

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020

GATHERING

ADVENT CHORAL SERVICE A Festival of Readings, Anthems & Carols



Two settings of The Angel Gabriel Paul Bryan/Paul Manz

O Magnum Mysterium O Great Mystery

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 93 (All Sing)

TRURO

Morten Lauridsen



BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God:

In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go even to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against Him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and justice on the earth; for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless; the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; as well as those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

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.

COLLECT

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen**.

FIRST READING

Genesis 3: 8-15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

⁸They 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. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵I 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."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Adam lay y bounden

Boris Ord

Adam lay y bounden, Bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter Thought he not too long. And all was for an apple, An apple that he took, As clerkes finden Written in their book. Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never our lady A been of heaven é queen. Blessed be the time That applie taken was, Therefore we moun singen, Deo gracias, Deo gracias, Deo gracias! God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

¹⁵The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Anthem Creator of the Stars of Night Malcolm Archer

Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting light, Jesus, Redeemer, save us all, and hear thy servants when they call.

Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride, As drew the world to evening tide, Proceeding from a virgin shrine, The Son of man, yet all divine.

As thy great name, exalted now, All knees must bend, all hearts must bow, And things in heav'n and earth shall own That thou art Lord and King alone.

God the Father, God the Son, and Spirit, Three in One, Laud, honour, might, and glory be From age to age eternally. Amen.

THIRD READING

Isaiah 9: 2b-7

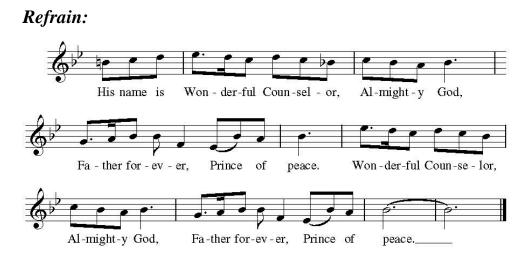
Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 86

(The Congregation is invited to sing the *Refrain*.)

The People Who Walked in Darkness



The people who walked in darkness awaken to see a great light. The people who dwelt in the land of the shadow rise to a star shining bright.

Refrain:

His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Father forever, Prince of Peace.

For God has enlarged the nation, and prospered the fruit of its land. God's people are blest with the harvest of victory, gift from a bountiful hand. *Refrain*

The yoke of despair and bondage, the chains of the slave master's rod are shattered and scattered like dust in a windstorm, loosed by the justice of God. *Refrain*

For us now a child is given, for all the despised and forlorn. The rule of compassion shall rest on his shoulder. God's own Messiah is born! *Refrain*

How vast is our God's dominion! How far truth and mercy extend. The zeal of the Lord will accomplish its purpose: justice shall reign without end. *Refrain*

FOURTH READING

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

²But you, O Bethlehem, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Carol Anthem

Piae Cantiones/arr. Archer

Long Ago, Prophets Knew

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew, Come to make all things new; Bear his People's burden, Freely love and pardon. *Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing! When he comes, Who will make him welcome?*

God in time, God in man, This is God's timeless plan: He will come, as a man, Born himself of woman, God divinely human. *Ring, bells, ring, ...*

Mary, hail! Though afraid, She believed, She obeyed. In her womb God is laid: Till the time expected, Nurtured and protected, *Ring, bells, ring, ...*

Journey ends! Where afar Bethlehem shines, like a star, Stable door stands ajar. Unborn Son of Mary, Saviour, do not tarry! *Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing! Jesus comes! Jesus comes! We will make him welcome!*

FIFTH READING

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

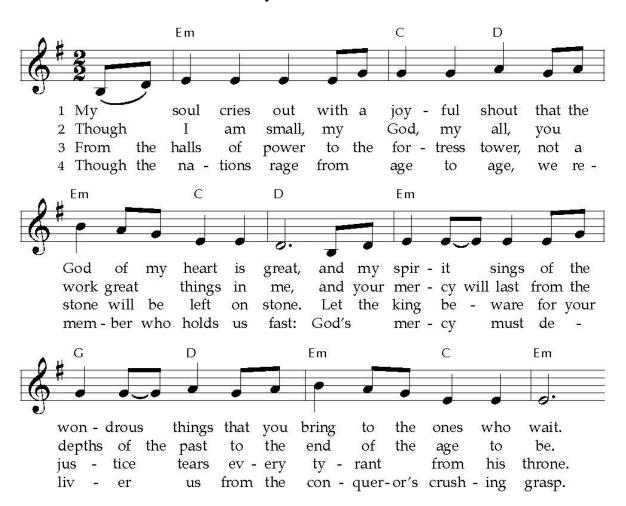
The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed

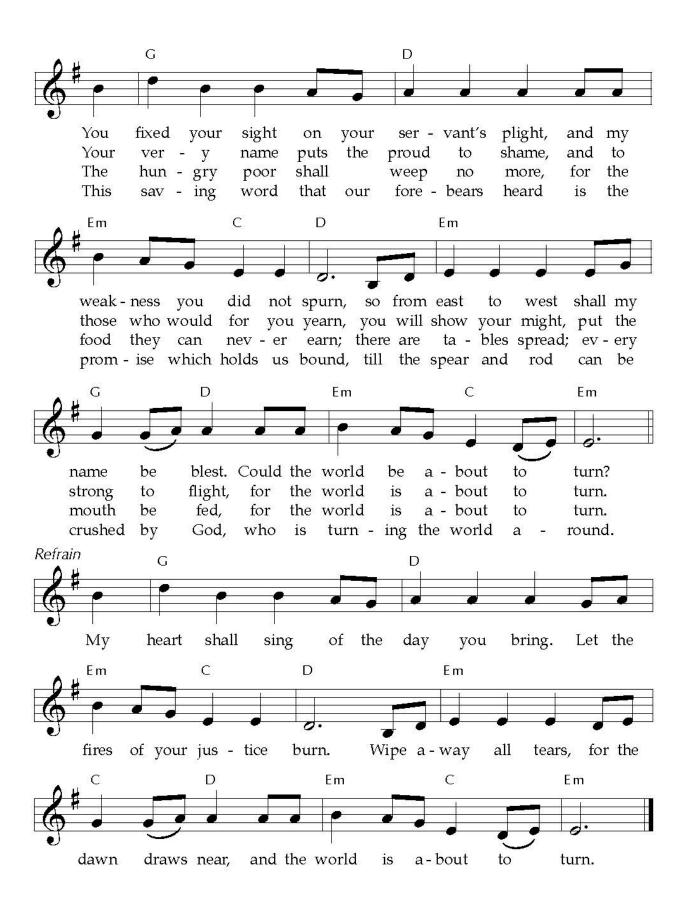
by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 100 (all sing) CANTICLE OF THE TURNING (See pages 7 and 8 for hymn.)



My Soul Cries Out



Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

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

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 110 (all sing)

(See page 11 for hymn.)

BRING A TORCH

Love Has Come

SEVENTH READING

Luke 2: 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

In that 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 singing, "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.



Congregational Hymn 115 Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 side until 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.

EIGHTH READING

Matthew 2: 1-11

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 2, verses 1 thru 11.

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.

The Wise Men and the Star

Sovereign scholars, weary of waiting, startled by starlight that kindles the sky. Eager for answers, destiny drives them watching with wonder, watching with wonder, watching with wonder, they follow the star.

Passing by palaces, greedy and golden, threading the byways of winter and cold, come to a doorway, low-built and lamplit, eagerly enter, eagerly enter, eagerly enter under the star.

> Source of all starlight, simply they see him, laid in a manger and haloed with hay. Bright in his beauty, shrouded with shadows. Steady the star shines, steady the star shines, steady the star shines. Follow the star.

NINTH READING

John 1: 1-14

Saint John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

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 overcome 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.

I sing the birth was born tonight, the author both of life and light; The angels so did sound it, And, like the ravished shepherds said, Who saw the light, and were afraid, Yet searched, and true they found it.

The Son of God, the eternal King. That did us all salvation bring, and freed our soul from danger, He whom the whole world could not take. The Word, which heaven and earth did make, Was now laid in a manger.

The Father's wisdom willed it so, the son's obedience knew no No; Both wills were in one stature, And, as that wisdom had decreed, The Word was now made flesh indeed. And took on him our nature.

What comfort by him we do win, Who made himself the price of sin, To make us heirs of glory! To see this babe, all innocence, A martyr born in our defence, Can we forget, forget the story?

COLLECT & BLESSING

Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son.
Let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with the bright beams of mercy and truth;
And so direct our steps that we may ever walk in the way revealed to us,
As the shepherds of Bethlehem walked with joy to the manger where he dwelled,
Who now and ever reigns in our hearts, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (John Suter, 20th c.)

Congregational Hymn 133 (All sing)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created! O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! ADESTE FIDELIS

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Personet Hodie On This Day, Earth Shall Ring Manz/TeVelde

SERVICE NOTES

READERS:Andrew Wyckoff, Jubilate Chorister
William Wyckoff, Laudate Youth Chorister
Kathy Williams, Head of Housekeeping
Kris Pardue, Communications
Terri Eckert, Assistant to the Pastor
Cathey Fuqua, College of Elders
The Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care
The Rev. Dr. Guy Griffith, Associate Pastor for Adult
Education and Spiritual Nurture
The Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake, Pastor and Head of Staff

MUSICIANS: Westminster "Virtual" Choir: Missy Boling, Lindsay DeBusk, Ally Hard, Dr. Susan Kelly, Jillian Morse, Melissa Threatt, Frances Baird, Kelly Christie, Nan Holland, Barbara Petersen, Janet Salyer, Hannah Sims, Richard Lane, Jeff Slaughter, Colby White, Garrett Doo, David Goodridge, Andrew Hard, Alec Koukol, David Wyckoff.

"Away in a Manger" soloists: Lillian Threatt, Claire Allen, Joseph Bryant

Chamber Choir: Ally Hard, Emily Harrison, Dr. Susan Kelly, Jennifer Barnes, Kelly Christie, Hannah Sims, Colby White, Garrett Doo, Alec Koukol.

Organist: Dr. Polly Brecht

Director of Music Ministries: Dr. John Semingson

NOTES: The printed music for "The Wise Men and the Star" and "The Word Made Flesh" is given in loving memory of our friend and choir member, Hank Woerner, by the Westminster Choir. *Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon him.*

COVER ART: On Them Light Has Shined, Soft pastel on vinyl fabric, by Lisle Gwynn Garrity, ©A Sanctified Art, <u>www.sanctifiedart.org</u>.

Inspired by Isaiah 9: 2-3

"I wanted to explore the role of the starry sky in the Christmas story. The star shines in the darkness, inciting wonder and fear, yet, all the while, illuminating the path forward. I was interested in capturing the angles and layers of light beaming in the midst of a midnight sky."

ADVENT: Advent is the first season of the liturgical year, consisting of four Sundays in which the church prepares for the celebration of the Incarnation. The seasonal color is royal blue, symbolic of kingship and of hope. Each Sunday an additional candle on the Advent wreath is lighted, symbolic of the dawning of the light of God's Kingdom, inaugurated in the birth of the infant of Bethlehem. As we approach Christmas, the Sanctuary will change in appearance. Each Sunday decorations will be added as the Church's hopeful joy increases.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. <u>Meetings with Staff are by appointment only</u>. 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 <u>Sunday, December 20, 2020</u> the 8:30 a.m. worship service will be LIVE streamed. There will not be an outdoor 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 <u>nashvillewpc.org</u> and in the Quick Links box, click on WPC Live Stream Services. The newest service may not yet be dated. Midweek services also will continue to be LIVE streamed on Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m. However, there will not be a midweek service on December 30.

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; <u>melissa.threatt@gmail.com</u>) or Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (615.292.5526; <u>hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org</u>).

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, <u>jmcfarlin@nashvillewpc.org</u> or 615-292-5526; Mike Koban, Finance Committee Chair at mkoban@prodigy.net; or Suzanne McLemore, Treasurer at suzannegm58@gmail.com.

November 30, 2020

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income:	\$247,036	\$3,024,947
Expense:	<u>\$201,332</u>	\$ <u>2,658,767</u>
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.

As of this week, 366 families have contributed \$2,362,838 toward our pledge campaign.

Our 2021 Budget goal is \$2,958,900, and we need \$596,062 to make the goal a reality.

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 <u>https://bit.ly/3dcoSzD</u> or scan the QR code below to take you directly to the Donations/Payments webpage.



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



2020 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ. Please consider sending your donation payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church with "Peace and Global Special Offering" in the memo section of your check or by visiting the PC(USA) website at https://bit.ly/3ae4Up1.

THE 2020 ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT MARKET IS NOW OPEN!

Since 2008, our congregation has supported local and international ministries at Christmastime though the Alternative Christmas Gift Market. This year, we are supporting sixteen agencies with current needs during the pandemic. Please consider giving a \$5, \$25 or \$100 gift to one or more of these worthy agencies through our ONLINE market. Click here or scan the QR Code below to select meaningful gifts that match the interests of your neighbors, co-workers, teachers, families, children, parents, grandparents, and anyone else on your list OR to simply give a donation to an organization you care about.



SANCTUARY AND PARLOR FLOWERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021: Please note that beginning January 1, 2021, the cost of flower arrangements will increase to \$150 for Sanctuary flowers and \$75 for Parlor flowers. This increase will ensure continuation of the highest quality arrangements and supplies. If you would like to provide flowers for the Sanctuary or Parlor during 2021, please contact Terri Eckert by email at teckert@nashvillewpc.org to select your Sunday. <u>As well,</u> reservations for flowers do not carry over from year-to-year. Arranged by members of Westminster's talented Flower Guild, this is a wonderful way to celebrate your loved ones or honor those who have died.

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

Purpose Statement

Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us." (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

> 3900 West End Avenue Nashville, Tennessee 37205-1899 615.292.5526 www.nashvillewpc.org