

Christmas in the Cathedral



*In the beginning was the Word, and
the Word was with God, and the
Word was God. He was in the begin-
ning with God. — John 1:1-2*

December 24, 2024, 10:00 p.m.

Christmas in the Cathedral

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.

– John 1:3-4

CARILLON PEAL

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

Fughetta and Toccata on “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” (Hymn 54) *Johann Pachelbel*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Hymn 9) *Plainsong, arr. May Cambern*

Noel Variations *Claude Balbastre*

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (Hymn 37) *Polish carol, arr. Dale Wood*

Christmas Pastorate *Valentin Rathgeber*

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella” *French carol, arr. Ron Mallory*

“Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head” *Appalachian carol, arr. Cathy Moglebust*

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” *English carol, arr. Dan R. Edwards*

“In the Bleak Midwinter” (Hymn 36) *Gustav Holst, arr. Daniel Burton*

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (Hymn 38) *American carol, arr. McDonald-Wood*

“Still, Still, Still” (Hymn 47) *Austrian carol, arr. Paul Manz*

INTROIT - “Masters in This Hall”

French melody

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today
Brought from over sea and ever I you pray.

*Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Sing we clear!
Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God’s Son so dear:
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we loud!
God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud.*

Then to Bethl’em town we went two and two,
And in a sorry place heard the oxen low.

Therein did we see a sweet and goodly May
And a fair old man, upon the straw she lay.

And a little child on her arm had she,
“Wot ye who this is?” said the hinds to me.

Ox and ass him knew, kneeling on their knees;
Wondrous joy had I this little babe to see.

This is Christ the Lord; masters, be ye glad!
Christmas is come in, and no folk should be sad.

*WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP IN WORD

The Reverend Dr. Caitlin T. Deyerle

*CAROL - "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Adeste fideles

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!

REFRAIN

*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!

REFRAIN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PROPHECY - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The Reverend Nancy S. Hodgkins

ANTHEMS

"How Very Still it is Tonight"

Dale Wood

How very still it is tonight in city and in town!
The little houses nestle close, like babes 'neath quilts of down.
The sky has sent an ermine wrap for Mother Earth to wear,
And placed a crown of diamond stars upon her lovely hair.
One breathless moment, then the song the herald angels sing,
Bells rejoice and earth goes out to meet her glorious King!

Sussex Carol

English carol, arr. Dale Wood

On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great birth
News of our merciful King's birth

Then why should we on Earth be sad
Since our redeemer made us glad,
Then why should we on Earth be 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;
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 newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night,

“Glory to God and peace to all
Now and forever more.” Amen.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS - Luke 2:1-7

ANTHEM

“The Wildwood Carol

John Rutter

Sing O the wildwood, the green holly,
The silent river and barren tree;
The humble creatures that no one sees:
Sing O the wildwood.

A weary journey one winter’s night:
No hope of shelter; no rest in sight.
Who was the creature that bore Mary?
A simply donkey.

And when they came into Beth’lem town
They found a stable to lay them down;
For their companions that Christmas night,
An ox and an ass.

And then an angel came down to earth
To bear news of the Saviour’s birth:
The first to marvel were shepherds poor,
And sheep with their lambs.

Sing O the wildwood, the green holly,
The silent river and barren tree;
The humble creatures that no one sees:
Sing O the wildwood.

THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER - Luke 2:8-20

ANTHEM

“Sing We Noel”

Noël Goemanne

Sing we noel! Christ was born for us today:
Love and peace be here to stay.
Now we raise to heaven our voice,
Sing we now rejoice.

Mary now filled with heavenly joy:
“Emmanuel” she named the boy.
Heaven is near, “O do not fear,”
The angel said, “The Christ is near.”
Heaven came to earth,
He saved us by his birth.
O mighty Child, O King of kings,
The universe in praise now sings.

Sing we noel!

THE VISIT OF THE MAGI - Matthew 2:1-11

***CAROLS** (All sing - please stand with the choir)

The First Nowell

“The First Nowell”

**The First Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

Mueller

“Away in a Manger”

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

Mendelssohn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!”**

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

The Reverend Dr. Richard L. Baker

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM - “O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam, arr. John Rutter

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;
O night divine! O night, O night divine.

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, to our weakness is no stranger,

Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

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 power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND 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.

***CAROLS** (All sing - please stand with the choir)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

St. Louis

**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;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Gloria

**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.**

"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.**

"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.

THE INCARNATION AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE -John 1:1-5, 10-12, 14, 16
(Congregation seated)

SPREADING THE LIGHT

(The choir will light the candles of those sitting on the outside aisle of each pew. Each person in turn will light the candle of the next worshiper. To prevent hot wax from dripping, tilt only the unlit candle as you receive the flame. Please carefully watch children worshiping with you and assist them as needed.)

HYMN (seated) - "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!
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.

Congregation and Choir hum the melody

(While humming, please raise your candle. Please extinguish your candle before leaving the pew.)

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"

French carol, arr. Keith Chapman

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Music Participants: Harp: Kathleen Miguel - Choirs: Knox Ringers (grades 7-12; Brent Manley, Director; Josh Bodey, Assistant) - Westminster Choir - "Masters in This Hall" Ringers: Paul Agiro, Isabel Dembiczak, Charlotte Powell, and Isabela Stoica - Soloist: Rachael Boezi - Organist-Director: The Reverend John Neely

This evening we welcome harpist Kathleen Miguel. As a professional harpist, she has performed with many area ensembles including the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and Springfield Symphony Orchestra. Kathleen holds degrees from Edison State College and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Welcome!

A CHRISTMAS GREETING

The officers and staff of Westminster Presbyterian Church wish you a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year. If you are visiting with us this evening, we hope you will return to worship with us any Sunday at # 10:00 a.m. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider becoming a part of our community here at Westminster. You can find more information on how to get involved at www.westminsterdayton.org.#

Please do not save seats for those who are to arrive later.

Coats may be placed on coat racks in the Narthex or under the pew in front of you. Please silence electronic devices, and refrain from flash photography.

The poinsettias in the Chancel vases are given in loving memory of Merritt and Dottie Culp by their family.

The star in the Chancel is a memorial to Allison Stevens (September 23, 1977 - December 8, 1993).

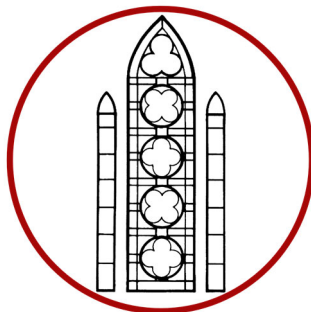
Each Sunday during Advent an additional candle was lit on the Advent wreath. Tonight the **Christ candle** will be lit to symbolize God's coming into the world this Christmas. "That which had come to be in him was life, and this life was the light of all" (John 1:4).

The Church Office will be closed from December 25 to January 1 in observance of the holidays. Normal business hours resume January 2.

Add your prayer to our **Prayer Wall**, located in the Sanctuary near the Chancel on the east wall. You will find blank prayer papers and pencils in the four mini-desks built into the wall. Write your prayer on the paper, roll up the paper, and insert it between the bricks of the wall. These prayers are completely private, between you and God. After the first Sunday of each month, the wall will be cleared and all prayer papers will be respectfully burned. Prayer Wall postcards are now available to send to someone for whom you prayed. They are located in the Prayer Wall mini-desks and the Narthex.

"I will call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me: give ear to my voice when I call to you. Let my prayer be counted as incense before you" (Psalm 141:1-2a).

ERT: Scott Spangler



Westminster Presbyterian Church

MINISTERS

All members of the Church

STAFF

Richard L. Baker, Jr. Pastor/Head of Staff
John W. Neely Assoc. Pastor for Music
Nancy S. Hodgkins Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Mission
Caitlin T. Deyerle Assoc. Pastor for Congregational Care
Jenne Gross Mission Associate
Kylie Hettinger Director of Discipleship
Brent Manley Music Associate
Gideon Brenner Music Resident

Mattie Pennington Congregational Care Coordinator
Tim Francis Business Manager
Brittany Campbell Director of Communications
Donna Schoonmaker Office Manager
Wayne King Facilities and Technology Coordinator
Keith Spencer Sexton
Marvin Fleming Sexton
George H. McConnel Pastor Emeritus



Thank you for coming to Westminster today! We hope to see you again soon. If you enjoyed the service, and want to help us continue to share the love of God with our neighbors and transform their lives, please consider donating to our ministries. Donation boxes are located in the Narthex and by the elevator. You can also donate online at www.westminsterdayton.org/give or by scanning the QR code to the left with the camera of any smart device. You can also text "give" to 937-468-4003.

“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!
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!

CAROLS

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The First Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
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Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

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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;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
“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.

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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.

“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.

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

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.