



Third Sunday of

Advent

TODAY

Children and Youth - Sunday School is on recess today. Children in Pre-K and under are welcome in the Nursery (first floor, across from Fellowship Hall) beginning at 9:45AM). Older children and youth should join their parents in the service. Worship bags are available at the entrances of the sanctuary.

Sponsor-A-Family - Please bring gifts and gift cards to Fellowship Hall by 11:30AM.

NNEMAP Breakdown - Our congregational breakdown of supplies will take place in Fellowship Hall today at 11AM.

Alternative Christmas - Available today and next Sunday, Dec. 21 in Fellowship Hall. Support meaningful mission partners as you shop. Kindway jewelry will be for sale after the 10 AM service as well.

Youth Christmas Party - Tonight, 5-8PM: caroling at Wesley Glen, dinner, games, and a White Elephant gift exchange (<\$20). Ugly sweaters encouraged!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cleaning Up After Christmas! We need 4 volunteers to help reset the sanctuary on Friday, December 26. To help, scan the code below, check Friday's email for the link, or contact Doug Fell execadmin@wpcnow.org. Thank you!

Christmas Joy Offering - Received next Sunday, Dec. 21.

Staff Appreciation Offering - Continues through Dec. 31. Please note "Staff Appreciation" on any gifts.

Poinsettia Dedications - The last day to make a dedication is **Tuesday, Dec. 16**. \$25 donations accepted for Christmas Eve bulletin listings. Forms are around the church or you can scan the code below.

Our **Youth Advent Envelope Fundraiser** supports this summer's mission trip to Ghost Ranch. You can stop down in Fellowship Hall to choose a numbered envelope (1-100) and donate the corresponding amount to help make this life-changing trip possible. Thank you for your support!

EVENTS

Nativity Walk (Dec. 14) - Leave WPC at 11:30AM to visit St. Joseph Cathedral nativity. RSVP for van ride by scanning the code at the bottom of the page or visiting wpcnow.org/links. S.O.S. and all others are welcome!

Stafford Village Christmas Dinner - All ages invited to help serve dinner this Thursday, Dec. 18, 5:30-7PM in Fellowship Hall. We would love to have greeters. Scan the code to sign up or visit wpcnow.org/links.

Christmas Eve Services (Dec. 24) - 3PM Family Service; 6PM & 9PM Candlelight Services.

Christmas Lights Outing (Dec. 29) - Van trip to Butch Bando's Fantasy of Lights, 6-8PM. \$5 donation suggested. RSVP via church email or by scanning the code below.

SAVE THE DATE! Adult Education: *The Anxious Generation* (Jan. 11-Feb. 8.) Explore Jonathan Haidt's work on play, independence, and the impact of "phone-based childhood."

Sanctuary Flowers - *The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God by Debb and Jimm Wilson in celebration of our precious grandson, Henry Dolph Lyon's 3rd birthday.*

Serving Us Today

- Ushers: Ken and Elizabeth Short, captains
- Video: Bill Yost
- Carillon: Linda Ranck

Scan the QR code or go to wpcnow.org/links for sign ups.



Worthington Presbyterian Church
Service for the Lord's Day
3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

10:00 AM

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

as taken from King's College, Cambridge

**Please stand*

GATHERING MUSIC "A Mosaic of Christmas Carols"

Kim Anderson, organist

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves

Invitation to Mission & Discipleship (*Please sign & pass the Friendship Pads*)

Moment for Mission: *Alternative Christmas*

Sheri Holcomb

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Fleming Family

The Third Candle: Joy (*Based on Isaiah 35:1-10*)

(When you hear: "People of God,"

Please respond: "Live in the joy of the Lord.")

Hymn #137, "He Came Down"

He came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have joy;

hallelujah forevermore.

*** PROCESSIONAL**

"Once in Royal David's City"

HYMN #140

Harper Markiewicz, cantor

Solo: Once in royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

All: He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall; With the poor and meek and lowly, Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Jesus is our child-hood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew, He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew, And He feeleth for our sadness, And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love; For that child so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heaven above, And He leads His children on, To the place where He is gone.

BIDDING PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Rice

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.

LESSON ONE

Genesis 3:8-19

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

*** CAROL #129**

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

LESSON TWO

Genesis 22:15-18

Claire Arthur

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

ANTHEM

“Savior of the Nations Come” The Celebration Ringers - Jennifer Fry, Director

arr. Cathy Moglebust

LESSON THREE

Isaiah 9:2-7

Nina Foncham

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. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. Great will be his authority, 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.

ANTHEM

“Still, Still, Still” The Chancel Choir

Arr: Norman Luboff

*Still, still, still
One can hear the falling snow
For all is hushed
The world is sleeping
Holy Star its vigil keeping
Still, still, still
One can hear the falling snow

Sleep, sleep, sleep
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth
The night is peaceful all around you*

*Close your eyes
Let sleep surround you
Sleep, sleep, sleep
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth

Dream, dream, dream
Of the joyous day to come
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber
Dream, dream, dream
Of the joyous day to come*

LESSON FOUR

Isaiah 11:1-9

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice

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 for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed 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.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The

nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

*** CAROL #145**

"What Child Is This?"

LESSON FIVE

Luke 1:26–38

Noel Abrokwa

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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 will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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.

SOLO

"In The Bleak Midwinter"

Arr: Patrick Liebergen

Anita Berry, soloist

LESSON SIX

Luke 2:1–7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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 in the guest room.

ANTHEM

"Little Baby"

Joe Markley

The Chancel Choir

*Little Baby, a little baby born in Bethlehem.
A born to save us, born in Bethlehem.*

*A start lit up the heaven bright for the little
baby born in Bethlehem.*

*To lead us to Him through the lonely night,
to the little baby born in Bethlehem*

*Shepherds heard the angels sing for the
little baby born in Bethlehem.*

*Glory, glory to our heavenly King, to the
little baby born in Bethlehem*

*Little Baby, a little baby born in Bethlehem.
A born to save us, born in Bethlehem.*

LESSON SEVEN

Luke 2:8-17

Joyce Blackmore

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child....

***CAROL #119**

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

LESSON EIGHT

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Matt

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Advent."

Everett Titcomb

Give online! Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/engagewpc



LESSON NINE

John 1:1-14

Pastor Betsy

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

* CAROL #133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

verses 1, 3, 4

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"While by My Sheep"

Gordon Young

*Please seated during the postlude as it is the final "Amen" to our worship.
If you need to leave early, please do so quietly.*

Visiting for the first time today? You're invited to
stay after the service. Join us downstairs in
Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.