

WESTMINSTER  **PRESBYTERIAN**
CHURCH

Feast of the Nativity
December 24, 2020

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

**With the prophet Isaiah, we proclaim the promise of God:
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.
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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**Tonight, O God,
the soles of your feet have touched the earth.
Tonight, the forgotten places are brought to light.
Tonight, the households of earth welcome the King of heaven,
for you have come among us, and are one of us.
So may our songs rise to surround your throne,
as our knees bend to salute your cradle. Amen.**

**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...***

**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...***

SCRIPTURE

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

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn.

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 Saviour, 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 saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

SPREADING THE LIGHT

HYMN 144

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

**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!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord the new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**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 the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

BENEDICTION

Bear the light of Christ into the world with hope and great joy!

SERVICE NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS: Donovan Drake, Pastor; Guy D. Griffith, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture; Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care; Sophie Maness, Director of Christian Education; Margie Quinn, Director of Youth and Their Families; T.J. Piccolo, Associate Director of Youth; Katie Gossage, Associate Director of Youth and Programming.

MUSICIANS: Ally Hard, Emily Harrison, Jennifer Barnes, Kelly Christie, Hannah Sims, Colby White, Andrew Hard, Alec Koukol, Keith Cole, John W. Semingson, Director of Music Ministries.

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