



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 22ND, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome to Wallingford Presbyterian Church

Members and friends gather here each Sunday morning (and lots of times during the week!) to celebrate and serve. We rejoice that you are here, and hope that you'll feel right at home.



Please take a moment to silence your cell phone.



Friendship Pew Pads can be found in each row.

Please fill them out and pass along to your neighbors.

Visitors are encouraged to reach out about activities they may be interested in.



WPC Directory Our church uses the online directory feature of Planning Center.

Find it online or on the Church Center app. Contact the church office with questions.

WPC Happenings Stay informed! Physical copies available out in the Narthex.



If You Need a Little Help Hearing, portable listening devices are available.

An All Gender, ADA Restroom is located in the Narthex.



An Infant Changing Station and Quiet Room for parents is located in the Narthex.



Activity Packets are available for children to use during worship.



Fidget Toys for children (and adults) are available at the Narthex entrance.

Gluten Free Cookies are labeled and available during coffee hour.

Communion is served the first Sunday of the month.

WPC uses bread that is gluten free and made without tree nuts or peanuts.

Please ask an usher if you need help; we are here to assist you!

STAFF & HOURS

PASTOR: Rev. François Lacroix

- Tuesday, 11:00am-4:00pm
- Wednesday, 10:00am-2:00pm

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Taylor Cornelius

- Monday, 11:00am-4:30pm
- Thursday, 10:00am-1:00pm

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lee Hagon-Kerr

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Nathan Gibson

- Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:00pm

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: Leslie Krowchenko

CLERK OF SESSION: Christine Darr

CO-TREASURERS: Ed Mattote and Todd Darr

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Michelle Hall

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

This Week

CHURCH OPENER: Bruce Clark

USHERS: Mary Lou Day

Helen Picher

Judy Leet

John Leet

COFFEE HOUR: Education Council

Next Week

CHURCH OPENER: Bud Fury

LITURGIST: Roger Demos

COFFEE HOUR: Trustees

*Those who are able, please stand.

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A community where all who seek God are Welcome...



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself.” – Charles Dickens

“The ox and the donkey understood more of the first Christmas than the high priests in Jerusalem.” – Thomas Merton

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.” – Buddy the Elf

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

RESPONSIVE ADVENT PRAYER

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.

Light our lives with your imagination.

Show us the creative power of hope.

Teach us the peace that comes from justice.

Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained.

Magnify your love within us.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed

That we may walk in the light of Christ!

In Jesus' name, Amen!

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46-55

NRSV NT 57

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Five Bagatelles III. “Carol”

G. Finzi

Pastor François, Clarinet

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

“BREAKING NEWS - LIVE FROM BETHLEHEM!”

As the children tell the story, you are encouraged to join in their songs.
Lift your voice and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O Little town of Bethlehem, how sweetly you do sleep
While all the stars shine from afar, their watch over us to keep
Yet in this dark night shines bright our hope from God above
Who sent his son, the Holy One, to save us with His love.**

**O Little inn, so crowded, there wasn't any space
So to the stable they were able to find a resting place
Poor Mary was so tired, and Joseph held her tight
To help her bring our God and King into this silent night.**

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.**

Angels We Have Heard on High

**Angels we heard in the sky, Sweetly singing ev'rywhere
'Til the whole earth will reply, And their song will fill the air
Gloria! In excelsis deo!**

**When the shepherds saw, they feared, But the angels helped them know
This was good news, rise and cheer! Bring your sheep, come on, let's go!
Gloria! In excelsis deo!**

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!**

PAGEANT ANTHEM

Good News

Nine, Howard, Guthrie

*HYMN #134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

MISSION AND MINISTRY

CALL TO THE OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY

Angels' Jubilee

arr. Linda R. Lamb



Scan the QR code to give via credit card on the Church Center app.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of Good News, we rejoice in the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ! Receive these gifts and spread them throughout our church, town, and world so they could offer this good news to all who need to hear it most this Christmas! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

SENDING

INTRO TO CLOSING HYMN

Hark! the Harold Angels Sing
Chapel Ringers

arr. Martha L. Thompson

*CLOSING HYMN #119

Hark! the Harold Angels Sing
(verses 1 and 3)

MENDELSSOHN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE #582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

(VASILE)

***Glory to God whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.***

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen (x3)

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with worship this morning.

Congregational Vision Questionnaire

As part of the process for calling a new pastor to replace François Lacroix after his retirement, the church is undertaking a Mission Study to learn the congregation's perspective on what direction the church might take and what WPC should look for in a new pastor.

We need your input. It doesn't matter if you've been a member for a week, a year, or 40 years (or even if you've never gotten around to joining), your voice is amongst equals at this table. Please take the time to prayerfully consider the questionnaire.



Scan the QR code to launch the online Congregational Vision Questionnaire or find it at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Wallingford2025. Hard copies of the questionnaire are available from the ushers for those who prefer paper. The questionnaire is anonymous. Please submit only one questionnaire per person.

The Mission Study Team will also be holding a series of in-person and online listening sessions as a follow-up to the questionnaire. Stay tuned for more!

The Mission Study Team consists of Ver Picher, Ben Drane, Lin Floyd, Lisé Meloy, Rick Miller, David Rudd, and Erin Vaccone.

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.

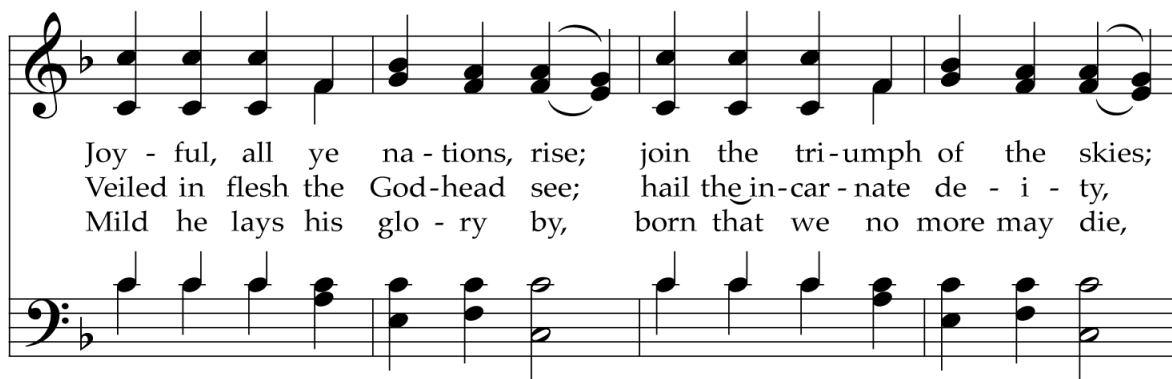
119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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!

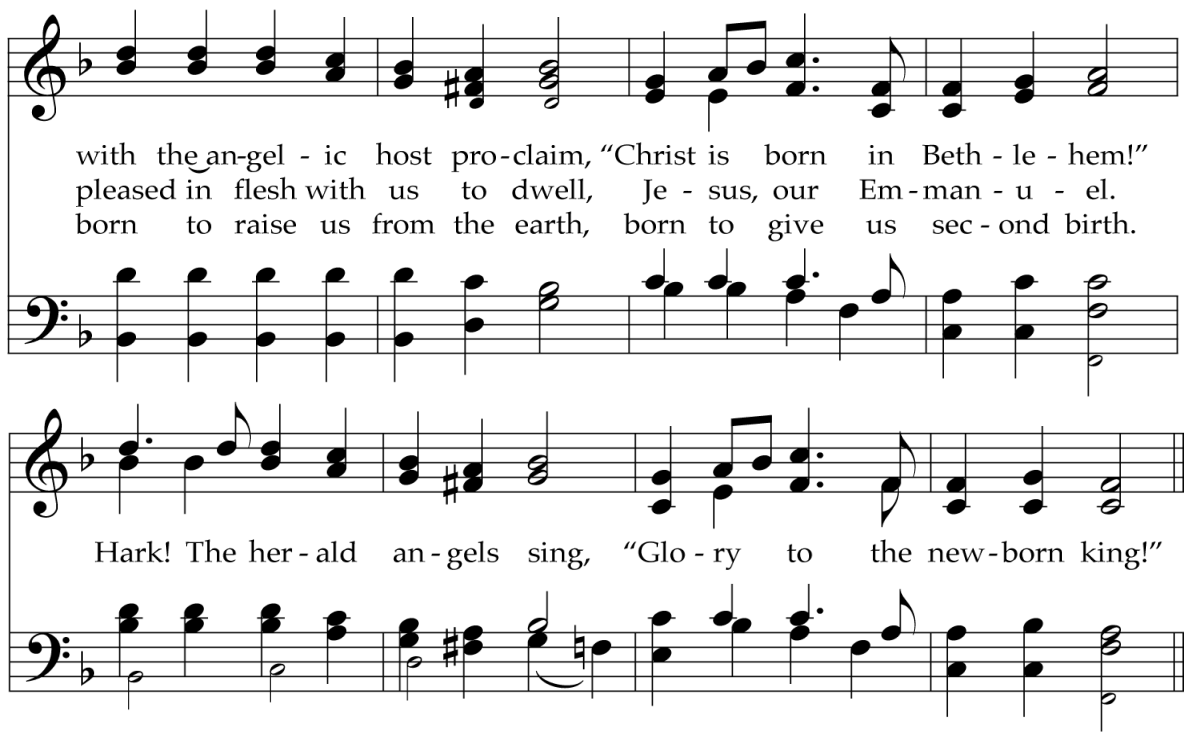


Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



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,

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



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!"

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



Christmas Poinsettias



Given By	Dedication
 Arianne Allan	In Memory of George Liepa
 Jon Bauer	In Memory of Belle and Pete Bauer
 Bruce and Gail Clark	In Memory of Our Parents, In Memory of Beanie
 Sally Clyde	In Memory of Bill Clyde and Beloved Family Members and Friends
 Mary Lou Day	In Memory of James Day and Loved Ones
 Chris Dearnaley	In Gratitude for Friends and Family
 Roger and Barb Demos	In Memory of Allen Rock Creedy
 Rosanna Denney	In Memory of George Denney
 Carol and Roger Freidinger	In Honor of Pastor Francois and Cyndi
 Helene Furlong	In Honor of My Parents
 Fred and Mary Ann German	In Memory of Loved Ones

 Allison, Jeremy, Eva And Beckett Guinn	In Memory of Joseph Lukachik, Father and Dido
 Lindsay Gursky	In Memory of Louise and Kay Visage Victor and Shirley Rangeloff
 Alva Hayes	In Memory of Donald Hayes and Family
 Stephanie Jones	In Memory of Elma Jones
 Russ Kinder	In Memory of Loved Ones
 Henry and Leslie Krowchenko	In Memory of Sam and Caroline Keys
 Zach, Brian and Bill Mongon	In Memory of Kathleen Mongon
 Helen and Ver Picher	In Memory of Olie Davis
 Teresa Sawyer and Family	In Memory of Loved Ones
 Earl Varney	In Memory of Mina Hale Varney
 Gwyn Vernon	In Honor of Pastor Francois and Cyndi Pastor Taylor and Doug Lee and Her Family

Wallingford Presbyterian Church

ChristMarket 2024



WPC supports several charitable groups throughout the year, missions near and far, such as **Chester Eastside** ceichester.org, **The America Team for Displaced Eritreans** eritreanrefugees.org, and **New Life Center** newlifecenterfoundation.org.

You may choose specific groups or choose to give a lump sum to be distributed among several groups. We will still have printed cards available should you want to send them to loved ones informing them that you have contributed in their honor as an alternative gift. **NEW!** You can use checks, cash, credit cards, and such apps as Venmo and Apple Pay.

We are sorting other groups as International, National, and Local. We have included website URLs so you can learn more and we will speak about these organizations leading up to Advent so we can be better informed.

INTERNATIONAL:

Malala Fund malala.org

Supporting Girls' Education Worldwide

Heifer International heifer.org

Providing livestock for food and farming

NATIONAL:

4 Paws for Ability 4pawsforability.org

Training service dogs for people with disabilities

Arbor Day Foundation arborday.org

Over 50 years of planting trees to improve the climate.

LOCAL:

Spring Garden Soup Society springgardensoupsociety.org

Supporting ten organizations in Philadelphia that offer food, housing, counseling, and other services.

City Team - Chester cityteam.org

Assistance with homelessness, hunger, poverty, and addiction. Supportive programs for youth who have aged out of foster care.

Crum Creek Watershed Association crcwatersheds.org

Restoring and conserving the natural resources of Chester Creek, Ridley Creek, and Crum Creek.



ANNUAL GIVING We have received 77 pledges totaling \$355,394. Pledges represent approximately two-thirds of our annual budget and provide the confidence that we will continue to be the exciting, growing church we have become thanks to everyone's helping hand.

Register your pledge using the pledge card or the Church Center app.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Join the children "Live from Bethlehem," as they tell the magical story of Jesus' birth. Presented as part of the worship service, **10am today, Sunday December 22.**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CHILD CARE Please note we will not provide childcare (Nursery, Toddler Room or Sunday School), **today, Sunday December 22**, so children can enjoy the family-friendly service.

CHRISTMARKET ChristMarket offers meaningful alternatives to traditional gifts that raise awareness of the needs of others and funds to support those needs. Choose among local, national and international organizations or give a lump sum to be distributed among all the groups. Mission and Service will match all gifts to a total of \$5,000. Shop in person after worship or by mail. **Last day today, December 22.**

BSA FUNDRAISER Need a last-minute Christmas gift? BSA Troop 277 and Pack 228 will be selling coffee/tea/hot chocolate/shortbread cookies **today, Sunday December 22** during Coffee Hour.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The church office will be closed **Tuesday, December 24 – Thursday, January 2** for Christmas break. The staff will be available by phone or email.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WPC will offer 2 services on **Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 -7:30pm, Service of Lessons and Carols** – a family-friendly service equally appealing to children, youth and adults, ending with "Silent Night" sung by candlelight.

-10pm Candlelight Service – our traditional service of Bible readings, carols and anthems by our vocal and instrumental choirs, ending with "Silent Night" sung by candlelight.



BLOOD DRIVE Garden City Fire Company #1 is hosting a blood drive at its station (412 Moore Road, Wallingford), **9am-7pm, Thursday, December 26.** To register, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or use the QR code (enter Nether Providence to schedule an appointment).

BREAKFAST CLUB Tweens and teens – meet in the youth room, **10am, Sunday, December 29**, for breakfast, a discussion about the week's video and games. Open to students grades 6-12.

CHILD CARE RESUMES Nursery, Toddler Room and Sunday School will be open **Sunday, December 29.**



CONGREGATIONAL VISION QUESTIONNAIRE We need your input on what WPC should look for in a new pastor to replace François Lacroix after his retirement. Please take time to prayerfully complete the questionnaire. It is anonymous – submit only one per person. Hard copies are available from the ushers. Use the QR code to launch the questionnaire or find it at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Wallingford2025 – **the deadline is Sunday, December 29.**



SPROUTS MOVIE NIGHT Watch “Finding Nemo” and enjoy pizza, popcorn and lemonade, **6 pm, Friday, January 3.** Open to children grades K-5. Use the QR code to register – deadline noon, Thursday, January 2.

YOUNG ADULT PIZZA PARTY Nosh on pizza, enjoy fellowship time and provide feedback to the Mission Study Team on the direction and vision of the church, **11:30am, Sunday, January 5.** Meet in the Youth Room.

CHANCEL FLOWERS 2025 The sign-up board for sponsoring Chancel Flowers in 2025 is live and posted in the Fellowship Hall. Sign your name and the dedication you would like printed in the bulletin. Suggested donation price is \$50. Payments will be collected at the beginning of each month. The church office will reach out with a reminder when your month is coming up.

OFFERING ENVELOPES If you requested offering envelopes for 2025, please pick them up in Fellowship Hall.

RED WAGON WPC supports 3 food pantries – Chester Eastside, LifeWerks & Media Food Bank. Chester Eastside is requesting:

Pancake mix/syrup, Oatmeal, Canned fruit/applesauce, Peanut butter/jelly, Canned meats (chicken), Canned fish (tuna, salmon), Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, beans), Canned soup (condensed, ready to serve), Dry pasta/pasta sauce, Canned pasta/chili, Boxed mac & cheese/side dishes, Stuffing/rice/mashed potatoes.

THANK YOU The WPC family has been given generous, kind hearts. You ensured the Giving Tree/Angel Tree supplied gifts and gift cards to brighten many children’s Christmases. The nursery school was likewise very generous. We gave 60 gift cards from Target and Walmart and wonderful toys to Chester Eastside, City Team, Wallingford Swarthmore School District and Angel Tree. A huge thank you from the Giving Tree/Angel Tree team – Carol, Cathy, Chris, Don, June, Sally and Sheila

WPC Week at a Glance	
Sunday, December 22	Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
09.00am- Bell Choir	07.30pm- Service of Lessons and Carols
09.00am- Christmas Pageant Call	10.00pm- Candlelight Service
09.30am- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day
10.00am- Christmas Pageant	Thursday, December 26
10.00am- Worship	Friday, December 27
11.00am- Coffee Hour	Saturday, December 28
11.00am- Winds	Sunday, December 29
Monday, December 23	10.00am- Breakfast Club
10.00am- Adult Bible Class	10.00am- Worship
	11.00am- Coffee Hour

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