Westminster
Presbyterian Church
353 E. Pine St., Wooster, OH. 44691
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Christmas Eve Service and Communion
December 24, 2023

Welcome — Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

Prelude — Rondo: Allegretto spiritoso *(from Sonatina, Op. 36, No. 6)* — *Muzio Clementi*
Laila Gordon, piano

Words of Promise — "The Coming of God" — Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
By Ann Weems

Our God is the One who comes to us,
In a burning bush,
In an angel's song
In a newborn child.

Our God is the One who cannot be found,
Locked in the church,
Not even in the sanctuary.

Our God will be where God will be,
With no constraints, no predictability.

Our God lives where our God lives,
And destruction has no power
And even death cannot stop the living.

Hymn No. 133 — "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *(Verses 1-3)* — Adeste Fideles

Reading — Luke 2:1-5 — Joel Chupp

And it came to pass in those days,
that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)
And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.
And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea,
unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem,
(because he was of the house and lineage of David)
To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

Hymn No. 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (*Verses 1 and 2)* *St. Louis*

Reading Luke 2:6-7 Vismaya Shhree

And so it was, that, while they were there,
the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son,
and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hymn No. 115 "Away in a Manger" (*All verses)* *Mueller*

Special Music "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" *Michael Praetorius*
Westminster Choir

Reading Luke 2:8-12 Bill Weiss

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,
and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were so afraid.

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David,
a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you:
You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,
lying in a manger."

Hymn No. 117 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" (*All verses)* *Winchester Old*

Reading Luke 2:13-14 Ferenc Relle

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward people."

Hymn No. 119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (*Verses 1 and 2)* *Mendelssohn*

Reading Luke 2:15 Cheryl Weiss

And it came to pass,
as the angels were gone away from them into heaven,
the shepherds said one to another,
"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem,
and see this thing, which is come to pass,
which God has made known unto us."

Hymn No. 110 "Love Has Come" *(All verses)* *Bring a Torch*

Reading Luke 2:16 Cheryl Weiss

And the shepherds came with haste,
and found Mary, and Joseph,
and the babe lying in a manger.

Hymn No. 128 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" *(All verses)* *W Żłobie Leży*

Reading Luke 2:17-20 Vismaya Shhree

When the shepherds saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child,
and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen,
just as it had been told them.

Special Music "Il Est Né, Le Petit Enfant" *trad. French Carol*
Juli Douglass-Gillespie, voice

Communion Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy & Rev. Dr. Tom Shaw

Invitation to the Table

Special Music "In the Bleak Midwinter" *G. Holst, arr. H. Livingston*
Bob Iams, piano

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pour out your Spirit on this Table. Strengthen us from the inside out. As we tell your story of good news, let us once again speak the prayer your son taught us to pray, saying:

Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kin-dom come,
Your will be done, on earth as is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Affirmation of Faith:

Like Mary,
we believe in cherishing good news.
Like the angels,
we believe in singing God's praise.
Like the shepherds,

we believe that God's presence in our life is something worth talking about.
Like generations before,
we believe that God is with us.
Like the generations to come,
we believe that God is with us.
God is here. God is love.
We believe. Thanks be to God!

Hymn No. 122 "Silent Night" *(All verses)* *Stille Nacht*

We invite you to light your candle from your neighbor's candle,
passing the light of Christmas down your row.

Benediction Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Minister of Music Rev. Dr. Thomas Shaw
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Westminster Presbyterian Church strives to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless of ethnicity, creed, age, cultural background, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Upcoming Events

- Christmas with the Synod of the Covenant: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fb05C2J2Jg0
- Office is closed Tuesday, Dec. 26
- Wednesday, Dec. 27 - No mid-week email
- Sunday, Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve Day Service – 10:15 am at First Presbyterian Church

(621 College Ave)

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133



From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal,* 1906

ADESTE FIDELES
Irregular

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868
MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6
(alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)

115 Away in a Manger



Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families,* c. 1885;
stanza 3, Gabriel's *Vineyard Songs,* 1892
MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887

MUELLER
11.11.11.11
(alternate tune: CRADLE SONG, 114)

117 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks



5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heaven
begin and never cease!"

This was one of the first metrical texts to deal with a New Testament narrative rather than paraphrase one of the Psalms. It is set here to a psalm tune that is more than a century older than the words, though the two were not firmly joined until the mid-19th century.

TEXT: Nahum Tate, 1700, alt.
MUSIC: Este's *Psalmes,* 1592; harm. George Kirby, 1592

WINCHESTER OLD
CM
(alternate tune: CHRISTMAS, 118)

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN
7.7.7.7.D with refrain

Love Has Come 110



Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996
MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012
Text © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services)
Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

BRING A TORCH
9.9.10.9.9.8

128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6–20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means "He lies in a cradle" or "In manger lying."

TEXT: Polish carol; trans. Edith M. G. Reed, 1920; rev. 1921
MUSIC: Polish folk melody; harm. Arthur E. Rusbridge, 1962

W ŻŁOBIE ŁEŻY
8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7
(this tune in a lower key, 410)

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122



GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN

1 고요한밤 거룩한밤
어둠에 묻힌밤
주의부모 앉아서
감사기도 드릴때
아기잘도 잔다
아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niñito Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1–3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863; stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.
MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

STILLE NACHT
Irregular