

Westminster At Worship

Christmas Eve Bay County Christmas

December 24, 2020

4:00 p.m.



PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING WORDS

Tonight, is the meeting place
That place where heaven touches earth.
In an out-of-the-way place
Which folk never thought to visit —
There God kept his promise;
There God sent his son.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

MUSIC

"Star-Led, Wonder Bound"
Dawn, Nikelle, Judy

“LIGHT LOOKED DOWN”

Leader: Light looked down and saw darkness.

People: “I will go there,” said the Light.

Leader: Peace looked down and saw war.

People: “I will go there,” said Peace.

Leader: Love look down and saw hatred.

People: “I will go there,” said Love.

Leader: So, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love, came down and crept in beside us.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song that comes down through the night from a heavenly throng, and we welcome the good news they bring, and we greet our little, humble Lord, whom we meet through the eyes of strangers who’ve come in from their workplaces. Thank you, dear God of Light, of Peace, of Hope, and Love, for having come down this night for us! Amen.

ANTHEM

“All Is Well”

Brandi

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Luke 2:1-20
The Cotton Patch Version
by Clarence Jordan

¹ It happened in those days that a proclamation went out from President Augustus that every citizen must register. This was the first registration while Quirinius was Secretary of War. So everybody went to register, each going to his own home town. Joseph too went up from south Georgia from the city of Valdosta, to his home in north Georgia, a place named Gainesville, to register with his bride Mary, who by now was heavily pregnant.

⁶ While they were there, her time came, and she gave birth to her first boy. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in an apple crate. (There was no room for them in the hospital.)

⁸ Now there were some farmers in that section who were up late at night tending to their baby chicks. And a messenger from the Lord appeared to them, and evidence of the Lord was shining all about them. It nearly scared the life out of them. And the messenger said to them, "Don't be afraid; for listen, I'm bringing you good news of a great joy in which *all* people will share. Today *your deliverer* was born in the city of David's family. He is the Leader. He is the

Lord. And here's a clue for you: you will find the baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in an apple box."

And all of a sudden there was with the messenger a crowd of angels singing God's praises and saying,

*"Glory in the highest to God,
And on Earth, peace to all,
The object of God's favor."*

¹⁵ When the messengers went away from them into the sky, the farmers said to one another, *"Let's go to Gainesville and see how all this the Lord has showed us has turned out."*

¹⁶ So they went just as fast as they could, and found Mary and Joseph, and *the baby lying in an apple box*. Seeing this, they related the story of what has been told them about this little fellow. The people were simply amazed as these words as they listened to what the farmers told them. And Mary clung to all these words, turning them over and over in her memories. The farmers went back home, giving God the credit and singing his praises for all they had seen and heard, exactly as it had been described to them.

REFLECTIONS

"A Visitor to Bay County"
Rev. Dr. Ewen Holmes

MUSIC

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Dawn, Brandi, Ken

A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth. Amen.

— Nathan Nettleton, incorporating lines from Kathy Galloway
of Wild Goose Publications, 1999

MUSIC

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Hand Bell Choir

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Lord’s Prayer

People: 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.

ACTIONS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

BLESSING

MUSIC

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Dawn, Brandi, Ken

MINISTERS
TRANSITIONAL PASTOR
PARISH ASSOCIATE
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR
NURSERY SUPERVISOR
CHOIR DIRECTOR
HAND BELL DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
TREASURER
CUSTODIAN
SECRETARY
CCLI License #2328090

All the People
Rev. Dr. Ewen Holmes
Rev. Linda Williams
Nikelle Johnson
Elaine Edwards
Dawn Auger
Peggy Hanson
Wendy Tally
Heather Heidtman
Harold Miller
Judy Harrelson

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 24, 2020

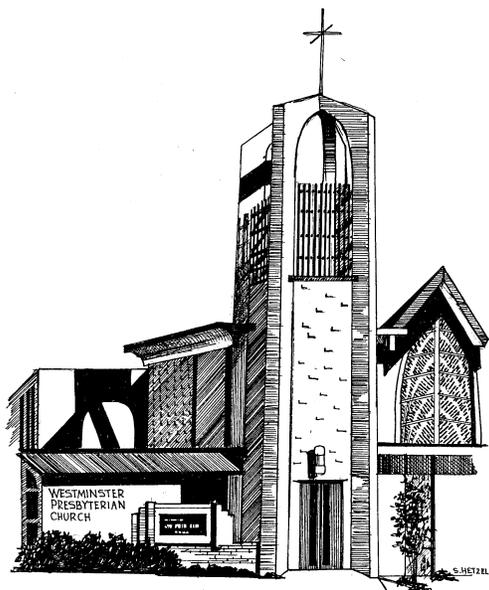
PER CAPITA & OFFERING ENVELOPES: If you have not paid your 2020 per capita (\$29.00), you can still get that in this month. Offering envelopes for 2021 will be available for pick-up at the church during regular office hours.

THE UNCLUTTERED HEART ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Join us on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. This is an Advent Bible Study using the book, *"The Uncluttered Heart"* by Beth A. Richardson. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

THE WIRED WORD ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Join us on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Enjoy lively conversations about current events in the news and the Bible passages that relate to those events. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

SPIRITUALITY OF AGING: Our Spirituality of Aging groups have begun gathering in groups of twos over the phone. We realize this is not the way we would have all hoped to have gathered this Fall, but for the ten to twelve who have signed up, it has become a way to remain connected during these coronavirus days. For these “two-by-two” conversations, we are using “*On the Brink of Everything*,” a beautiful book of reflections on what we can learn as we move closer to “the brink of everything.” This book is written by beloved and bestselling author Parker J. Palmer. It’s never too late to join in! If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our “two-by-two” discussion format, please give Rev. Linda a call.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street

Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-1360

email: office@wpcbc.org

website: wpcbc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

lunch 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Friday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.