

WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 24TH, 2025
CHRISTMAS EVE, 4PM

# **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.

Mrs. 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 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS** 

CHURCH OFFICE

4pm Service

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

LITURGISTS: Lena Anderson

ASSOCIATE PASTOR, ACTING HEAD OF STAFF: Rev. Taylor Cornelius

Juliette Coker

pastortaylor@wallingfordpres.org

Thomas Hansen

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lee Hagon

Adeline Allan

music@wallingfordpres.org CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Nathan Gibson **USHERS: Andrea Couzens** 

office@wallingfordpres.org

Frank Noyes 8pm Service

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: Leslie Krowchenko

**USHERS: Todd Darr** 

CLERK OF SESSION: Christine Darr

Jenny Montague

TREASURER: Todd Darr

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Michelle Hall

\*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**

#### WORDS FOR MEDITATION

On Christmas Eve Night we come to celebrate the birth of our Savior! The depth of layers of meaning to this incarnational miracle are right before our eyes in some of our dearly treasured Christmas carols. May we meditate, with humble hearts, upon the Truth, Beauty, and Life which was born in a manger that first Christmas night, and ponder the majesty revealed in human flesh, as we worship our newborn King together!

"The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight!" – O Little Town of Bethlehem "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn." – O Holy Night

"Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in His wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth." - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

## **GATHERING**

**WELCOME** 

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

For unto us a child is born!

Unto us a son is given!

And the government shall be upon his shoulder,

And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace!

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end,

Upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it...

And to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever!

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this!

BORN TO US THIS DAY, IS A SAVIOR! LET US WORSHIP GOD!

\*OPENING HYMN #134

Joy to the World

**ANTIOCH** 

## **ADVENT LITANY OF LIGHT: ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

\*HYMN #115

Away in a Manger

**MUELLER** 

## Word

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20

NRSV NT 58

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**BELL ANTHEM** 

Joy to the World

arr. Ron Mallory

### TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

All children are invited to come forward at this time. Parents are encouraged to accompany younger children and sit with them on the chancel steps or in the front seats.

**BELL ANTHEM** 

What Child is This Chapel Ringers

\*HYMN #136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

**GO TELL IT** 

\*HYMN #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**MENDELSSOHN** 

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We rejoice because... Halleluia, Jesus is born!

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 glory forever. Amen.

# **MISSION AND MINISTRY**

**OFFERTORY** 

For Unto Us a Child is Born Wallingford Winds

arr. Wainwright

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

RESPONSE #144

In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)

**CRANHAM** 

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. if I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what can I give him? Give my heart.

# **CANDLELIGHT SENDING**

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 at the end of the hymn.

CLOSING HYMN #122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

Thank you to everyone who assisted with worship today.

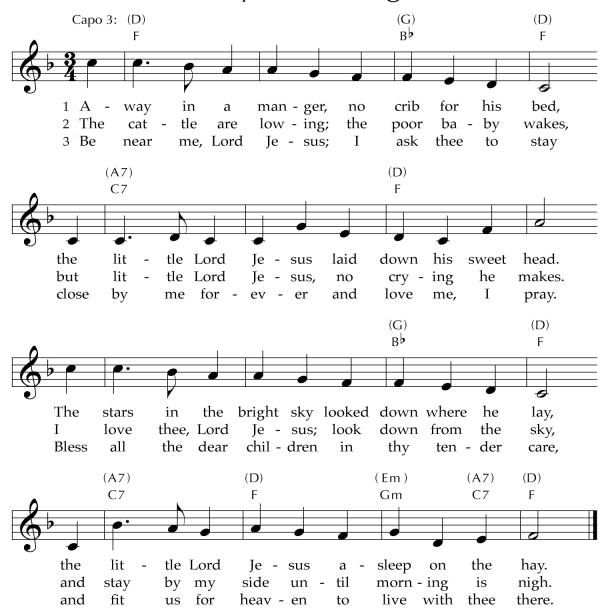
<sup>\*</sup>CHARGE AND BENEDICTION



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.

# 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.

# 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain



Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

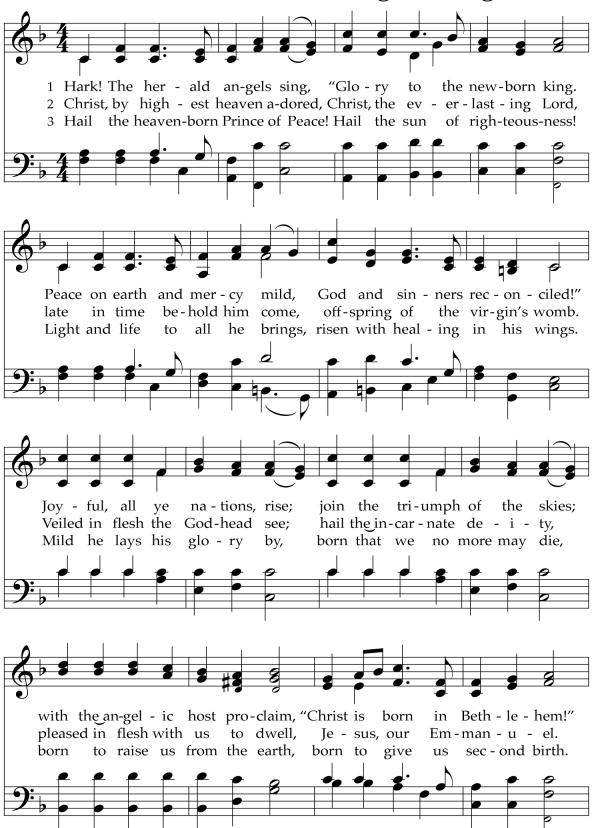


#### **SPANISH**

¡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.

# 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.

MENDELSSOHN MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855 7.7.7.7.D with refrain

**JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH** 



# GIVING AND SERVICE ....

**LEAST COIN** Look for the water jug in the Narthex (before church) and Fellowship Hall (during coffee hour) to deposit your least coins (loose change) for the WPC Day of Service. Continues through mid-January.

**WPC DAY OF SERVICE DONATIONS** For December, we are asking for full-size bottles of shampoo. Place in large bin outside the church office.

WPC DAY OF SERVICE An inter-generational opportunity to benefit others, 10am, Monday, January 19. Package personal hygiene products for the Delco Domestic Abuse Project and Bridge Houses through CityTeam, weekend snacks for after-school club children at Chester Eastside and thank you cards/snacks for the Nether Providence Police Department/Garden City Fire Company.

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

- -Cereal/oatmeal/Cream of Wheat
- -Canned fruit (all varieties)
- -Canned fish (tuna, salmon, mackerel)
- -Canned Vegetables (corn, carrots, peas, green beans)
- -Knorr side dishes (all varieties)
- -Pasta and sauce (all varieties)
- -Ramen noodles (family packs of six)
- -Personal hygiene products

- -Peanut butter/jelly
- -Canned soup
- -Canned chicken
- -Rice (white and flavored)
- -Stuffing/boxed mac & cheese
- -Salad dressing (all varieties)
- -Packaged cookies/snacks

# THIS WEEK AT WPC ....

**SNOW PROTOCOL** As winter approaches, we want you to be prepared with information regarding possible church closings. Should inclement weather be predicted and the decision made to cancel the Sunday morning service, you will be advised by 8am via email and posts on the church Facebook and Instagram pages.

# **LOOKING AHEAD ....**

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS Enjoy a casual service including a carol sing, 10am, Sunday, December 28.

CHILD CARE The Nursery (12 months - Pre-K) will be open, 10am, Sunday, December 28. There will not be any Sunday School.

KIDS CAFÉ Kids – meet Pastor Taylor and Miss Lee in the choir room, 11am, Sunday, January 4, for songs, games and refreshments. Open to children 4-11.



回缀识题 Sprouts Mural Making Night Help create our very own children's mural on large canvases to hang in the Sanctuary, 5pm, Friday, January 9. Play games, eat dinner and end with a devotional Bible Story and song. Open to children grades K-5. Use the QR code to register (and send the link to friends to register, too).



**※■ SPROUTS PIZZA VOLUNTEERS** Offer dinner for the Sprouts by providing four large plain cheese pizzas the second Friday of the month beginning Friday, January 9. Have them delivered/drop them off in the WPC kitchen around 4:45pm. Use the QR for details and to register.

PHIL LABORIE ART SHOW Plan to attend the official opening of Phil's one-man art show, "The Land of the Giants," at Swarthmore Borough Hall (121 Park Avenue), 4-6pm, Saturday, **January 10**. Light refreshments will be served. Sponsored by Swarthmore Friends of the Arts. The show continues through Friday, January 30.

BREAKFAST CLUB Tweens and teens – meet in the youth room, 10am, Sunday, January 11, to eat breakfast, games, discussion and fellowship. Open to grades 6-12. Meet in the Youth Room.

**BELLAPALOOZA** Ring in the New Year with bell choirs from local churches, including WPC and Swarthmore Presbyterian, and The Baldwin School, **3pm, Sunday, January 11**. The groups will perform a mix of sacred and secular music, including some holiday favorites! Suggested donation – \$15, benefitting Keep Music Alive, a non-profit that helps promote access to music education in Delaware County.

**PRIME TIME** Listen to and sing along with the Legends Band (with our own Bud Fury on banjo and Diane Gerlach and Earl Varney on trombone), **Tuesday**, **January 13**. The 20+ piece ensemble performs traditional Big Band to contemporary favorites. **Lunch begins at noon; the talk**, **12:30pm**.

**WOW** Join for refreshments, **7pm, Wednesday, January 14**, and a lesson led by Chris Jacobson.

**BOOKLOOK** Discuss "The Bonobo and the Atheist: In Search of Humanism Among the Primates" by Frans de Waal, in which the author argues "human morality is not imposed from above but instead comes from within. Moral behavior does not begin and end with religion but is in fact a product of evolution," **7:30pm, Wednesday, January 21**. Contact Walt Kaminski to order – the cost is approximately \$9.50.

**ANNUAL MEETING** Plan to attend the annual meeting of the congregation to receive reports, review financial and benevolence statements, receive the 2026 budget and elect members of the Nominating Committee held at the **close of worship**, **Sunday**, **January 25**.

**MOVIE NIGHT "AT THE RIVER"** Watch and discuss "At the River: Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South," a film chronicling the actions of several Presbyterian ministers in the South who spoke out during the Civil Rights Era and the consequences of those actions, **Wednesday, January 28. Pizza – 6pm; movie – 6:15pm.** 



Given By	Dedication
The Allan Family	In Memory of George Liepa & Tanya Allan
Karen Barnes	In Memory of Robert P. Barnes
Jon Bauer	In Memory of Belle & Pete Bauer
Joanne Callahan	In Memory of Jean Daniels & Bernard Callahan
The Clyde Family	In Memory of Bill Clyde
Chris Dearnaley	In Honor of Family & Friends
Roger & Barb Demos	In Memory of Loved Ones Gone Too Soon
Michelle, Natalie, Elaina & Sharon and their Families	In Memory of Our Beloved Dad and Pop Pop, George Denney
Rosanna Denney	In Memory of George Denney
Deb Dunbar	In Memory of Jeff Draine



Given By	Dedication
Carol & Roger Freidinger	In Honor of Our Family
Fred & Mary Ann German	In Memory of Loved Ones
Lindsay & Mark Gursky	In Memory of Our Grandparents who have passed on, Louise & Kay Visage, Ann & Glenn Phillips, Donna & Walt Gursky, Shirley & Victor Rangeloff
Alva Hayes	In Memory of Donald Hayes & Loved Ones
Cathy Kilpatrick	In Memory of Harry Kilpatrick
Henry & Leslie Krowchenko	In Memory of Sam & Caroline Keys
Nancy Oetinger	In Memory of Our Parents
Helen & Ver Picher	In Memory of Helen's Mom, Olie Davis
The Sawyer Family	In Memory of The Ahern Family & The Sawyer Family
Earl Varney	In Memory of Mina Hale Varney