

WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DECEMBER 24TH, 2024 - 10:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

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.



<u>Please take a moment to silence your cell phone.</u>

- 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. <u>WPC Happenings</u> Stay informed! Physical copies available out in the Narthex.
- M If You Need a Little Help Hearing, portable listening devices are available.
- An All Gender, ADA Restroom is located in the Narthex.
- **M** 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.
 - <u>Communion</u> 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

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

*Those who are able, please stand.

Words and music printed for the hymns, Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A71731 *A community where all who seek God are Welcome...*



USHERS: Andrea Couzens Mary Lou Day June Tolomeo Tony Tolomeo

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy. To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger. **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle to symbolize God's promise fulfilled. For a child has been born to us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favor rests. Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

OPENING PRAYER

*Opening Carol #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1 and 4) ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION 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.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY

The Work of Christmas

D. Forrest



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

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the pris'ner, to rebuild the nations; to bring peace among brothers, to make music from the heart. When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas beings.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus is God on a mission: a God who travelled the mystery of incarnation to join our journey of joy and suffering; a God who shared our flesh to die the death of sin; a God who rose from the dead to break sin's deathly grasp and lift our flesh into unbreakable hope.

If you feel called to follow Jesus we invite you to join us as we follow him. If you would like to know more about this congregation or how to become a member, please speak to Pastor François or Pastor Taylor.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give thanks, Holy One, for the world of wonder you have made – forest and field, sea and sky, and for the gift of grace that you have given – a little child, lying in a manger.

Receive these gifts of tenderness and love, of gratitude and praise, and use them for your glory; in the name of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem, we pray. Amen.

Service of Lessons and Carols

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-9

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Carol #109

Blest Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

NRSV NT 56

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,

NRSV OT 640

and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Carol #129	Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming	ES IST EIN' ROS'
	(verses 1 and 2)	

Luke 1:46-56

SCRIPTURE READING

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness 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. ⁵⁰His 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 thoughts 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 helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

CAROL #110

Love Has Come (verses 1 and 3)

Luke 2:1-7

Scripture Reading

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

ANTHEM Birthday Carol D. Wilcocks Rejoice today with one accord, Alleluia, this is the birthday of our Lord. Alleluia. Gloria, Gloria in excelsis, Gloria, Gloria Deo! Shepherds abiding in the field, to them God's glory was reveal'd. And to the shepherds sore afraid, an angel said, 'Be not afraid. Tidings of Joy to you I bring, Today is born a heav'nly King. And ye shall find in manger laid the Babe in swaddling clothes arrayed.' A host of angels fill'd the sky thus singing praise to God on high. Now join we all the angel throng and let our voices swell the song: Alleluia. Gloria in excelsis, Gloria Deo.

BRING A TORCH

NRSV NT 57

NRSV NT 58

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-18

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

O Holy Night Chamber Choir

arr. S Robson

NRSV NT 2

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CAROL #147

The First Nowell (verses 1 and 6)

THE FIRST NOWELL

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT John 1:1-14

Scripture Reading

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

TOLLING OF THE BELL – Welcoming Emmanuel, God with Us

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 lit. 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. You may extinguish your candle following the Benediction.

*CAROL #122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

NRSV NT 91

Because Christ has been born in the world, the power to oppress and kill will not stand. Because Christ has been born in the world, we respond in wonder:

with the angels, we sing glory to God; with the shepherds, we share the good news; with Mary, we ponder the words of this night, and the Word that has come into the world: Immanuel, God with us.

<u>Sending</u>

*Charge and Benediction

*Sending Carol #134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Thank you to everyone who assisted with worship this evening.



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.



This 20th-century British paraphrase of the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68–79) broadens the implications of what John the Baptist's father says in order to affirm that God's work is ongoing. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.



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.

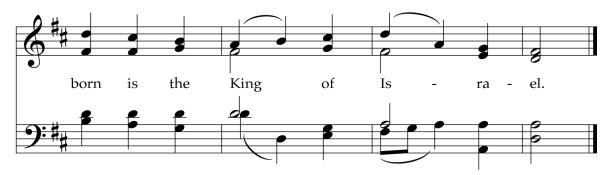


Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / né*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).



5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Refrain

sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. Refrain



JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



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.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



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.



Christmas Poinsettias



	Y
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
thris 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
Kelene 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
Swyn Vernon	In Honor of Pastor Francois and Cyndi Pastor Taylor and Doug Lee and Her Family



Rem 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.



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).

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.

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.



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.

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

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.

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

BULLETIN COVER We give a special thanks to Jonathan Demos, son of Roger and Barb, for the beautiful drawings used as the bulletin art for the 7.30 and 10.00 services.

WPC Week at a Glance			
Sunday, December 29	Saturday, January 04		
10.00am- Breakfast Club	11.00am- BSA Eagle Scout Court of Honor		
10.00am- Worship	11.15am- Ballet Academy		
11.00am- Coffee Hour	Sunday, January 05		
Monday, December 30	10.00am- Breakfast Club		
Tuesday, December 31 - New Year's Eve	10.00am- Worship		
Wednesday, January 01	11.00am- Coffee Hour		
Thursday, January 02	11.00am- Kids Café		
Friday, January 03	11.30am- Young Adult Lunch		
06.00pm- Sprouts			

Wallingford Presbyterian Church 110 E. Brookhaven Rd, Wallingford, Pennsylvania 19086 website: <u>www.wallingfordpres.org</u> Phone: 610-566-1644 EMAIL: OFFICE@Wallingfordpres.org