



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*December 24, 2021*  
*Christmas Eve Service*

**The Prelude**

*Coventry Carol*  
(arr. Kellner)

Ms. Bertha Dykstra

*For Unto Us a Child is Born*  
(excerpt from Handel's *Messiah*, arr. Bennett)

**The Welcome**

**The Preparation for Worship**

† **The Call to Worship**

Isaiah 9:2, 6

**Leader:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

**All:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

† **The Hymn of Adoration**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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† **The Invocation**

† **The Confession of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\* "catholic" means "universal" church, the true church in all times and places

**The Congregational Carols**

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*  
† *Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor*

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**The Evening Prayer**

## Offertory

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
(Hymn #305, vv. 4, 5, arr. Purifoy)

## The Ministry of the Word

"The Prince of Peace"  
Isaiah 9:6

Mr. Joe Steele

Church Bible, pg. 573

## The Words of Meditation

John 1:9-13

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

## The Sharing of the Light

*The ushers will light the candles of those sitting on the aisle. Once lit, hold your candle upright and have the person sitting next to you tip the wick from their candle into the flame. The lit candles need to remain upright to prevent the hot wax from spilling.*

*At the conclusion of singing, place one hand behind the flame and blow gently to extinguish the candle. Please supervise any children for safety and to eliminate wax spills. Please keep candles upright until placed in the collection boxes at each exit following the benediction.*

## † The Concluding Carols

*What Child Is This*  
*Silent Night! Holy Night!*

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## † The Benediction

## The Postlude

*O Holy Night*  
(Adams, arr. DeCou)

Ms. Bertha Dykstra

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on  
 3. O come, thou rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's  
 4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy  
 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,  
 Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law  
 • tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,  
 draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain  
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 • and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Latin antiphons, 12th cent.  
 Latin hymn, 1710  
 Tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961

VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref.  
 Plainsong, 13th cent.  
 Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856

# God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,  
 2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came;  
 3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;  
 4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day,  
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:  
 this day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
 and left their flocks a - feed - ing, in tem - pest, storm, and wind,

to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;  
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name,  
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."  
 and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the Son of God to find.

Refrain

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

## What Child Is This

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1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?  
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tians, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.  
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

Traditional English carol  
 Adapted by William C. Dix, ca. 1865

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7.  
 English melody, 16th cent.

# Silent Night! Holy Night!

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon  
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries  
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light, ra - dant  
4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! won-drous star, lend thy light; with the

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;  
beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ias to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Joseph Mohr, 1818  
tr. ca. 1850

STILLE NACHT Irreg.  
Franz Gruber, 1818

**ANNOUNCEMENTS IN MORNING BULLETIN**  
**THIS WEEK & BEYOND**

**December 24, 2021**

**Church Office Holiday Schedule:** The church office will be closed **Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Staff will return on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

**Congregational Meeting:** Your Session has called for a congregational meeting on **January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, during the Sunday school hour. The purpose of this meeting will be to provide some general updates on the life and ministry of our church and to present the church budget. Childcare will be provided for ages 0-3 years in the nursery.

**Men's Bible Study via Zoom:** John Davis will be leading a weekly study on R.C. Sproul's "The Holiness of God" beginning **Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Interested in participating? Contact John Davis at [mrddavisja@gmail.com](mailto:mrddavisja@gmail.com) or 540-216-4079 for more information.

**Youth Ministry Sunday School:** We need volunteers to help teach/aide our Youth Sunday school classes (grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) starting **January 16<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in mentoring our youth and helping them grow in their faith, please contact James Ensley at [james.ensley@wpc-hsv.org](mailto:james.ensley@wpc-hsv.org).

**Summer International Missions Trip:** The WPC Missions Ministry Team is making plans for an overseas summer trip. The details are still being finalized, but tentative dates are **June 25<sup>th</sup> - July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. If you think you may want to participate, we encourage you to file now for a passport if you do not have one, or renew your passport now if it expires before January 2023 (as many countries want more than six months left on your passport before letting you in). As with everything else, it is taking longer to get your passport requests processed. The country we are considering does not currently require a person to be vaccinated against COVID 19. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Roberts.

**SAVE THE DATE**

- Congregational Meeting: January 9, 2022
- ROOTs Youth Conference: January 21-23, 2022
- Ladies' Multi-generational Tea: February 5, 2022
- Missions Conference: February 25-27, 2022

<b>Pastoral Staff</b>		
Joe Steele	Senior Pastor	joe.steele@wpc-hsv.org
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David Hammond	Assistant Pastor	david.hammond@wca-hsv.org
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Nick Robison	Assistant Pastor/WCA Bible Teacher	nick.robison@wca-hsv.org
James Ensley	Assistant Pastor/Student Ministry	james.ensley@wpc-hsv.org
<b>Ministry Team</b>		
Tom Adams	Director of Music	teadams102557@gmail.com
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Mary Katherine Keel	Student Ministry Assistant	mary.keel@wpc-hsv.org
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Sydney Knight	Director of Children's Ministry	sydney.knight@wpc-hsv.org
Jennifer Murphree	Women's Ministry Coordinator	jennifer.murphree@wpc-hsv.org
Jessica Perez	Nursery Coordinator	jessica.perez@wpc-hsv.org

### **WPC Officers**

#### **Deacons:**

Craig Bosma, Josh Brown, Josh Buhl, Paul Galloway, John Gunn, Matt Harness, John Kirkwood, Sam Lowrance, Monday Mbila, Art McKinney, Wade Pettus, Nate VanKirk, Chris Wellborn

#### **Ruling Elders:**

Tom Adams, Nat Causey, Joe Crowhurst, John Davis, Bill Emrich, Scooter Johnson, Paul Keel, Curry Knight, Scott Lynn, Brian McFadden, Scott Nicol, Ken Shipman, Allen Zumbach

#### **Teaching Elders:**

James Ensley, David Hammond, Stephen Hooks, Jim Roberts, Nick Robison, Joe Steele



# Home Worship Guide

Beloved congregation,

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic is affecting every family, business, and institution in our country. Even churches like ours are not exempt from its life-altering influence. As you know, Westminster Presbyterian Church has a deep commitment to the Bible-mandated practice of corporate worship on the Lord's Day. Our goal during this challenging season is to retain as much of this corporate worship experience as we possibly can for those unable to join us in person. Please use the suggestions in this guide to help you toward this end.

One of the benefits of being able to worship together in our beautiful sanctuary is that it naturally engenders a corporate atmosphere of reverence mingled with joy. Visible markers of corporate reverence include our rising together during the invocation, the offering up of solemn prayers, periods of sustained silence, and attentive listening. Visible markers of corporate joy include the vigorous singing of praises, heartfelt confession of creeds, delighting in the assurance of pardon, and offering up of tithes and offerings.

As you follow along with the streamed worship, we encourage you to worship at home just as you would at church. For this to happen, you will need to be intentional about the following:

- Find a place in your home that is devoid of unnecessary distractions. Be careful about not allowing your smartphone, tablet, radio, pets, magazines, or anything else to divert your attention from worshipping the Triune God in Spirit and truth.
- Have your Bible and worship bulletin readily accessible. We have slightly modified our bulletin to facilitate easy viewing and printing at home. We strongly recommend having printed copies of the bulletin for your family members, especially the children.
- Dress appropriately as a means of rightly framing your mind toward the task at hand. For most people, it will be difficult to foster a serious and contemplative attitude of worship if they are lounging around in pajamas. How we dress has a profound influence on our behavior.
- Unless providentially hindered, be sure to stand with the congregation when asked to do so. Standing will unite your posture with the gathered assembly and also serve as a natural deterrent to laziness.
- Audibly participate in all corporate prayers, confessions, and singing. The purpose of our Livestream worship service is to glorify God, not to be entertained. There is no such thing as a "passenger" in the worship of God. He has created everything to be participating actively in his praise (Psalm 148).
- Participate in pastoral prayers by bowing your head, closing your eyes, and agreeing silently with the prayers offered up to God. Don't use this as a time to recharge your coffee cups.
- Every Livestream service will still contain an offertory hymn. We urge you to use this time to make an online offering or write a check for later mailing. Even though you are unable to attend in person, our church and missionaries are still very much dependent on your regular tithes and offerings.
- Participate in sermons by actively listening and engaging with the text of Holy Scripture.
- In sum, approach this Livestream worship service precisely as you would if you were present in the sanctuary.

Beloved, these are challenging times, but they afford us a unique opportunity to express our corporate solidarity as God's redeemed people. Many of our friends, neighbors, and co-workers remain blind to the glorious Gospel of our crucified and risen Savior. The confusion and fear of the unbelievers around us will likely increase during this season of uncertainty. Please invite them to join us in corporate worship. In doing so, you will be offering real hope to their imperiled souls.

~Pastor Joe