

  
**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**Service for the Lord's Day**

**First Sunday after Christmas**

**December 27, 2020**

**GATHERING**

*(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)*

<b>PRELUDE</b>	Carol-Prelude "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" Robert Elmore
	Coventry Carol W.S. Lloyd Webber
	Gigue on "Go Tell it on the Mountain" A.D. Miller
	Cantilena on Mendelssohn James Biery

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us worship God!

Our Beloved God has come to us,  
**we rejoice in the wonders of his name**  
He is a God of nurturing tenderness  
**May we feel his comforting love today and every day.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**O Lord Jesus,**  
**you are the Word of God in human form**  
**who came to us at the end of a long dialogue**  
**conducted by the Creator with his creatures.**  
**You are God's promised Word to us, a Word that**  
**Became flesh and lived among us.**  
**The Word is the announcement**  
**of the Good News of salvation**  
**preached to the lowly and the sinful,**  
**the Good News that is you yourself.**  
**Help us to receive this word at the hands of your Church,**  
**and let it awaken our faith and enliven our spirit.**  
**Most of all, let it give sight to our eyes,**  
**enabling us to see all of life with the eyes of God.**

*(Prayer adapted from *New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book*)*

## HYMN 140

## Once in David's Royal City

IRBY

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and  
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and  
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our  
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 on to the place where he is gone.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this:  
While we were yet sinners Christ died for us.  
Because we have faith in him,  
we get to approach God with confidence.

In faith and penitence,  
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*(Silent confession)*

**Kyrie** *(Singing together Hymn 115, verse 3)*

MUELLER

**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.**

## ASSURANCE AND PARDON

*(The liturgist pours water, which reminds us of our baptism,  
and then speaks words of pardon.)*

Friends, believe the Good News:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
Alleluia! Amen!**

## The Peace

Since God in Christ has forgiven us,  
let us also forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*(Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you.")*

**ACT OF PRAISE** *(Singing together Hymn 113, verse 1 and the refrain)*

**GLORIA**

**Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

### THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

**Isaiah 61:10-62; 3**

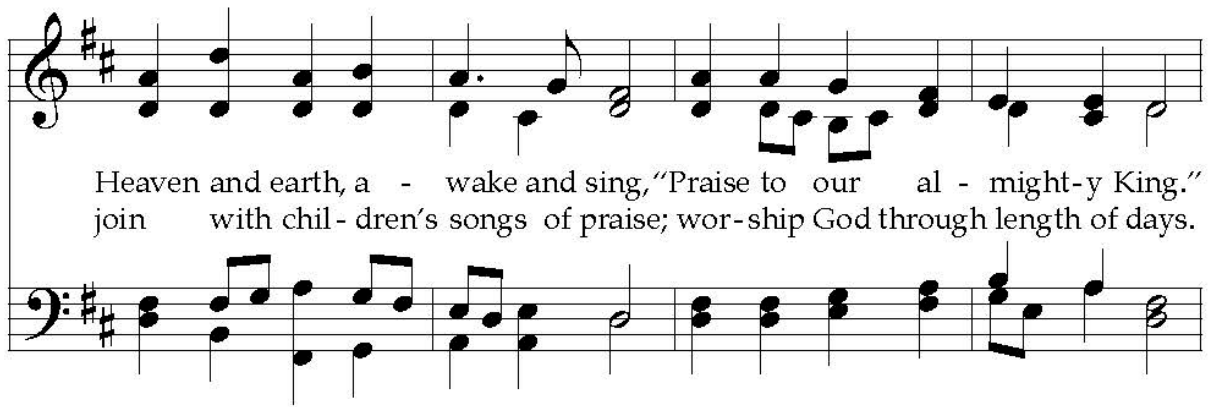
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm 148 (Hymn 679)**

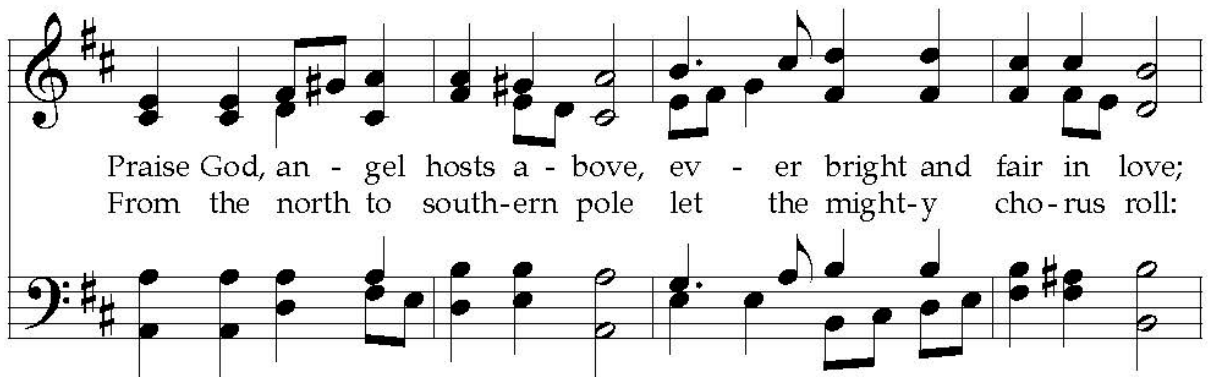
**SALZBURG**

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high."  
2 Men and wom-en, young and old, raise the an-them loud and bold;

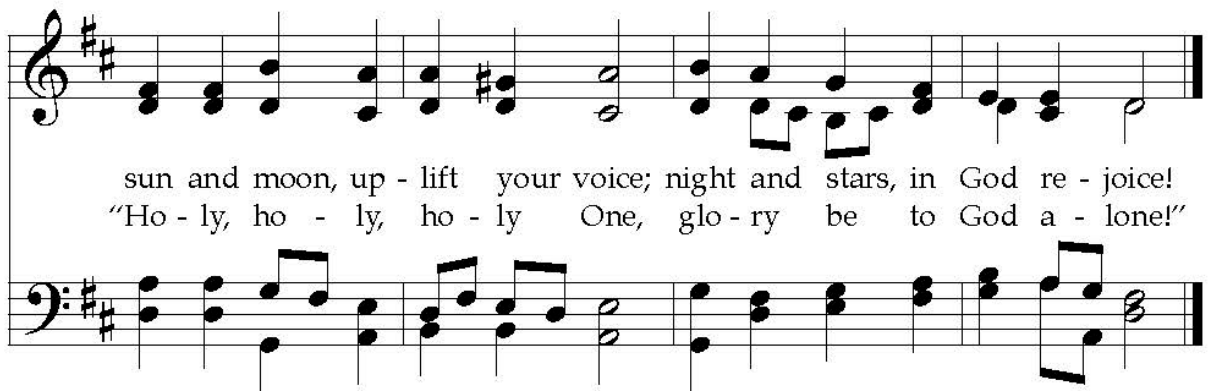
The image shows musical notation for Psalm 148 (Hymn 679) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are provided below the notes.



Heaven and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might-y King."  
 join with chil - dren's songs of praise; wor-ship God through length of days.



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;  
 From the north to south-ern pole let the might-y cho-rus roll:



sun and moon, up - lift your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice!  
 "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

**Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by

the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

## SERMON

Margie Quinn

*(A moment for meditation)*

## \*HYMN 545

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

LAND OF REST

[see page 7 for Hymn]

# Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace 545

## Song of Simeon

1 Lord, bid your ser - vant go in peace; your  
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world, the

word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing

va - tion's dawn, this child so long fore - told.  
in our midst, the joy of Is - ra - el.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation;  
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,  
things visible and invisible.**

**All things have been created through him and for him.  
He himself is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.**

He is head of the body, the church;  
 he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead,  
 so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
 and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,  
 whether on earth or in heaven,  
 by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

*(Colossians 1:15-20)*

**HYMN 113**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o-pen-ed heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING**

Anthem

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

John Rutter

Going through the hills on a night all starry On the way to Bethlehem,  
 Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping On the way to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
 'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King  
 is come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'Tell me shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily On the way to Bethlehem,  
 Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely, On the way to Bethlehem?'  
*Angels in the sky...*

'None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely, On the way to Bethlehem,  
 But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies When I get to Bethlehem.'  
*Angels in the sky...*

'Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, Is he there at Bethlehem?  
 I will find him soon by the star shining brightly In the sky o'er Bethlehem.'  
*Angels in the sky...*

May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily, Come with you to Bethlehem?  
 Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle, Is it far to Bethlehem?'  
*Angels in the sky...*

## DOXOLOGY

## LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**God of all blessings,  
source of all life, giver of all grace:**

**We thank you for this day:  
for life and for one more day to love,  
one more day to work for justice and peace,  
one more day to try to forgive ourselves and others  
one more day to show up for our people  
one more day to walk humbly on the earth  
one more day to receive your never-ending grace  
and one more day to experience your presence,  
to be with us, our God, Emmanuel.**

**For these, and all blessings,  
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,  
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

(Prayer adapted from *Vienna Cobb Anderson*)

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

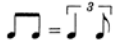
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

# SENDING

HYMN 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

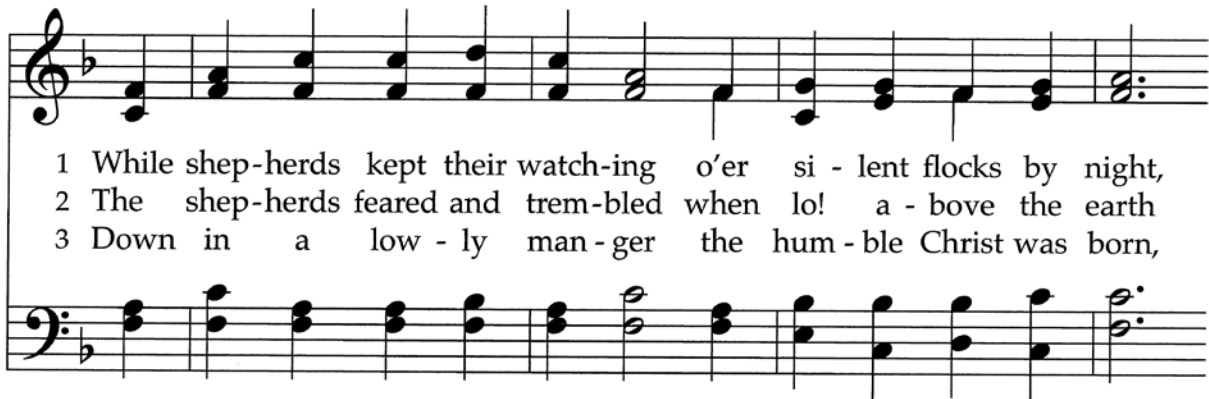
Refrain 



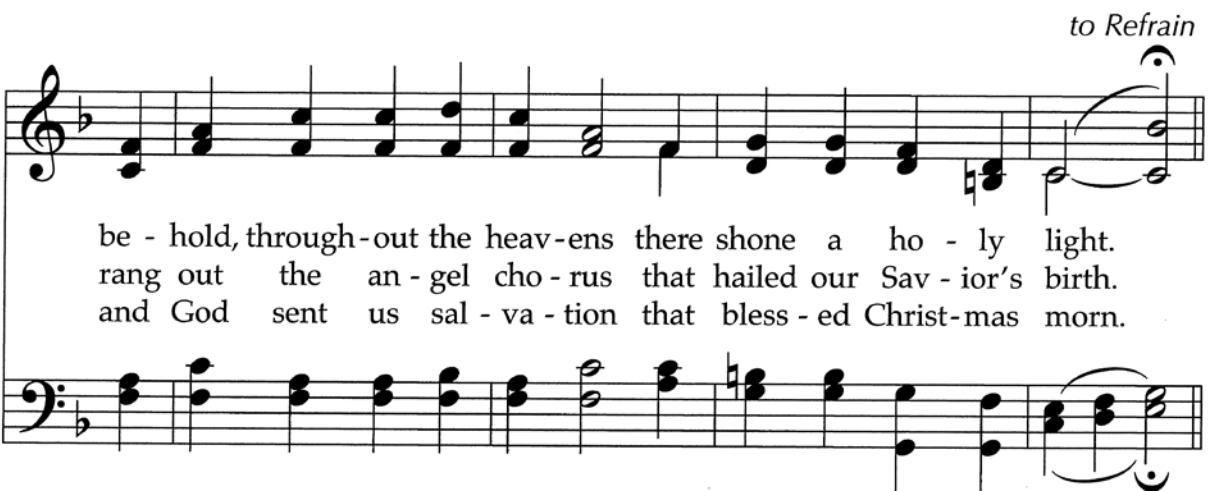
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**      Toccata on “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”      John Rutter

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*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of family and friends  
by Janet R. Hirt.*

## **SERVICE NOTES**

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Liturgist: Guy D. Griffith, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture.

**MUSICIANS:** Hallie Petrie, Soloist; John Semington, Director of Music Ministries; Polly Brecht, Organist.

### COVID-19 Update:

- The Church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and closed on Friday. Meetings with Staff are by appointment only. Please call 615.292.5526 to schedule as we are limiting the number of people in the office.
- Please contact the church office for up-to-date information on reserving outside and indoor space.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:** For Sunday, December 27, 2020 the 8:30 a.m. worship service will be LIVE streamed. There will not be a worship service at 11:00 a.m. If you miss the service at 8:30 a.m., you can watch it later in the day or week. Go to [nashvillewpc.org](http://nashvillewpc.org) and in the Quick Links box, click on WPC Live Stream Services. The newest service may not yet be dated. Midweek services will continue to be LIVE streamed on Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m. There will not be a midweek service on December 30, 2020.

**WELCOME:** Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes you to share our common journey to become more faithful disciples of Christ. If you are interested in learning about membership, please contact Melissa Threatt (864.506.0267; [melissa.threatt@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.threatt@gmail.com)) or Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (615.292.5526; [hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org](mailto:hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org)).

**WPC MONTHLY FINANCIAL OPERATING SUMMARY:** Each month the Finance Committee provides a summary of the church operating income and expenses. If any members wish to have more information about church finances, please contact: Jo Ann McFarlin, [jmcfarlin@nashvillewpc.org](mailto:jmcfarlin@nashvillewpc.org) or 615-292-5526; Mike Koban, Finance Committee Chair at [mkoban@prodigy.net](mailto:mkoban@prodigy.net); or Suzanne McLemore, Treasurer at [suzannegm58@gmail.com](mailto:suzannegm58@gmail.com).

November 30, 2020

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income:	\$247,036	\$3,024,947
Expense:	\$201,332	\$2,658,767
Net Income (loss):	<u>\$ 45,704</u>	<u>\$ 366,180</u>

**CHRIST HIMSELF IS BEFORE ALL THINGS,  
AND IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER.**

*Colossians 1:17*

We go out into the world sharing the good news and return praising God for what we have seen and heard.

Though in-person worship is limited, the work of Westminster has continued - Fellowship and Bible study gatherings on Zoom, streaming Sunday and mid-week worship services, online book studies, film reviews, choir recordings, knitting circles, and more. By contributing to Westminster, we are using what God has given us to share the good news of Jesus by serving others - through our many ministry partners - Home Connection, Room in the Inn, and Habitat, to name just a few. Westminster has an amazing ministry. We hope you will be a part of it by making your pledge.

**To make a general donation or your pledge payment, please click here <https://bit.ly/3dcoSzD> or scan the QR code below to take you directly to the Donations/Payments webpage.**



**To make your 2021 Generosity Pledge, click here <https://bit.ly/2GUERXm> or scan the QR code below to take you directly to the 2021 Pledge webpage. We hope you will continue your support.**



***PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN IN YOUR 2021 PLEDGE CARDS!***

**YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS:** All year-end contributions postmarked or received by December 31, 2020, will be included on your 2020 giving statement. Contributions postmarked or received on or after January 1, 2021, will be included on your 2021 giving statement.

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*Westminster Presbyterian Church*  
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