

WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE
10:00 PM SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

WORDS OF MEDITATION

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the sick,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others
To make music in the heart. – *Howard Thurmon*

WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

(The primary symbolism of the Advent Candles has to do with light growing in darkness – leading up to the coming of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

The light shines in the darkness. And the darkness did not overcome it. Behold! I bring good news for all people.

HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

OPENING SENTENCES

Sing to the Lord a new song;

Sing to the Lord, all the Earth!

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;

Tell the good news of salvation from day to day

OPENING HYMN 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

O night divine! 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! O, praise his name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim! O night divine!

LUKE 2:8-12

Angels Announce the Messiah

NT 58

ANTHEM

Glory to God in the Highest

Randall Thompson

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men. Glory to God in the highest!

MATTHEW 2:1-11

Magi Come from the East

NT 2

ANTHEM

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay; remember Christ our savior was born on Christmas day, to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray. O, tidings of comfort and joy! From God our heavenly father a blessed angel came, and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same; how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name. O tidings of comfort and joy! Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place and with true love and charity each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace. O tidings of comfort and joy!

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

If you wish to give electronically from your smartphone or tablet, please scan the box at the right to go to the website where you can give to WPC via credit card, or give via the Church Center app.



OFFERTORY

What Child Is This

arr. Patricia Lou Harris

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to your purposes and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Our lights have been dimmed to symbolize the darkness of the world without Christ. The burning candles represent the divine source of light in that darkness. Please stand as the usher comes to your pew. To light your candle tilt it to the candle already lighted. Don't tip the lighted candle or the hot wax will drip onto you or the floor. We ask parents to supervise your children as they light and hold their candles. The candles will be extinguished following the Benediction.

John 1:1-5	And the Word Became Flesh	NT 91-92
*CAROL 122	Silent Night	STILLE NACHT
*CAROL 134	Joy to the World (verses 1 and 4) Wallingford Winds and Congregation	ANTIOCH

*BLESSING AND CHARGE
Go forth in peace and joy.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE Angels We Have Heard on High arr. Mary MacDonald

***Those who are able, please stand.**
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Thank you to all who assisted with the worship service this evening.

This week's flowers were given to the Glory of God, as printed in the back of the bulletin.

WORSHIP Just a reminder: If you aren't feeling your best (headache, fever, body ache), please consider staying at home until you feel like your old self again.

MASK OPTIONAL Mask wearing is optional for worship and all activities and groups using WPC's buildings or grounds. If you would like to wear one, we have KN-95 masks available for your use when you come to worship.

OFFERING ENVELOPES 2023 If you requested weekly offering envelopes for 2023, they are available for pick up in Fellowship Hall

IN-PERSON STAFF AND OFFICE HOURS

The Office is closed and the staff is taking a much needed break this week. We are, however, checking messages and emails.

Feel free to call the church office (610-566-1644) or email staff members as needed this week.

FLUTE LESSONS WITH ELISA MUZZILLO AVAILABLE

Tuesday & Wednesday nights at WPC. Experienced teacher to students of all skill levels ages 8-18+. 30 or 60 minute lesson durations. contact Elisa at elisamuzzflute@gmail.com for lesson rates and availability!

THE GIVING TREE & ANGEL TREE COMMITTEE would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the church community for your incredible generosity. This year you donated over 100 total gifts and gift cards, brightening the Christmas celebrations of so many children in our area. Because of your generosity, ten children of incarcerated parents will receive a gift from their parent this Christmas season. Families served by Chester Eastside and City Team will receive gifts and gift cards, and needy families identified by the WSSD social worker will be receiving gift cards.

CHAIRS FOR THE SANCTUARY

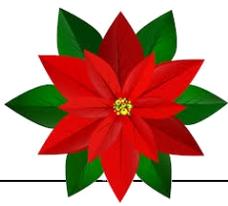
Friends, WPCers and countrymen – lend me your “rears” !

As some of you know, the Sanctuary, Worship and Disabilities Committees have discussed replacing the pews in our church with chairs, as has been done in several area churches as well as churches in Europe. The thought is that the use of chairs will give us greater flexibility in the use of our church space as well as giving us accessibility for all disabilities. Our initial plan is to replace 4 or 5 rows of pews with chairs – we would alternate chairs with arms and chairs without arms for additional flexibility. The chairs with arms would enable those who have difficulty getting up to have added support for standing.

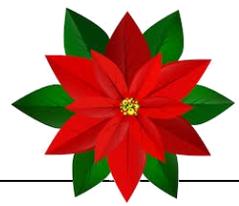
So, with no “ifs” “ands” just “butts” we would like you to “try on” the two new chairs we have on display in Fellowship Hall. Members of the committees will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for keeping your minds open to these proposed changes.

~Chris Dearnaley, Michelle George, Kristine Mulhorn, Jim Oetinger, Shirley Rudd, and Gwyn Vernon



Christmas Poinsettias

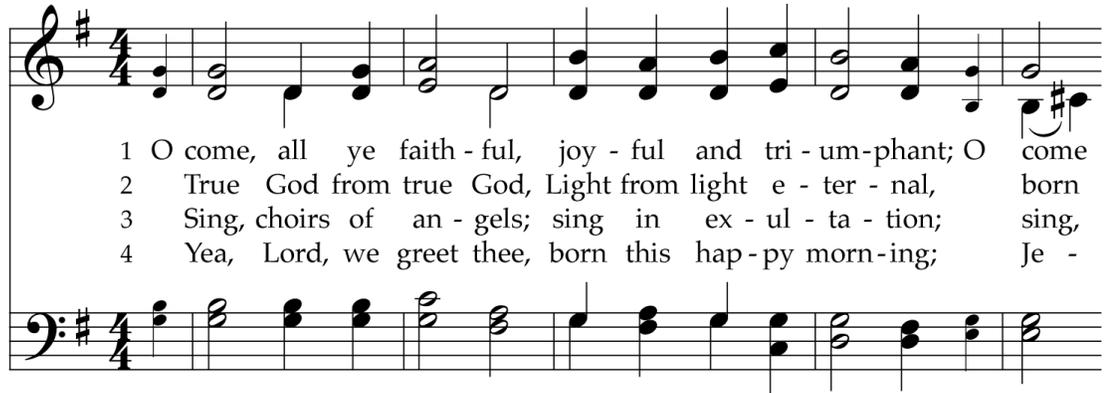


Given By	Dedication
Jon Bauer	In Memory of Belle and Pete Bauer
Bruce and Gail Clark	Suzanne Denninger, Ray Ortiz
Sally Clyde	In Memory of Bill Clyde, Family, and Friends
Scott and Diane Corbett	Jane and John R. Corbett Joanne McQuillic
Mary Lou Day	In Memory of Jim Day and Loved Ones
Chris Dearnaley and Joe Benvenuto	In honor of family and friends
Deb Dunbar and Jeff Draine	Alan Barman & Ed Reed
Walter Dunham	In memory of E. Ernest and Elizabeth T. Dunham
Steve, Tyler, and Lyla Eckman	In loving memory of our wife and mom, Emily Gayle Eckman
Roger and Carol Freidinger	In honor of Our Family
Helene Furlong	In memory of John R. and Helene M. Furlong
Bud and Edna Fury	In memory of Our Parents
Fred and Mary Ann German	Loved ones
Tom and Donna Halley	In loving memory of our daughter, Emily Gayle Eckman
Alva Hayes	In loving memory of Donald Hayes and family
Reg Jones	Bill and Rhoda Jones

Given By	Dedication
Cathy Kilpatrick	In memory of Harry
Henry and Leslie Krowchenko	In memory of Sam and Caroline Keys
The Montague Family	In memory of Mary Paul
Jim and Nancy Oetinger	In memory of Our Parents
Mary Rose	In Memory of Ken, our parents and our grandson
Lloyd Smith	In memory of Bernice Smith, Georgia Grab
Earl Varney	In memory of Mina Hale Varney
Carter and Morgan	In Memory of Pop-pop

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain


born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

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.

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

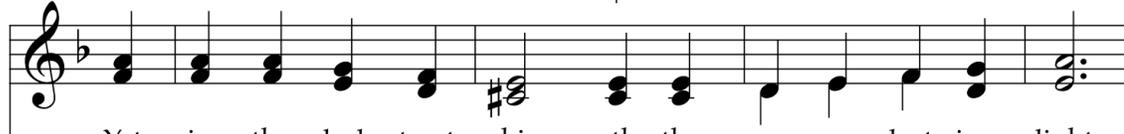
121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



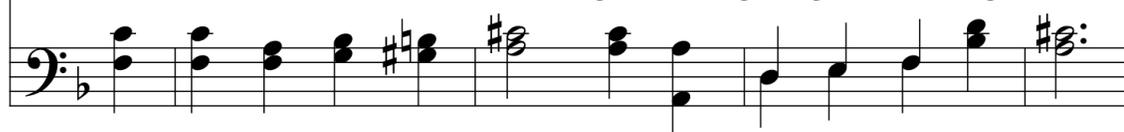
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



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.

123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
 O, rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ - teous - ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - riant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

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 niño 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.

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

STAFF

Rev. François Lacroix, Pastor
Rev. Taylor Cornelius, Associate Pastor
Lee Hagon-Kerr, Director of Music
Kate Callahan, Church Administrator
Leslie Krowchenko, Communications Coordinator
Christine Darr, Clerk of Session
Ed Mattote and Todd Darr, Co-Treasurers
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