

Westminster At Worship

Christmas Eve Meditations on Christmas

December 24, 2020

1:00 p.m.



PRELUDE - WILL RUN POINSETTIA DEDICATION SLIDES

"O Come All Ye Faithful"
Wendy Tally & Dawn Auger

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"
Wendy Tally

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

MUSIC

"I Wonder as I Wander"
Wendy Tally

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 9:2-7

- ² 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.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

MUSIC

“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”
Wendy Tally

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT

Micah 5:2-4

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

READING: *“The Coming of God”* by Ann Weems

Our God is the One who comes to us
 in a burning bush,
 in an angel’s song,
 in a newborn child.

Our God is the One who cannot be found
 locked in the church,
 not even in the sanctuary.

Our God will be where God will be
 with no constraints, no predictability.

Our God lives where our God lives,
 and destruction has no power
 and even death cannot stop the living.

Our God will be born where God will be born
 but there is no place to look for the One who comes
to us.

When God is ready
 God will come even to a godforsaken place
 like a stable in Bethlehem.

Watch...
 for you know not when God comes.

Watch, that you might be found

whenever
wherever
God comes.

MUSIC

"Mary Did You Know"
Wendy Tally

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 1:26-38

The Annunciation to Mary

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He 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. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be,

since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The 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. ³⁶ And 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then 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.

READING: *"Mary. Nazareth Girl"* by Ann Weems

Mary, Nazareth girl:

What did you know of ethereal beings
with messages from God?

What did you know of men
when you found yourself with child?

What did you know of babies,
you, barely out of childhood yourself?

God-chosen girl:

What did you know of God
that brought you to this stable
blessed among women?

Could it be that you had been ready

waiting
listening
for the footsteps
of an angel?
Could it be there are messages for us
If we have the faith to listen?

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 2:1-20

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph 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. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And 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.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of

the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”^[c]

¹⁵ When 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

REFLECTION

“The Christmas Story”

Rev. Linda Williams

MUSIC

"Silent Night"
Wendy Tally

BENEDICTION

Light looked down
and saw darkness.
"I will go there," said the Light.

Peace looked own
and saw war.
"I will go there," said Peace.

Love looked down
and saw hatred.
"I will go there," said Love.

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

POSTLUDE

"Love Came Down at Christmas"
Wendy Tally

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

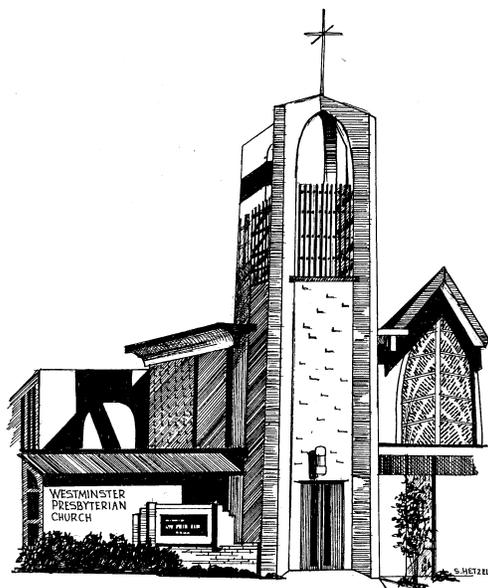
PER CAPITA & OFFERING ENVELOPES: If you have not paid your 2020 per capita (\$29.00), you can still get that in this month. Offering envelopes for 2021 will be available for pick-up at the church during regular office hours.

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**](mailto: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**](mailto: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.



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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.

