

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2025 Christmas Cantata

Sing We Noel

Composed and Arranged by Joel Raney

December 14, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

†Those who feel comfortable standing may do so.

** Denotes hymn number in pew hymnal. Some lyrics may be different than what is projected on the screens*



DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - JOY AND ART SPONSOR, DIANA BALL

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news.
May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

ALL: Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.

†INTROIT

"Wait for the Lord"

WAIT FOR THE LORD

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

The angels bring good news of great joy —
so we gather to listen.

The heavens burst with song —
so we gather to sing.

The shepherds hurry to Bethlehem —
so we gather to worship.

The world longs for peace —
so we gather to receive God's promise once more.

This is the season of deep joy,
the time when heaven and earth lean close.
So come — let us worship the God who comes to us in love.
Sing we Noel!

†HYMN *"Awake! Awake, and Greet The New Morn"* *No. 160

*Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door
and lives now inside us forever.*

*To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing;
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving-kindness.
The thunder of his anthems rolls
to shatter all hatred and violence.*

*In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.
Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light;
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share
and bring us at last into glory.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

INVITATION TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

SETH CUNNINGHAM

— Please record your presence on the “Friendship Pad” —

†DOXOLOGY

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

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of joy and wonder, bless these gifts so they may echo the angels' song — bringing peace where there is conflict, light where there is shadow, and hope where fear has taken hold. As the choir sings Noël today, let our giving become part of that chorus, praising the Christ who is born again in every act of love. Amen.

SING WE NOEL COMPOSED AND ARRANGED BY JOEL RANEY

SUITE 1: "SING WE NOEL"

Luke 2:11-12

Isaiah 9:6

SUITE 2: "IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR"

"O Simplicitas" by Madeline L'Engle

SUITE 3: "A CHILD IS BORN"

**"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

SUITE 4: "SING GLORIA"

Luke 2:15-18, 20

SUITE 5: "THE SHEPHERDS VISIT"

"Peace on Earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King."
Joyfully we sing Noel.
Joyeux Noel - Merry Christmas!

FINALE: "SING WE NOEL" (REPRISE)

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



Liturgical texts used with permission from:

Candle lighting liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

2025 Christmas Cantata

"Sing We Noel"

5 Christmas Suites for SATB Choir
Composed and Arranged by Joel Raney
Orchestrated by Joel Raney and Ed Hogan
© 2025 Hope Publishing Company

Performed by the Westminster Cantata Choir
Directed by Dawn Auger

Accompanied by Seth Cunningham

Narration by Judy Hudson,
using "The Oxford Book of Christmas Poems," compiled and
edited by Michael Harrison and Christopher Stuart-Clark, and
The Holy Bible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 14, 2025

- **CARING CONNECTIONS:** Come join us on the first Thursday of every month. Our Caring Connections Group will also be open to the Bay City community. Any questions, please see Mary Nicholson or Rev. Linda. Caring Connections will meet again on Thursday, January 8 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Lounge.

- **LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE:** A service of Comfort, Reflection and Hope, **Thursday, December 18 at 6 p.m.** Our Longest Night Service is a special time set aside for prayer, reflection, comfort, and hope. All are welcome. A brief time of fellowship and light refreshments will follow the service.

- **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** This year's Christmas Pageant, *The First Christmas Quilt*, was written by Westminster's own Judy Hudson! The Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 21 during

worship. Rehearsal will be held tonight during Youth Group at 6 p.m. A dress rehearsal is planned for 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 20. Contact Leah Sneller with any questions.

- **WINTER BOOK GROUP:** Our Book Group will begin discussing our next book, *The Measure of a Man* by Sidney Poitier, beginning on Tuesday, January 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the lounge.

- **LUNCH AND LAUGH:** Please join us this **Tuesday, December 16** at noon in the fellowship hall as we enjoy some favorite table games. Bring your own brownbag lunch; beverages and a sweet treat are provided.

- **CHRISTMAS EVE:** There will be **two services on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24**, one at 4 p.m. and another at 7 p.m. Both services will feature communion, candle lighting and special music. Please join us!

MINISTERS

PASTOR

PARISH ASSOCIATE

LITURGIST

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

CHOIR DIRECTOR

HANDBELL DIRECTOR

YOUTH BELLS AND CHIME CHOIR DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

PIANIST

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

SECRETARY

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FACILITIES MANAGER

All the People

Rev. Jamie Milton

Rev. Linda Williams

Choir Members

Leah Sneller

Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Seth Cunningham

Judy Harrelson

Seth Cunningham

Rachel Webb

Martha Tapley

Bill Petzold

Pat Foster

Harold Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 14, 2025

- **Children are always welcome in the sanctuary.** **NURSERY CARE** is available for infants and toddlers during the worship service. Our nursery is equipped with a paging system. Quality childcare is provided by Elaine Edwards, who is infant/CPR trained.

- The **QUILTS ON DISPLAY** in the sanctuary were created at this year's Advent Dinner. Each square includes a depiction of the nativity drawn and colored by congregation members and friends. **Thanks to Judy Hudson, Penny Reagh, and Bonnie Marsh** for quilting them together for this beautiful display!

- **CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Join us after worship **TODAY at 1:00 p.m.** as we spread cheer to some of our homebound and less mobile members. If you'd like to stay after church, we'll order pizzas and eat before we head out.

- **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:** We meet on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. No Thursday evening Zoom meetings will be held until the new year, but a Zoom option will be available for the Sunday morning studies this week and again on December 21.

- **BUILDING OUR FAMILY OF FAITH:** Join the *Bring a Friend Challenge!* Each time you bring a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member to worship or a church event, you and your guest will be entered into a raffle for prizes (gift cards, a stainless-steel tabletop grill, and more!). Stop by the Wenona Street Welcome kiosk before or after worship for tickets and details.

- **THE OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH:** Our next gathering is planned for **1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17** at The Wanigan Eatery and Pub, 1905 S. Wenona St. in Bay City. Please call Dave Crook at 847-624-5798 to RSVP by **TOMORROW**, December 15.

Giving to Westminster

There are many ways to share your gifts with Westminster.

Cash and checks are welcome. Please use your offering envelopes or the envelopes found in pew backs and place your gift in the offering plate when it is passed. Visit our website



www.wpcbc.org and

click on the "Give Now" button at the top of the page. This will direct you to our Online Giving Portal or simply scan the QR Code.

Contributions can also be sent through the mail to the attention of the Church Treasurer. We're grateful for your gifts, however you choose to give. **THANK YOU!**

GENERAL FUND	Month to Date	
	thru December 9	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	\$ 10,401	\$ 411,335
One-time Gifts	\$ -	\$ 31,000
Other Cash Received	\$ 46	\$ 32,180
Total Income	\$ 10,447	\$ 474,515
Expenses	\$ 15,815	\$ 412,757
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (5,368)	\$ 61,758

Budgeted expense total for the year is \$474,000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 14, 2025



Westminster **COMMUNITY PANTRY**

Doughnuts, Eudici's Pizza, Lucky's Pub and Grill, Parlour Donuts, O'Hares Bar and Grill, River Rock Cafe, and the Westown Theater. We thank them for partnering with us and hope you will thank them with your business. All donations will be credited to our account at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

Simply Give: Pick up a free Simply Give donation card at the church or in the checkout lane. The cashier will scan your card at checkout. Each scan adds a \$10 donation to your grocery bill. All donations will come directly to our pantry in the form of Meijer gift cards we can use to purchase food. And remember, the Simply Give program continues at the Wilder Road location through December 27, so any donations made during that time still come to our pantry. Please share the news with your family and friends. With the help of the community, this can be a huge gift for the pantry! Questions? Talk to Janet Smylie or Janet Beattie.

Holiday Ornament Sales: Local businesses are selling paper ornaments as a holiday fundraiser for our pantry. For \$1, you can hang an ornament at Cops &

November Statistics: It's interesting to compare this month with November 2024. Both years had 7 days of operation. It's amazing how much we continue to grow!

Household Visits: 204 in 2025, 154 in 2024

New Households: 69 in 2025, 60 in 2024

of People in Households: 540 in 2025, 441 in 2024

of People in New Households: 185 in 2025, 174 in 2025

Pounds of Food: 5181 in 2025, 2426 in 2024

PER CAPITA FOR 2025

is \$30.69. This is per active, confirmed member.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street, Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-1360 email: office@wpcbc.org

website: wpcbc.org

The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Closed noon to 1 p.m. for lunch each day.