

**Westminster Presbyterian Church  
December 18, 2022 10:00am  
Live Streaming In Person**

**Order of Worship  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude**

*Terry Alvey, Trumpet  
Steve Johnson, Organ*

**Welcome**

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

**Call To Worship**

*Liturgist*

L: God our Shepherd, you lead us like a flock: You are enthroned upon the Cherubim: Shine forth; stir up your might and come to save us!

**C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we might be saved.**

L: "Put your hand on your chosen one, the one you made strong for yourself. Give us life, and we will call on your name.

**C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we might be saved.**

**Carol *Come, All Ye Faithful***

**GTG #133 vs. 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!

**Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**GTG #121 vs 1, 2**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; he hopes and fears of all the  
years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

## **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

The Sprague Family: Rob, Hayley and Ellie

1st person: Today we will light all four Advent candles. Their brightness recalls  
God's glory that shone around the shepherds when they heard the angel's first  
Christmas greeting: "Do not be afraid." We pray that God's glory will reign on  
earth as it does in the highest heaven.

**Response: Come, Lord Jesus. Shine on us, and the night will be bright  
as the day.**

2nd person: (*Read while candles are being lighted*)  
For once you lived in shadow, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children  
of light, enjoying all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is  
pleasing to the Lord. "Sleeper awake!" Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine  
on you.

**Response: Come, Lord Jesus. Shine on us, and the night will be bright  
as the day.**

**Carol**      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*      **Vs. 4**

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be  
born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with  
us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**Response: Come, Lord Jesus. Shine on us, and the night will be bright as the day.**

**PREPARING FOR THE WORD**

**Hymn**    *While We Are Waiting, Come*

**GTG #92**

While we are waiting, come; While we are waiting, come.  
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come

## **Prayer of Illumination**

*Liturgist*

Fill us with your Holy Spirit, O God; give us the joy of knowing that our savior is near. Give us grace to discover your signs of hope in the birth of babies, in the eyes of older friends who show us the way; in the faces of loved ones that shine like stars; in candles lit by those who work for peace; in your word that is a lamp to our feet. Prepare us to receive the Hope of the World, your Son Jesus, the Christ of great compassion, who gives us the sign of his cross, through which he conquers death and despair. In the name of Christ. Amen.

## ***Reading from Isaiah 7: 10-16***

*Liturgist*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

## ***Reading from Matthew 1: 18-25***

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as

his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**Carol** *The First Noel*

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

**Carol** *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.

**Anthem** Prologue: In the Bleak Midwinter

‘Tis winter now. The fallen snow has left the heavens all coldly clear;  
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow and all the earth lies dead and drear.  
And yet God’s love is not withdrawn, His life within the keen air breathes.  
His beauty paints the crimson dawn and clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths  
And though abroad, the sharp winds blow, and skies are chill and frosts are keen,  
Home closer draws her circle now, and warmer glows her light within.  
O God, who givest the winter’s cold as well as summer’s joyous rays,  
You warmly in your love enfold and keep us through life’s wintry days!

**Anthem** A Winter’s Song

Hear the Word of the Lord: “The Dayspring from on high has visited us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:78b-79)

**Anthem** Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

Hear the Word of the Lord: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

**Anthem.** Canticle of Peace

Hear the words of Jesus, the Prince of Peace: I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

(John 14:27)

**Anthem.** All is Well

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Affirmation of Faith**

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

**We believe that God has come to us as a little child,  
making our weakness his strength,  
securing our salvation by becoming one of us,  
blessing us with a steadfast savior,**

**filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.**  
**We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world,**  
**giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts,**  
**making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority,**  
**declaring an everlasting reign of peace,**  
**defeating the power of pain and suffering.**  
**We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love,**  
**inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table,**  
**transforming us as disciples to go out into the world,**  
**sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort,**  
**challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.**  
**This we believe.**  
**This we preach.**  
**This we seek to embody in word and deed.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

Invitation To the Offertory

*Liturgist*

I invite you to give generously as we worship God through sharing our gifts, tithes, and offerings.

Offertory

*Terry Alvey, Trumpet*

Doxology

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Offertory Prayer

*Liturgist*

Eternal and wise God, you have increased our joy and given us a harvest of good things. Lead us with generous and thankful hearts to help those in need of hope and healing, the they may see your light shine in a land of darkness, for the glory of Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

**Hymn**    *Joy to the World*

**GTG #134 vs. 1, 2, 4**

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.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4 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.

**Benediction**

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

**Postlude**

*Terry Alvey, Trumpet  
Steve Johnson, Organ*