



Westminster Presbyterian Church
Albany, New York

CHRISTMAS EVE WITH WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
December 24, 2024

Pre-service Prelude

James Street Quartet & Stringwynde

Prelude

Gabriel's Oboe

arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Opening Words

Luke 2:10-11

read by Leah Threatte

One: There is good news of great joy for all!

All: Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord

***Processional Hymn #133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**=as you are able please stand*

Advent Candle Liturgy

Leah Threatte, Keith Smith and Caleb Bojnowski

One: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,
And set lights in the sky—sun and moon and stars.
By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.
By these stars, they knew God was with them.

In the beginning, too, was the Word.
And the Word, too, has come down from heaven to earth.
By the Word made flesh, Christ our Savior,
we know that God is with us.

Two: Tonight we light five candles to bring the fire of the stars
down from heaven to earth, to rest among us.
We name this candle Hope. *(The first candle is lit.)* We name this candle Peace. *(The second candle is lit.)* We
name this candle Joy. *(The third candle is lit.)* We name this candle Love. *(The fourth candle is lit.)* We name
this candle Christ. *(The center candle is lit.)*

Call to Confession

Leah Threatte

One: Our lives are a journey, and we do not always know the way.
Let us confess our sins before God and one another.



Prayer of Confession

**All: God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

(Time of Silence)

Choir Carol

An Advent Prayer

arr. Joseph M. Martin

Assurance of Forgiveness*Isaiah 9:2, 6*

Leah Threatte

Listen to ancient words come true anew this night:
 “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.
 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.”

Even when faith burns low
 and its promises seem too good to be true,
 we set our face steadily towards the light
 and chart our path by the star of Christ.

Let us pray.
 Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of Christ’s presence this week,
 help us to become the signs of Christ’s presence that others are searching for.
 As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens,
 help us to be a glimpse of heaven on earth.
 Help us to shine like stars in the world. Amen.

Passing the Peace

*Please take a moment to greet the people around you—family, friends and people you haven’t met before.
 Offer everyone the gift of peace, saying, “Peace be with you.”*

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choir Carol

Of A Rose, A Lovely Rose (Magnificat)

John Rutter

Prayer for Illumination

Ephraim Adjei

Gracious God,
 by the gift of your Holy Spirit
 show us the Word made flesh—
 good news of great joy for all—
 so that we may sing with the angels:
 glory in the highest and peace on earth;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

Mark 1:1-8

read by Ephraim Adjei

Choir Carol

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Robert Neumeier

An Angel Appears to Mary

Luke 1:26-35, 38

read by Rosa Kirk-Davidoff

*Hymn (insert)	The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy	
The Birth of Jesus	Matthew 1:18-25	read by Henry Sowah
Choir Carol	I Too Shall Walk to Bethlehem	John Rutter
Angels and Shepherds	Luke 2:8-20	read by Maxine Quaye
*Hymn #113	Angels We Have Heard on High	
And the Word Became Flesh	John 1:1-9, 14	read by Dominick Price
Choir Carol	Hope of The World Emmanuel	Joel Raney
Reflection		Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff
Hymn #121	O Little Town of Bethlehem	
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		
	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.	
Choir Carol	My Christmas Prayer solo: Christopher Price	Bebe Winans
Invitation to the Offering		Leah Threatte
Offertory Anthem	King Of Kings	Richard Kingsmore
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings		
Sharing the Light of Christ		Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff & Elder Leah Threatte

Candlelight Hymn #122

Silent Night, Holy Night

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

3. Silent night, Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

4. Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

read by Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

***Closing Hymn #134**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

Hark the Herald Angels
O Sing a Song of Bethlehem



Our Christmas Eve Musicians

Christmas Eve Choir

Rachel Balbi, Jack Barcomb, Maria Bedo-Calhoun, Jessica Chamberlain, Beth Coombe, Linda Farrell, Joseph Farrell, Colleen Holroyd, Forrest Holroyd, Nancy Holroyd, Jared Hunt, Elizabeth McMillan, Josh Overrocker, Margaret Randall, Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher, Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, Dodie Seagle, Eugene Sit, John Xia

Woodwind Ensemble

Melanie Chirigan (Flute), Cathryn Jones/Doraby (Oboe), Kevin Barcomb (Clarinet), Leah Scott-Price (Tenor Sax)

James Street String Quartet

Holly Larson * Michelle Stewart * Jody Van Voris * Heather Walker * Lyra Lenigk (substitute Violin)

Note: Ms. Lenigk is substituting for Holly Larson in tonight's performance

Percussion

Andrew Janack

Stringwynde

Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher * Melanie Chirignan

Piano & Organ

Emma Mrowka

Organ

Margaret Randall

We extend our special thanks to all who participated in tonight's worship service.

The stained-glass image on the bulletin cover can be found in the balcony on the north wall of our sanctuary behind the antiphonal organ.

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2024 CHURCH OFFICERS

Session

Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session

2024: Nancy Holroyd, Susan Schell

2025: Ephraim Adjei, Peter McKee, Linore Southworth

2026: John Bossung, Kate Gallagher, Felicia Kollie-Gambles, Nathan Powers

Deacons

Mary Bullis and Dodie Seagle, Co-moderators

2024: Ruthanne Brod, Cynthia Dwyer, Mabel McGraw

2025: Kelly Crisfield, Carolyn Smith

2026: Mary Bullis, Marie McClumpha, Dodie Seagle

Trustees

John Bossung, President

2024: David Adjei, Leif Hartmark, Laura Moody

2025: John Bossung

2026: Pete Seagle, Joy L. Tallmadge, Peter Wrede

CHURCH PROGRAM TEAM

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Kim Deal, Communications Manager

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John Fox, Grounds Maintenance

Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer

treasurer@wpcalbany.org

Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton



2024 Christmas Flower Offerings

We are grateful for those who made donations to remember loved ones with memorial poinsettias. These gifts will help us fund fresh floral arrangements in our sanctuary. May your loved ones be remembered by all of us as we enjoy the beauty of this season.

Margaret Elbow Conn, in memory of her husband **Dick Conn**. In memory of **Meg & Matt Elbow & Anne Gibson Elbow**.

Joseph & Linda Farrell in loving memory of **dear family members**.

Connie Frisbee Houde. In loving memory of **Frank Houde**.

Margaret M. Mayer, in loving memory of **Bill Mayer**.

Susan Schell, in memory of **Bonnie & Bob Stone**, and **Florence & Carl Schell, Sr.**

Valerie Willison Shanley, in loving memory of **John A. & Nancy Stranders Willison, William B. & Dovie E. Stranders, Alfred & Mary Harte Willison, Hobart J. & Catherine Gordon Shanley, J. Lawrie Lierheimer** and **John B. Kinum**.

Carolyn Smith, in memory of **Peter Heaton**.

Gina Torre, sister/sister-in-law of Sandra & Andrew Nagel. In loving memory of **Jane Wheeler Nagel** on this 1st Christmas without you. You are with us in spirit each and every day. We love and miss you.

Lois Wilson, in memory of **Hugh M. & Margaret N. Wilson, Clara Hankins** and **Julianne Mader**.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed!
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

2098 The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy



1. The vir - gin Ma - ry had a ba - by boy, the
2. The an - gels sang when the ba - by was born, the
3. The shep - herds came where the ba - by was born, the
4. The Wise Men came where the ba - by was born, the



vir - gin Ma - ry had a ba - by boy, the
 an - gels sang when the ba - by was born, the
 shep - herds came where the ba - by was born, the
 Wise Men came where the ba - by was born, the



vir - gin Ma - ry had a ba - by boy, }
 an - gels sang when the ba - by was born, } and they
 shep - herds came where the ba - by was born, }
 Wise Men came where the ba - by was born, }

Refrain



say that his name is Je - sus. He come from the glo - ry,



he come from the glo - rious king - dom. He come from the



glo - ry, he come from the glo - rious king - dom. Oh,



yes! be - liev - er! Oh, yes! be - liev - er! He come from the



glo - ry, he come from the glo - rious king - dom.

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

The image shows a musical score for the piece "Jesus Christ: Birth". It consists of two staves: a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase, followed by a rest, and then the lyrics "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are: - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

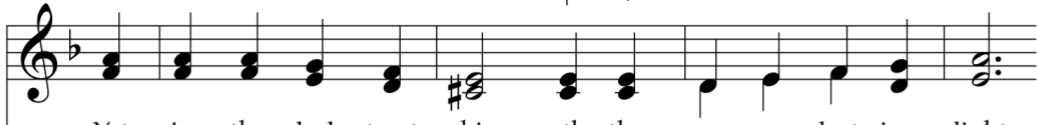
121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born."
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht
 nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

KOREAN

1 *고요한밤 거룩한밤
 어둠에 묻힌밤
 주의부모 앉아서
 감사기도 드릴때
 아기잘도 잔다
 아기잘도 잔다*

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!
 Todo duerme en derredor,
 entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
 bella, anunciando al niño 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.

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

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.