

Westminster At Worship

Christmas Eve Lessons of Hope and Light

December 24, 2020

7:00 p.m.



PRELUDE

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Wendy Tally

"First Noel"

Bell Choir

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

MUSIC

"Silent Night"

Bell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

JOHN 1

LEADER: In the beginning, there was the Word;

PEOPLE: **The Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God.**

LEADER: The Word was present to God from the beginning.
Through the Word all things came into being...

PEOPLE: **In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light...**

LEADER: And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us;

PEOPLE: We saw the Word's glory —

LEADER: The favor and position of a Parent only Child —

PEOPLE: Filled with grace, filled with truth.

LEADER: Let us rejoice in the Word!

MUSIC

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Dawn, Ken, Brandi

PRAYER

O Word made Flesh, You have come into our midst as light and wisdom, desiring to be known to us in our lives and to be found in the world around us.

Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts to recognize you where you dwell — in our midst — challenging, heartening, lighting the way to truth, peace, justice.

We pray — we ask in the name of Jesus, the One born in Bethlehem. AMEN

LESSON OF HOPE *Old Testament Prophecy* **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”

Dawn, Nikelle, Judy

LESSON OF HOPE

The Peaceable Kingdom

Isaiah 11:1-5

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The 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.

His 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; but 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.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

MUSIC

“Star-Led and Wonder Bound”

Dawn, Nikelle, Judy

LESSON OF HOPE

The Ruler from Bethlehem

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;

MUSIC

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Dawn Auger

LESSON OF HOPE & LIGHT *Annunciation to Mary* **Luke 1:26-38**

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.”^[a] 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?”^[b] 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^[c] 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.

MUSIC

“O Holy Night”
Joy Hebner

LESSON OF LIGHT

The Birth of Jesus
Luke 2:1-20

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.

MUSIC

“Still, Still, Still”
Dawn, Ken, Brandi

MEDITATION

“The Christmas Story”
Rev. Linda Williams

MUSIC

“All is Well”
Brandi

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Opening Dialogue

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Sanctus

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Memorial Acclamation

Leader: ...great is the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

MUSIC

“Silent Night”
Dawn, Nikelle, Judy

POSTLUDE

“O Come All Ye Faithful”
Dawn Auger & 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

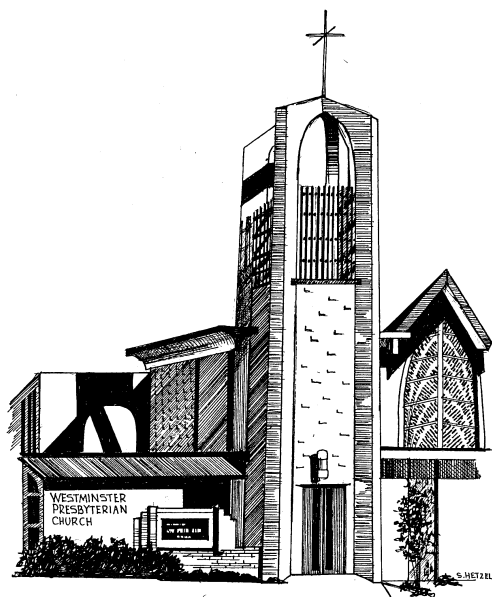
PER CAPITA & OFFERING ENVELOPES: If you have not paid your 2020 per capita (\$29.00), you can still get that in this month. Offering envelopes for 2021 will be available for pick-up at the church during regular office hours.

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.

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.



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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.