

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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



**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2020  
5:30 p.m.

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

Caroline Dennis

**Call to Worship:**

The Watkins Family

**Family:** We light the one candle in the center of all our expectations  
for hope, peace, joy, and love.  
We light the Christ Candle.

**People:** **For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
Authority rests on his shoulders,  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**

**Hymn # 53**

**What Child is This?**

GREENSLEEVES

*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?*

*Refrain:*

*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 Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. [Refrain]*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. [Refrain]*

**Prayer of Illumination First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

**Beth Hammond**

- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
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.

#### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

David Hammond

**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.**

#### Gospel Reading Part 1: Luke 2:1-7

Paula Bourne

<sup>2</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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 for them in the inn.

#### Hymn # 25 Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

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

**Gospel Reading Part 2: Luke 2:8-14**

**Jacob Dennis**

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

**Hymn #23 Angels We Have Heard on High**

*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 King. [Refrain]*

**Message**

Rev. Caroline Vinson Dennis

“Expecting Jesus”

**Gospel Reading Part 3: Luke 2:15-20**

**Lynn Bornemann**

<sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**\*Hymn #29 Go Tell It On the Mountain**

*Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.*

*(During this hymn, please move into a circle around the exterior of the sanctuary.)*

**A Final Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10**

**Dashe Cash**

- <sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."  
<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.  
<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

**Hymn #60 Silent 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, 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!*

**Blessing**

**Postlude**

Organist: Claire Kuhl

Vocalist: Spears Alexander, David Bell

Please extinguish your candles as the lights are raised during the postlude and return them to the basket in the narthex.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

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### **Christmas Joy Special Offerings**

Tonight we receive the annual Christmas Joy Offering. It is a testimony to the truth that God is with us. Your generous gifts provide support for church leaders among us, retired, present and future. Envelopes are available in the narthex.

### **Vacation**

Pastor Dennis will be on vacation this week with her family and will return on January 3, 2020. If there is a pastoral emergency, please do not hesitate to call or text her at 307-777-1487. The Church office will be open, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until noon..