



Christmas in the Stable

*Tonight is a holy night: a night of stars and angels,
a night of shepherds and sheep, and a family in a stable.
Tonight we celebrate in memory and in hope
the birth of our Savior, the Holy Child of Bethlehem.
Thanks be to God.
Let all God's children come to the manger.*

— *Season of Light and Hope*, Blair Gilmer Meeks

Christmas in the Stable

This, tonight, is the meeting place of heaven and earth. For this, tonight, is the stable in which God keeps his appointment to meet his people...In an out-of-the-way place which people never thought to visit – there God kept and keeps his promise; there God sends his Son.- Iona Community

CARILLON PEAL

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

“Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts” (from *Christmas Oratorio*) *Camille Saint-Saëns*
Prelude on “Fröhliche Weihnacht” (“Merry Christmas”) *German carol, arr. Paul Fey*
“O Come, Little Children” *German carol, arr. Dale Wood*

(During the Call to Worship in Music you are requested to enter into a time of silence, actively opening your spirit to God’s presence in your midst.)

*WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Jeff and Sarah Garrette, Gavin and Spencer

(Please greet your neighbor with a verbal greeting or enthusiastic wave.)

*HYMN - “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Adeste fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,	Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!	Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels!	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	O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!	O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kylie Hettinger

SCRIPTURE - Luke 2:1-20

The Reverend Nancy S. Hodgkins
The Reverend Dr. Caitlin T. Deyerle

ANTHEMS

“Stay Awake”

Christopher Walker

Stay awake, be ready. You do not know the hour when the Lord is coming.
Stay awake, be ready. The Lord is coming soon! Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord is coming soon.

"Merry Bells of Christmas"

Ring bells ring,
Ding, dong ding.
Here the merry bells of Christmas,
Ding, dong, ding.

"Jesus in the Manger"

Jesus in a manger lay,
In a stable lowly.
Jesus in a manger lay,
On a cold, cold night.

"Star Shine Bright"

Jeff Miller

Star shine bright, guiding light, leading to this wondrous sight.
Shepherds we come to see Jesus in a manger.
Star of heaven light the way, on this first of Christmas days,
Shining star, from afar, leading to the Baby.

Star shine bright, guiding light shine your light on Bethlehem tonight.
Shine your light on Bethlehem tonight.

"He Comes!"

Natalie Sleeth

He comes, he comes! He comes in the name of the Lord, our God!
He comes, He comes! He comes in the name of the Lord!
Let all rejoice with heart and voice, and thankful be!
The chosen one, God's only Son, O blest is he.

He comes, he comes! He comes in the name of the Lord, our God!
He comes, he comes! He comes in the name of the Lord!
Light for him a candle, he is drawing near.
Sing for him a carol,
loud and clear.

He comes, he comes! He comes in the name of the Lord, our God!
He comes, He comes! He comes in the name of the Lord!

***HYMN - "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 the dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

ANTHEMS

"Calypso Noel"

Linda Steen Spevacek

Sing a calypso, sing noel, noel.
We love to sing it, sing it loud and clear.
We want to wish you a happy New Year.
Sing a calypso, sing noel, noel.

Sing a calypso, sing noel, noel.
Everybody sing noel, everybody sing noel,
Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Everybody sing noel.

Sing a calypso, sing noel, noel.

"Lullaby, Holy One"

Polish carol, arr. Terry D. Taylor

Lullaby, holy One, quiet your weeping.
Mary is holding you, guarding and keeping.
Rest now, oh, Jesus there's no need for crying.
Safe in your mother's arms; hush all your sighing.

"Mary Had a Baby"

African American Spiritual, arr. Michael Burkhardt

***HYMN - "Away in a Manger"**

Mueller

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.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

A PARTICIPATORY CHRISTMAS STORY

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

ANTHEM - "Sing Hodie, Noel"

Douglas Wagner

Shepherds, angels and kings,
Rejoice this day, noel;
Shepherds, angels and kings,
Good news of joy they tell.
For to us a son is given,
Christ the Lord comes down from heaven.
Sing, rejoice, hodie, noel!

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.

***HYMN - "Joy to the World"**

Antioch

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:	He rules the world with truth and grace,
Let earth receive her King;	And makes the nations prove
Let every heart prepare him room	The glories of his righteousness,
And heav'n and nature sing,	And wonders of his love,
And heav'n and nature sing,	And wonders of his love,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.	And wonders, wonders of his love.

***BENEDICTION**

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"
English carol, arr. Howard Helvey

*Please rise in body or spirit.

**Join us in Fellowship Hall after the service for cupcakes to
celebrate the birth of Christ.**

Music Participants: Genesis Singers (ages 4 and 5, preschool - Hilary Toerner, Director), Cherub Choir (grades K-2; Rachael Boezi, Director), Calvin Choir (grades 3-6; John Neely, Director), Organist - Brent Manley, Pianist - Christi Wilson, Percussion - Hilary Toerner, Mike Toerner, Orff Tone Bars: Rayna Daunheimer, Tiernan Fuqua, and Allison Usechak

During the service the **children will be invited to come forward** to be a part of our manger scene. If your child would like to dress up there are costumes available in the narthex. Children of all ages are welcome. There will be no nursery care.

The poinsettias in the Chancel 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).

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 today, 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 at Westminster. You can find more information on how to get involved at westminsterdayton.org.

Christmas in the Cathedral -

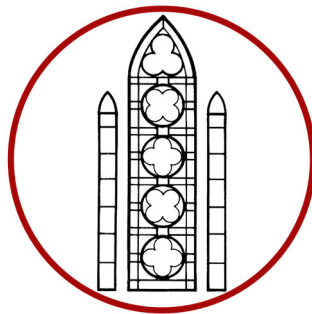
Tonight, December 24, 10:00 p.m.-Prelude, 9:20 p.m. This beautiful candlelight service is the culmination of the Advent season. An extended Prelude begins at 9:20 p.m. Arrival at 9:00 p.m. is suggested. This service features a darkened Sanctuary, candlelight, the Westminster Choir, and Knox Ringers, and harp. Plan to bring a friend to this beautiful Christmas Eve service. This service will be livestreamed.

CPR/AED: Eric Scholl

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



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.



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

Westminster Presbyterian Church
125 N. Wilkinson Street • Dayton, OH 45402
Phone: (937) 223-7285
wpcdayton@westminsterdayton.org
www.westminsterdayton.org