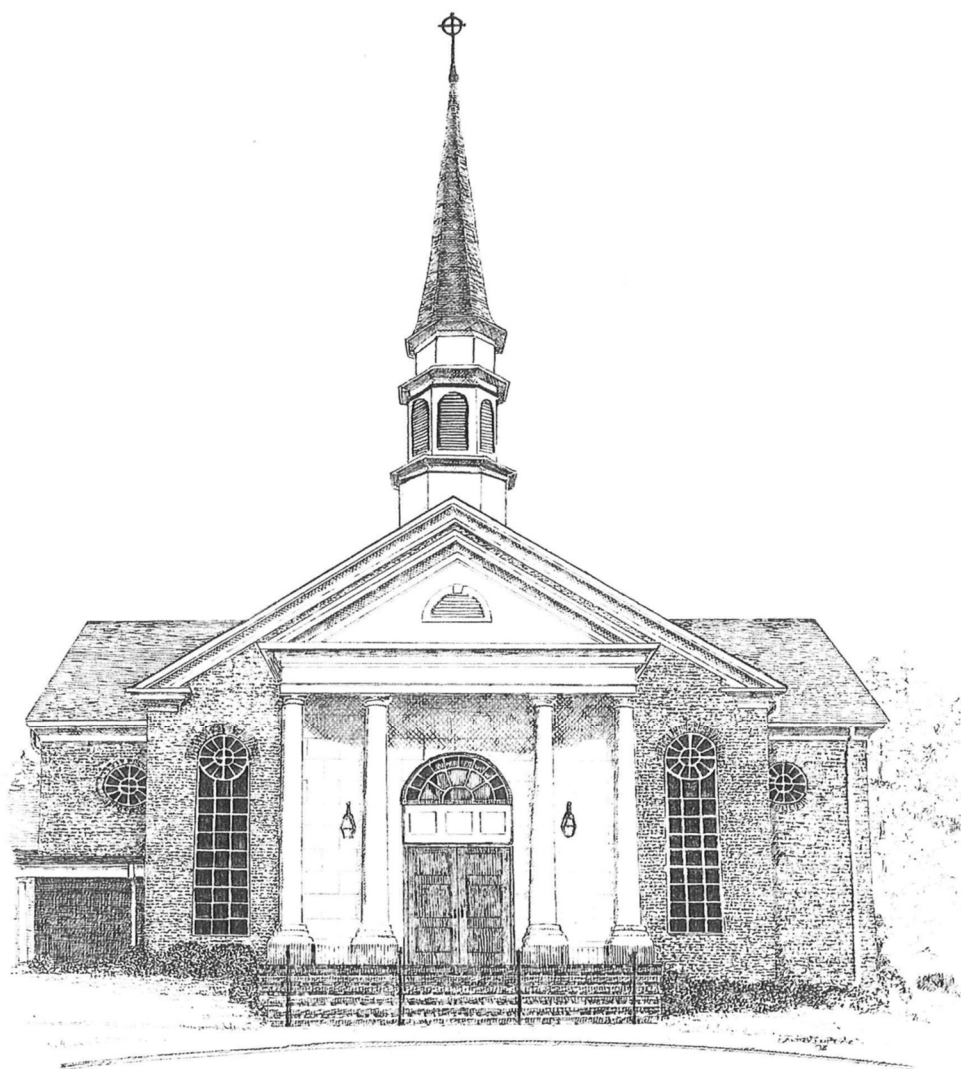


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



An Inclusive Community of Faith
United by Our Belief in and Commitment to Jesus Christ

Westminster Presbyterian Church
A Service for the Worship of God
First Sunday of Christmas
December 27, 2020

We Gather in God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Deb Jones

Call to Worship

John 1:5, 9, 14

Christ is born!

Alleluia!

The true light has come into the world.

The light shines in the darkness.

Alleluia!

The Word has become flesh.

And we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

***Hymn #28**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, merciful God, we pray. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

By the gift of Christ the Lord, who is our Savior: We are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“True. Light. Shines.”

Dr. Brad Christie

We Respond to God's Word

***Hymn #23**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.*

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn [Refrain]*

Call to Offering

***Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

***Hymn #22**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

*Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story Now proclaim Messiah's birth.*

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

*Shepherds, in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; Yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]*

*Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; Ye have seen His natal star. [Refrain]*

*All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One. [Refrain]*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Organist: Larry Dozier

Vocals: Elizabeth Watkins