful world.  
We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.**

CAROL NO. 122

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

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.

**1. 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.**

**2. 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!**

**3. 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.**

**4. 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)

BENEDICTION

\*CAROL NO. 134

*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.**

**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.**



# CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE – 8:00 p.m.

**Bold** print may be spoken or sung by all. At the asterisk (\*) please stand as you are able.

TOWER CHIME Timothy Ohmart

PRELUDE *Meditation on an English Carol* Charles Callahan

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

\*CAROL NO. 140 *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

**3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern;  
day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless;  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.**

**4. And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Camilla and Greg Jones, daughter Grandison,  
and grandchildren Matthew, Camilla, and Hayes

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 Christ candle is lit.*

The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness will never overcome it.**

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.**

\*CAROL NO. 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELIS

**1. 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!**

**2. 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!**

**3. 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!**

**4. 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!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Randall T. Clayton

\*CAROL NO. 141

*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

PERSONENT HODIE

**1. 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.  
Ideo, ideo,  
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**2. 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.  
Ideo, ideo,  
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**3. God's bright star, o'er his head,  
wise men three to him led;  
kneel they low by his bed,  
lay their gifts before him,  
praise him and adore him.  
Ideo, ideo,  
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**4. 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, ideo,  
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

Jill Getty

**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 Godhead 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!”**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

Jill Getty

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Gregory Knox Jones

ANTHEM

*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.

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., 2024 pledge) should be clearly noted.

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! 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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into being.**

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

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

## ANTHEM

*The First Noel*

Dan Forrest

The first Noel, the angels did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:  
Noel! born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far.  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel! born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with his love our life hath bought.  
Noel! born is the King of Israel.

## 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

**God of love and light,  
on this night when we ponder the nature of your presence on earth,  
turn us inward to your Spirit that fills us with peace and joy,  
and turn us outward to the needs of this broken, but beautiful world.  
We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.**

CAROL NO. 122

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

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.

**1. 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.**

**2. 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!**

**3. 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.**

**4. 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

(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.**

## **Participants**

Westminster Joyful Noise 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.)  
Brienne Borden, trumpet (5:30 p.m.)  
William Wiegard, horn (5:30 p.m.)  
Isaiah Tomalesky, trombone (5:30 p.m.)  
Mike Loughran, tuba (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 (5:30 and 8 p.m.)  
Jerry Polman, bass (5:30 and 8 p.m.)



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# CHRISTMAS 2024 POINSETTIAS

## **In Loving Memory of:**

Bill Albert  
Carol and Gene Hopkins  
Bernie Alexander and other loved ones  
Joseph J. Leube Jr.  
Thomas N. Moody  
Fred and Betty Thurman  
Em and Jim Bercaw  
Jane and Wally 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 Wiggall, Dear Friend  
Our Parents and other loved ones  
Our Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Broll and Mr. and Mrs.  
George S. Baker  
My husband, William Browne  
My mother, Helen Thompson and my sister Paula Szczuka  
Our Parents, Betty and Bud Bryde and Fay and Frank Staats  
My Parents, Doug and Sally Buttner  
Our Parents  
Bob L. Checkel  
My husband, Bob  
L. Mac Gardner, Sr.  
Reynold J. Clement and Annette Marie Clement  
Inez and Bill Cobb  
Maury Colbert  
Jo and Phil Collins  
Dolly Windsor  
Bob Custin  
Ann and Emmett Jacobs  
Our Loved Ones  
David Downing  
Our Parents  
Paul, Anna Mae, David and Greg Collins  
Ed and Rita Falasco  
June and George Fleming  
Wesley Dudding  
Janet and Jack Foster  
Sara Jane Evans and Charles Pfleegor  
Ethel and John A. Gavenonis, Sr.  
Mini and Zelino Vici  
El Graef  
Pete and Hessie Williams  
Jack Graham, William Harron, Ebo Eberling  
Richard and Audrey Hatfield  
Russell and Myrtle Hickey  
Nicholas Marcopulos  
Elizabeth and Rodney Higgins  
Peter, Jean and Raymond Weinberg  
My Great Grandfather, Norris McConnell Ferguson  
John and Dot Hunter

## **Given By:**

Rich and Taryn Albert  
Rich and Taryn Albert  
The Alexander Family  
Ted Barr and Tony Thurman  
Ted Barr and Tony Thurman  
Ted Barr and Tony Thurman  
Nancy J. and Walter Bercaw  
Nancy J. and Walter Bercaw  
Diane M. Bernhard  
Diane M. Bernhard  
Diane M. Bernhard  
Diane M. Bernhard  
Diane M. Bernhard  
Nancy and Herb Boden  
Charles and Turner Broll  
  
Dianne Browne  
Dianne Browne  
Gary and Sue Bryde  
Sally Buttner  
Jim and Polly-Pyle Carter  
Jeanne Checkel and Family  
Eadie Churchill  
Connie Clement and Joanna Gardner  
Connie Clement and Joanna Gardner  
Barry and Rosemary Cobb  
Nancy Colbert  
Clark and Donna Collins  
Clark and Donna Collins  
Jean Custin  
Jean Custin  
Joe and Tammy Daley  
The Downing Family  
Beth and Wesley Emmons  
Colleen and Marty Falasco  
Colleen and Marty Falasco  
Nancy Fleming  
Nancy Fleming  
Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor  
Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor  
The Gavenonis Family  
The Gavenonis Family  
Sally W. Graef  
Sally W. Graef  
Sue, Ed, Liam, Katherine and Colin Harron  
Jamie and Jon Hickey  
Jamie and Jon Hickey  
Cathy Higgins  
Cathy Higgins  
Mary-beth and Richard Howard  
Bobbe Hoy  
Beth, John and Amy Hunter

**In Loving Memory of:**

Frie and Hurlock Family Members  
 Our Parents  
 Dale and Naomi Shaner  
 Joseph and Clara Johnston  
 Robert and Roberta Jolly  
 Anna Mae and Harry Robinson  
 Virginia Haycock  
 Our Parents and Grandparents  
 Jerry Lee  
 Our Parents and Grandparents  
 My Parents  
 Grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Thompson/Lewis  
 Aunts, Uncles and Thompson Brothers  
 Cleveland and William Phillip  
 Our Parents  
 Marilyn Lockfeld  
 Frank Waldburger  
 Dr. Johnetta Wade Morrison  
 Our Pop, Jeffrey Bross  
 George Patrick  
 Carrie Peters and Ray Peters  
 Martha Patrick and George H. Patrick  
 Donald W. Mattson  
 Our Parents  
 Estelle and Jim Sherman  
 Spencer Qualls, Sr.  
 Bill and Relva Reign and Janet Upton  
 Our Loved Ones, the Ruoss Family  
 Fred Schmitt  
 Bruce Shaeffer  
 Our Family Members  
 Jane and Dave Stabler  
 Janet and Bob Eissner  
 Dorothy and Paul Steen  
 Richard Stoffer  
 Lowell T. Underhill  
 My Father, Lowell T. Underhill  
 Our Family Members  
 Our Parents and Family Members

**In Honor of:**

Bill and Nancy Barlow  
 The Brinkley Families and the Cole Families  
 Anne Gunn  
 Joanna Gardner and Connie Clement  
 Sara Dubberly  
 Our Grandchildren, Ben and Scarlett  
 Audrey Mae Wishart  
 Anne Waldburger  
 Ellen and Doug Clarke  
 Our Westminster Family  
 Tony Thurman, Ted Barr and Gayle Martin  
 Cheryl S. Mattson  
 Westminster Staff

**Given By:**

Suzie Frie Hurlock  
 Dede and John Johnston  
 Pat and Sandy Johnston  
 Pat and Sandy Johnston  
 Dick Jolly and Charlie Ingersoll  
 Dick Jolly and Charlie Ingersoll  
 Dick Jolly and Charlie Ingersoll  
 Gary and Kitty Knox  
 Virginia Lee and Family  
 Virginia Lee and Family  
 Ralph Lewis  
 Ralph Lewis  
 Ralph Lewis  
 Ralph Lewis  
 Sue and Bob Linderman  
 Beth and Bill Lockfeld  
 Dave and Jen Máthé  
 K C Morrison  
 Stephanie, Dominic and Mia Muscara  
 The Patrick Family  
 The Patrick Family  
 The Patrick Family  
 Chris and Lynn Perkins  
 Tom Preston and Laura Scanlan  
 Kris and Spence Qualls  
 Kris and Spence Qualls  
 Margo Reign  
 The Ruoss Family  
 Julie Schmitt and Family  
 Robin Shaeffer  
 Jerry and Sue Spilecki  
 Stabler and Zellmer Families  
 Stabler and Zellmer Families  
 Barbara Steen  
 Judy and Paul Stoffer  
 The Underhill Family  
 L. Thomas Underhill  
 Linda and Skip Watson  
 Cam and Kathy Yorkston

**Given By:**

Charles and Turner Broll  
 Dave Brinkley and David Cole  
 Jeanne Checkel  
 Mac Gardner and Michael Clement  
 Paula Dubberly  
 Beth and Wesley Emmons  
 Nancy Fleming  
 Jen and Dave Máthé  
 Pattie Morgan Miller  
 The Suarez-Thomas Family  
 Sam Whyte  
 Chris and Lynn Perkins  
 Personnel Committee



# 2024 Christmas Offering



**GIVE ONLINE**  
Select Fund:  
"Christmas Offering"

Our Christmas Offering bolsters the work of Christ as we empower our brothers and sisters worldwide, shelter and support individuals and families experiencing homelessness or moving from transitional housing, and work for peace in the Middle East. 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%)** – 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 is also supported by this Christmas offering.
- ✦ **Friendship House (20%)** – 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.
- ✦ **Habitat for Humanity (20%)** – Habitat for Humanity in New Castle County builds affordable housing with 0% interest mortgages for qualified individuals. Habitat’s reach includes critical home repairs for low-income homeowners, disaster assistance, neighborhood beautification projects, and advocacy/education for positive change in communities.
- ✦ **New Life Furnishings (20%)** – A ministry of Westminster housed on our campus provides furniture and household goods to individuals with limited resources who are moving from transitional housing and programs into independent living. All individuals are vetted by our social service partners.
- ✦ **1in7B Foundation (10%)** – This relatively new Wilmington non-profit provides basic needs for homeless individuals via its MobileServ ministry. Mobile shower and laundry services are available at two locations; meals and hospitality are shared by volunteers.
- ✦ **Churches for Middle East Peace (5%)** – A coalition of more than 30 national church denominations and organizations, including PC(USA), that works to encourage U.S. policies that promote a comprehensive resolution to conflicts in the Middle East, particularly those in Israel/Palestine. Westminster is an active participant in these efforts.



## Thank you for your generous support of Christ's work!