

# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2025



**WORTHINGTON**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*In Christ's love, we connect, serve, and transform*

# Merry Christmas

Welcome to Christmas Eve worship at  
Worthington Presbyterian Church.  
We're so glad you're here.

Tonight, we gather to celebrate the birth of  
Christ, across generations, backgrounds,  
and spiritual journeys. We pray that this  
service is joyful and meaningful for you,  
honoring God and nourishing your spirit.

May you experience the peace and  
wonder of Christ this Christmas.

## Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice  
Pastor for Discipleship

Rev. Betsy Rice  
Pastor for Member Ministries

Russell Nagy  
Director of Music Ministries

Nicholas Robison  
Director for Youth Ministries

Annie Barner  
Int. Director for Children's  
Ministries

Kim Anderson  
Organist



## Thank You

Ushers: Team D, Doug Fell & Bob  
Harrington, captains (6pm)

Ushers: Team E, Ken & Elizabeth  
Short, captains (9pm)

Debb Wilson, carillon

Bill Yost, video

## On the Cover

"Festival of Lights © 2016  
John August Swanson | Eyekons"

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Please silence your cell phone.

**SUNDAY SERVICES // 8AM and 10AM**



**Worthington Presbyterian Church**  
**SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

**December 24, 2025**

**6:00 PM and 9:00 PM**

*Welcome on this holy evening!*

*\*Please stand*

**GATHERING MUSIC**

“He Is Born, The Holy Child” David Paxton

“The Shepherd’s Song” Gilbert M Martin

“I Saw Three Ships” Dale Wood

“Bethlehem Picture” Percy Wicker MacDonald

“Christmas Joy” George Blake

Kim Anderson, organist

*The music is a call to open one’s spirit to God’s presence in our midst.*

**PRELUDE (6PM)** Prelude on “Adeste Fideles” arr. Mitchell Eithun

“Come See the Child” arr. Karen Buckwalter

The Celebration Ringers – Jennifer Fry, Director

**WELCOME AND OPENING SENTENCES** Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**All: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.**

One: The light shines in the darkness,

**All: and the darkness did not overcome it.**

One: Glory to God in the highest

**All: and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**\*CAROL #147**

“The First Nowell”

vv. 1, 2 & 6

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Rice

(When you hear: "O Christ, our light,"  
please respond, "**hear our 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.**

## ANTHEM

"Star Carol"

John Rutter

Sing this night (for a boy is born in Bethlehem)  
Christ our Lord (in a lowly manger lies)  
Bring your gifts (come and worship at his cradle)  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

*See his star shining bright  
In the sky this Christmas night  
Follow me joyfully  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary*

Angels bright (come from heaven's highest glory)  
Bear the news (with its message of good cheer)  
Sing, rejoice (for a King is come to save us)  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping  
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep  
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him  
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary

Let us pay our homage at the manger  
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night  
Christ is come, bringing promises of salvation  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary

## THE CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING

*(based on Isa. 9:2-7)*

The Gilbert Family (6PM)

The Ament Family (9PM)

(When you hear: "People of God," please respond,  
**"Live in the light of the Lord."**)

CAROL RESPONSE (#121, v. 1 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*)

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!***

***Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.***

***Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;***

***the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

## SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 96

Bob Freed (6PM)

Deanna Olson (9PM)

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord; bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.

Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

He will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar and all that fills it;  
let the field exult and everything in it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
before the Lord, for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with his truth.

## **ANTHEM**

### **“Away in a Manger”**

arr. Gilbert Martin

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

*Gloria in excelsis deo!*

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
The little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near us, Lord Jesus, we ask Thee to stay  
Close by us forever, and love us, we pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

*Gloria in excelsis deo!*

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 2:1-7

Nicholas Robison (6PM)  
Peter Schlader (9PM)

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.

CAROL RESPONSE #128      *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

***Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!***

***Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of the gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you!  
Christ the babe was born for you!***

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice

*The Friendship Pad is in the pew at the center aisle.  
Please sign and pass it to your neighbor.*

OFFERTORY

*"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"*

Mark Lochstampfor

\* DOXOLOGY #143, v.4      *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

***All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!***

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-20

Pastor Tom

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

"Heaven in Strange Places"

Pastor Matt

\* **CAROL#113** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

\* **SCRIPTURE VERSES FROM JOHN 1**

Pastor Betsy

\* **THE CEREMONY OF SPREADING GOD'S LIGHT**

*Please hold your candle (extended above the cup rim) at an angle to receive the light, then **hold it upright as you give light** to the next person.*



**\* CAROL #122** "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! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With 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.

**\* BLESSING**

Pastor Matt

*Please extinguish your candle before leaving your seat,  
and return all candles and cups to the ushers as you leave.*

**\* CAROL #134** "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

**\* POSTLUDE**

"For unto Us"

G. F. Handel



*The poinsettias displayed in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by the following:*

<b>DONATED BY:</b>	<b>IN HONOR OF:</b>
Jim & Peggy Albright	<i>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Jack Albright</i>
Jeff & Linda Barber	<i>Our family; Laura, Derek, Guinevere, Thaddeus Purvis, and Samantha, Danny, Jack, Cameron Stanley, and Debbie &amp; Danielle Bender</i>
Steve Burk	<i>Leo Mascia and Vincent Burk</i>
Debbie & Steve Dieringer	<i>Jean Korfhage</i>
Tom & Kathy Hull	<i>Our children and grandchildren: Heather, Jeff, Owen &amp; Lily Appel and Jason, Crystal, Makenna, Riley &amp; Emma Hull</i>
Joyce & Dennis Karl	<i>The Karl family</i>
The Mehl Family	<i>Our parents and grandparents</i>
Gayle Miller	<i>Jill, Sean, Olivia &amp; Will Gulick; Patrick, Emma &amp; Mia Miller</i>
The Moog's	<i>Marylou &amp; Dick Posey</i>
The Mulgrew's	<i>Eleanor Weiss</i>
Ray & Sandy Mundy	<i>Our children, Christina, Brian, &amp; Bethany and their families</i>
Debbie & Mike Murphy	<i>Our children and granddaughter</i>
Deanna Olson	<i>My husband, Joseph York</i>
Dan & Carolyn Owens	<i>Clement Henry Satterthwaite, our great-grandson</i>
Brett, Julie, Elle & Griffin Payne	<i>Alan Payne</i>
Neal & Ruth Porteus	<i>Carly &amp; Luke Porteus; Lauren, Sean, Lilly &amp; Weston Albertson</i>
Jane & Gary Riddle	<i>Our loving parents</i>
Larry & Leslie Snyder	<i>Our children &amp; grandchildren, the Wilcox and Lynch families</i>
Ron & Joyce St. Pierre	<i>Our grandchildren: John &amp; Hannah; Evan &amp; Jamey; Katherine; Emmy; &amp; William</i>
Chris & Sue Wilson	<i>Our children</i>
<b>DONATED BY:</b>	<b>IN LOVING MEMORY OF:</b>
Mary Ann Abey	<i>William (Bill) R. Abey</i>
Lisa Abrams	<i>Betty Abrams and Sue Neiger</i>
Ursula & Jim Allen	<i>Susan Allen Huff</i>
Hugh & Nancy Atkinson	<i>Thomas Currie and Elizabeth Atkinson</i>
Terry Bartley	<i>Brenda Joyce Bartley</i>
Marilou Beachler	<i>My husband, Keith Beachler</i>
Elizabeth, Sean, Katie & Thomas Becker	<i>Judy &amp; Bob Becker</i>
Rose Berendt	<i>John &amp; Garnet Ashburn and Joe &amp; Mary Jo Berendt</i>
Joyce Blackmore & Family	<i>Josiah Blackmore</i>
Jayne & John Byrnes	<i>Kathryn Grace Byrnes</i>
Amy DeBord	<i>In loving memory of Marvin &amp; Charlotte Briggs from their children &amp; grandchildren</i>
Debbie & Steve Dieringer	<i>George Korfhage and Shirley &amp; Ted Dieringer</i>

Audrey Eskes	<i>Philip W. H. Eskes, MD</i>
Kathy Wolken & Barbara Fillmer	<i>Our parents: John &amp; Jane Woods</i>
Susan Finn	<i>My loving husband Jim Finn</i>
Nina Foncham	<i>Zeh Bih Nju</i>
Peggy Foster	<i>Raymond Sanborn</i>
Joan, Debbie, Abby & Bob Freeman	<i>Dick "Papa" Freeman</i>
Dan & Karen Gibson	<i>Our parents Jim &amp; Anne Gibson; George &amp; Mildred Angel</i>
Doug & Amy Gilmore	<i>Jack &amp; Clara McDaniel Brooks and Helen Gilmore</i>
Doris Gorgas	<i>Catherine Lahne and Tom Gorgas</i>
Kathleen Haunty	<i>My husband, Jack Haunty</i>
Judy Hazelton & Family	<i>The Reverend Dr. Philip M. Hazelton</i>
Kent Hofacre	<i>Joni Hofacre</i>
Sheri & David Holcomb	<i>Betty &amp; Lundy Williamson and Joe &amp; Lauralee Holcomb</i>
Tom & Kathy Hull	<i>Miles, Izetta &amp; Larry Hall and Park &amp; Grace Hull - our parents &amp; brother</i>
Nancy Jack	<i>My husband Tom, and son-in-law Tom Irelan</i>
Jerry Kneubel & Family	<i>Sue Kneubel</i>
Jill Kovacs	<i>Eugene &amp; Joan Yazel and Sue Yazel</i>
Amy Macko	<i>Laura Syron</i>
John & Amy Macko	<i>Laura Syron</i>
Laura McDonald	<i>Maury &amp; Fran McDonald</i>
Christine McDonald	<i>Maurice Vail McDonald &amp; Frances Leota McDonald</i>
Gayle Miller	<i>Our parents, James &amp; Dawn Miller, William &amp; Virginia Lavelle</i>
Alice, Todd & Karen Miskell	<i>David Miskell</i>
The Mulgrew's	<i>Donald &amp; Susan Mulgrew; Arthur &amp; Haley Weiss</i>
Ray & Sandy Mundy	<i>Our family angels celebrating in Heaven</i>
Debbie & Mike Murphy	<i>Loved ones</i>
Deanna Olson	<i>My mother, Mary Florence and my brother, William Olson</i>
Dan & Carolyn Owens	<i>Anna F. &amp; William E. Owens; Clara D. &amp; William F. Owens; Estelle H. &amp; Walter T. Brahm; and Jean M. &amp; Wilson G. "Tex" Houston</i>
Kathryn Paugh	<i>Rose Freda</i>
Brett, Julie, Elle & Griffin Payne	<i>Toni Payne</i>
Neal & Ruth Porteus	<i>Blair &amp; Janette Porteus; Warren &amp; Janet Hyde</i>
Mark & Linda Ranck	<i>Mark's mom, Nancy and Linda's dad, Harold</i>
Tom Rieder	<i>Judy Kuite Rieder</i>
Gregg Russell	<i>JoAnne C. Russell</i>
Tom & Sarah Shaffer	<i>David &amp; Anne Johnson, Janet Prindle, Tony Shaffer and Don Shaffer</i>
Larry & Leslie Snyder	<i>Our parents; Bud &amp; Margaret Snyder and Lester &amp; Donna Ridenour</i>
Linda & Jeff Soiu	<i>Inez &amp; Morris Gaskin, Ann Gaskin</i>
Pat Stephens	<i>Gwenyth Jack</i>
Rudolf & Julie Nkwetacha-Tanyi	<i>In memory of those we carry in our hearts</i>
Tracy Tate	<i>Richard Huth, father of Tracy Tate and grandfather of Avery &amp; Addison Tate</i>

# Opportunities FOR THE NEW YEAR

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children- Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend classes each Sunday during 10am worship after a brief children's message. Nursery care with Miss Tiffany starts at 9:45AM for our youngest children.

## TUESDAY NIGHTS TOGETHER

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, children, youth and adults meet from 6 - 7:45PM for dinner, fellowship, small groups and music. The nursery is open, and all are welcome to attend!

## CLUB 45

One Sunday each month, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their friends are invited to stick around after the worship service for lunch, games, and fun!

## YOUTH GROUP

Mark your calendars! Youth Group will return from Christmas Break on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>. We meet every other Sunday from 5 - 7PM.

## YOUTH SKI TRIP

Bundle up and hit the slopes with us at Mad River Mountain on Jan. 31! We provide transportation, chaperones, and meals. Families are responsible for lift tickets and equipment rentals. Learn more at [wpcnow.org/youth](http://wpcnow.org/youth).

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendar for June 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>. We will enjoy a week of games, music, Bible stories, crafts, science and more. For preschool - 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We welcome youth and adult volunteers!

## YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP

From June 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, our high school youth are going to Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, a famous camp / conference center that was home to visionary painter Georgia O'Keefe. Come have fun, make new friends, and grow in your faith in beautiful New Mexico!

## CORNERSTONE YOUTH BAND

We invite youth interested in music to join the Cornerstone Youth Band. Practices follow worship on Sunday mornings, 11:15AM - 12:30PM. The band leads worship on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month and at special services, including the annual youth Presbytery Retreat. All skill levels are welcome! For information, contact Shine Robison at [srobison@wpcnow.org](mailto:srobison@wpcnow.org)

## ADULT EDUCATION

*The Anxious Generation* (Jan. 11 - Feb. 8)  
Explore Jonathan Haidt's work on play, independence, and the impact of "phone-based childhood." Childcare provided at 8:45AM in the nursery.

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## CONNECT WITH US

### Children's Ministry

Annie Barner  
[abarner@wpcnow.org](mailto:abarner@wpcnow.org)

### Youth Ministry

Nick Robison  
[nrobison@wpcnow.org](mailto:nrobison@wpcnow.org)

### Adult Education

Tom Rice  
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