



Westminster Presbyterian Church
Albany, New York

CHRISTMAS EVE WITH WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2020

8:00 PM

Opening Voluntary

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Piet Post (1919-1979)

Opening Words (Luke 2:10-11)

Gail Garrison

There is good news of great joy for all!

Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord

Opening Hymn 133 (verses 1-4)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 98:4-9 (excerpts)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn,

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands;

let the hills sing together for joy

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

For the Lord is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with equity.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Joe and Emily Hart

Prayer

Jesus, you are our hope, our peace

You make our joy, our love increase.

Son of God, our Lord, our Light,

We celebrate your birth this night.

Hymn 121 (verses 1-4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

Call to Confession

Gail Garrison

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness,

Isa. 9:2

the mercy of the Lord shines on us.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

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)

Declaration of Forgiveness (Isaiah 62:11–12)

Hear the promise of the Lord:
See, your salvation has come!
You are a holy people, redeemed by God;
sought out and not forsaken.

Solo

Patiently Have I Waited for the Lord (from *Christmas Oratorio*, Op. 12)
Camille Saint-Saëns (1837-1921)

Susan Hermance Fedak, *mezzo-soprano*

*Patiently have I waited for the Lord,
And lo! He heard my cry.*

Prayer for Illumination

Gail Garrison

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 Birth of Jesus

Hymn 110 (stanzas 1 & 2)

Love Has Come

Luke 2: 1 -7, read by Daniel Sowah
BRING A TORCH

The Angels Appear to Shepherds

Hymn 147 (stanzas 1 & 2)

The First Nowell

Luke 2: 8 – 14, read by Felicia Kollie-Gambles
THE FIRST NOWELL

The Shepherds Go to the Manger

Hymn 136 (stanzas 1 & 2)

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Luke 2:15-20, read by Daniel Sebagala
GO TELL IT

Homily

“It Came Without Boxes”

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Interlude

Away in a Manger
Stringwynde: Melanie Chirignan, *flute*
and Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher, *harp*

Arr. Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

Prayers of the People

Gabriel Ofori-Okai

Leader: O Christ our light,

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Traditional

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Gail Garrison

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT

The Invitation

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff and Rev. Paul Randall

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is good to give you thanks, O God,
source of abundant life.
In Jesus is your eternal Word,
the reflection of your glory.
In him you have become one with us
that we might become one with you.

**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.**

Thank you for Jesus,
who proclaimed your dream of peace.
He gave himself for our weary world,
accepting death so that we might live
and setting us free for love.

When Jesus was at table with his disciples
he took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat.
Whenever you do this, remember me.

In the same way he took and poured the cup,
saying: Take and drink.

Whenever you do this, remember me.

Remembering his death and resurrection,
and longing for his coming in glory,
we offer you these gifts of bread and wine
and our lives in thanks and praise.

Let us pray.
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Pour out your Spirit upon us,
that we might be a people of grace and truth,
bearing good news of joy in every season.
Then bring us at the last with Mary and Joseph and all your saints
to that vision of eternal splendor for which you have created us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, O God,
in songs of everlasting praise. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Music During Communion	Two Carols for Bells: Good King Wenceslas and Silent Night Jessica Chamberlain, Al and Sue Fedak, <i>handbell ringers</i>	Arr. Al Fedak
-------------------------------	--	---------------

Prayer After Communion

Holy and astounding God,
at this table, in this meal,
we have been met by Christ—
the reflection of your glory,
the imprint of your being.

**As we go from this place
may our lives be a joyful song,
proclaiming the good news
of your righteousness and peace
for all the world. Amen.**

Sharing the Light of Christ

Candlelight Hymn 122	Silent Night, Holy Night	STILLE NACHT
-----------------------------	--------------------------	--------------

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.

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."

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.

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.

Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

Scripture

John 1 (selections)

Hymn 134 (stanzas 1-4)

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Sending Forth

Heather Kirk-Davidoff

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

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

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

So he,
The Lord of Light
The Prince of Peace,
The King of Love,
Came down
And crept in
Beside us.

(from "Cloth for the Cradle", by the Iona Community)

Closing Voluntary

In dulci jubilo

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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

We extend our thanks to those who have shared their gift of music with us tonight: flutist Melanie Chirignan, harpist Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher (members of Stringwynde), handbell ringer Jessica Chamberlain, and vocal soloist and handbell ringer Susan Fedak.

Watch Night Service at Westminster on December 31 on Zoom. 11 pm time for fellowship, worship 11:15 pm.

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.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Session

Leah Threatte, Clerk

Jessica Chamberlain
Kelly Crisfield
Arthur Fullerton

Fatmata Hilton
Tom McPheeters
Valerie Shanley

Sheila Wrede
Larry Volk

Deacons

Peter McKee & Linore Southworth, Co-Moderators

Christabel Abban
Ervin Ashburn
Kris Wilhelm

Ruthanne Brod
Kate Gallagher

Elizabeth McMillan
Ned Trudeau

Trustees

Dixon Southworth & Nancy Ost, Co-Chairs

Gilbert Asante
Leif Hartmark

Laura Moody
Marie McClumpha

Peter Wrede

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Pastor

pastor@wpcalbany.org

Cell: 240-281-5005

Jennifer Schoenfisch, Office Administrator

Belinda Quaye, Director of Christian Education

Alfred V. Fedak, FAGO, ChM, Minister of Music and Arts

Joy L. Tallmadge and John Fox, Associate Sextons

Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer

Carlie D'Annunzio, Comptroller

Kim Deal, Communications

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

262 State Street (Mail to: 85 Chestnut Street), Albany, New York 12210

Office: (518) 436-8544; Fax: (518) 436-8599

office@wpcalbany.org www.wpcalbany.org



2020 Christmas Flower Offerings

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

Susan & Floyd Barwig, in memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Barwig, Sr., and Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Goldring.**

Margaret Elbow Conn, in loving memory of **Meg & Matt Elbow, Anne G. Elbow, and Dick Conn.**

Elizabeth Coombe and Stuart Kopplin, in loving memory of **their very dear grandparents.**

Kay George, in memory of **Hollis W. George, Mr. & Mrs. William H. Stalker, Mr. & Mrs. A. A. George, Barbara Vrooman, and Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kleetsch.**

Al and Susan Hermance Fedak in memory of **Myron E. Hermance, Jr., Harvey Prins, The Rev. Greg Mast, Emma Rose Norman, Geneva Maletsky, Kathryn Hegner Bergin, Petia Kassarova, and every human being who died of COVID.**

Leif and Claudia Hartmark, in memory of **Rev. A.D. Hartmark.**

Alicia Klingaman and Sheila Wrede, in memory of **Jonathon Wrede, David B. Klingaman, and Roger & Olive Klingaman.**

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

Mabel Maguire McGraw, in memory of her parents, **Mabel & Anthony Carcia.**

Dr. Thomas and Anne Older, in memory of **Dr. and Mrs. Laurence Older, Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Curtis, Mr. George Gillet, Miriam Weatherwax, and Douglas Kelly.**

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

Larry and Gail Volk, in memory of **Jane & Neil Volk.**

Kris Wilhelm, in memory of **Janet & Bob Frye, and Mark Frye.**

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

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

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! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 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.

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.

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)
F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
C F Dm F C B^b F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

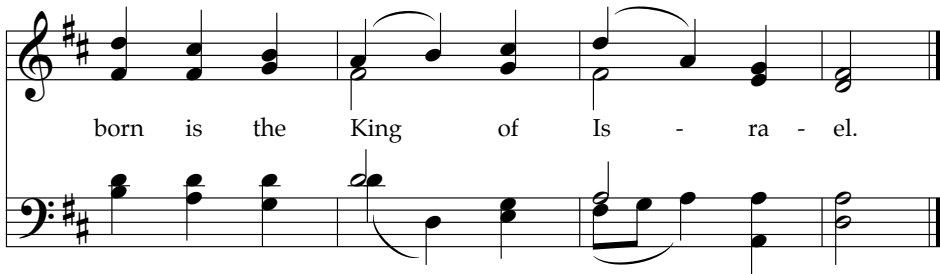
their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus* / *né*) as well to "news" (*nova* / *nouvelle*).

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and
frankincense.
Refrain
- sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Refrain

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^3$

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

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.