

# WESTMINSTER

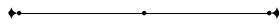
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*December 24, AD 2025*



*"THE GRASS WITHERS, THE FLOWER FADES, BUT THE WORD OF  
OUR GOD WILL STAND FOREVER."*

*- ISAIAH 40:8 -*



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## Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Friday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Please silence your cell phones before the service begins.

Guest WIFI Password: matthew633

† *Those who are able, please stand.*

# *Candlelight Christmas Eve Service*

## **Prelude**

Ms. Bertha Dykstra

*From Heaven Above to Earth Below*

(Hymn #304)

*Who is He in Yonder Stall*

(Hanby, arr. McKibben)

*Joy Has Dawned*

(Getty and Townend)

*Christmas Joy*

(Handel, arr. Livingston, Jr.)

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **† Call to Worship**

Isaiah 9:2, 6

**Leader:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

**All:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

### **† Hymn of Praise**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

#293

### **† Invocation**

### **† Confession of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\* "catholic" means "universal" church, the true church in all times and places

## **The Carol**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

#318

## **Evening Prayer**

Mr. Joe Steele

## **Offertory**

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
(Polish Folk Tune, arr. Sorenson)

## **Proclamation of the Word of God**

Mr. Joe Steele

Advent and John 3:16 – “God’s Design: Salvation”

John 3:16; 1 Luke 19:10

pg. 888, 878

## **The Words of Meditation**

John 1:9-13

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

## **The Sharing of the Light**

*The ushers will light the candles of those sitting on the aisle. Once lit, hold your candle upright and have the person sitting next to you tip the wick from their candle into the flame. The lit candles need to remain upright to prevent the hot wax from spilling.*

*At the conclusion of singing, place one hand behind the flame and blow gently to extinguish the candle. Please supervise any children for safety and to eliminate wax spills. Please keep candles upright until placed in the collection boxes at each exit following the benediction.*

## **† The Concluding Carols**

*What Child Is This*

#317

*Silent Night! Holy Night!*

#315

Both these hymns printed on following page

## **† Benediction**

## **† Postlude**

Ms. Bertha Dykstra

*For Unto Us a Child is Born*  
(Handel’s *Messiah*, arr. Bennett)

This evening's offering will be given to the **PCA Ministerial Relief Fund**, which aids widowed and retired church servants across the denomination in times of severe financial need. Flyers & envelopes are also available on the table in the narthex.

*If you ordered a poinsettia,  
please remember to take it home with you tonight!*



**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel****293**

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on  
 3. O come, thou rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's  
 4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy  
 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,  
 Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law  
 • tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,  
 draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain  
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 • and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Latin antiphons, 12th cent.  
 Latin hymn, 1710  
 Tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961

VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref.  
 Plainsong, 13th cent.  
 Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856

## 318

## 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 back their joy - ous strains.  
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - 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 - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## What Child Is This

What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby:  
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

## **Silent Night! Holy Night!**

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,

heav'nly 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

alleluias to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior is born!



**Welcome guests!** We are delighted that you have come to worship with us here at Westminster. We pray that God will bless you richly through the service and the welcome of our congregation and that you will worship with us again soon. For more information about the church, please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Lobby.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The church office will be closed December 24- January 1.** If you need to speak to someone that week, please contact your Shepherding Elder.

**No Sunday School or Evening Service on December 28.**

**Christmas Decoration Tear Down:** We will be taking down the church Christmas decorations in two stages and need help to complete it in a timely manner. Stage 1- December 27, 9 AM, Stage 2- January 3, 9 AM.

**Nursery Volunteers Needed:** Our church is growing, and so is our nursery! The nursery is looking for volunteers to serve with our covenant children during morning and evening worship and Sunday school hour. Volunteers serve during one service every other month. Volunteers must be WPC members and pass a background check and child safety training before serving. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, contact Cameron.

**Christmas Post Office:** Please take your cards home this evening.

**Women's Let's Talk Event - Stewarding Our Bodies:** January 12, 7:00 PM @ WPC. Flyers with more information are available on the table in the narthex.

**Radical Mentoring:** The men's mentoring team at WPC invites you to consider participating in a ministry at Westminster called Radical Mentoring. It is a special type of men's small group made up of men in the same season of life, mentored by more senior and "seasoned" men. Mentors will endeavor to share what we have learned about God, the Christian life, and "success," including areas where we have failed, with the hope that you can minimize or avoid the mistakes we have made along the way. Pick up more information on the narthex table in the lobby and contact Janssen Firth or Jim Roberts to express interest by Tuesday, January 13.

**Men's Retreat:** January 30-31, February 1. Vision Ministry Retreat. Register through Realm. Flyers with more information are available on the table in the narthex.

**The WPC session invites all members and friends of WPC to join together in paying off our debt by the end of the 2025 calendar year. We currently have a balance of \$69,000, and paying off the debt will enable us to increase our ministry in a variety of ways. The session and the Strategic Planning Committee have been working on these plans, and they intend to bring a report with recommendations/plans to the January 2026 Congregational Meeting.**

<b>Pastoral Staff</b>		
Joe Steele	Senior Pastor	joe.steele@wpc-hsv.org
Jim Roberts	Associate Pastor	jim.roberts@wpc-hsv.org
Duncan Cantrell	Pastor of Outreach & Young Adults	duncan.cantrell@wpc-hsv.org
Stephen St. John	Pastor of Adult Discipleship	stephen.stjohn@wpc-hsv.org
Roy McDaniel	Pastor/WCA Bible Teacher	roy.mcdaniel@wca-hsv.org

<b>Ministry Team</b>		
Ella Grace Baker	Choir Director	ellagrace.baker@wpc-hsv.org
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KeriAnn Knupp	Office Manager	keriann.knupp@wpc-hsv.org
Jennifer Murphree	Director of Women's Ministry	jennifer.murphree@wpc-hsv.org

### **WPC Officers**

#### **Deacons:**

Craig Bosma, Josh Brown, Logan Bryant, Josh Buhl, Paul Galloway, John Gunn, Matt Harness, John Kirkwood, David Knight, Sam Lowrance, Monday Mbila, Art McKinney, Wade Pettus, Andy Rutledge, Christopher Thompson, Nate VanKirk, Chris Wellborn

#### **Ruling Elders:**

Andy Ball, Nat Causey, Joe Crowhurst, John A. Davis, John W. Davis III, Fred Diaz, Curtis Edewaard, Bill Emrich, Aaron Finch, Eric Fulcher, Scooter Johnson, Paul Keel, Scott Lynn, \*Brian McFadden, Stacy Murphree, Scott Nicol, Chester Replogle, Ken Shipman, Allen Zumbach

(\*currently on sabbatical)