

Cover Photo: Donovan Drake

About the Prelude

The Prelude is a musical offering to help move the hearts and minds of the gathering community from the daily struggles of life to the worship of God. A concerto is most commonly a piece for solo instrument and orchestra. Here the solo instrument is handbell choir and the orchestra is the organ. This Concerto is written in the "baroque" style. The baroque era in art and music, 1600-1750, includes composers such as J.S. Bach and Handel. Composer Michael Helman is Director of Music/Organist at Faith Presbyterian Church in Cape Coral, FL. He is an active composer of handbell, organ, and choral music with over 140 pieces in print.

During the season of Advent, we watch and pray with hope for the establishment of God's justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come - Jesus Christ our Savior.

The primary symbolism of the Advent candles has to do with light growing in darkness - leading up to the coming of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

## **GATHERING**

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

## PRELUDE

Michael Helman

Concerto for Handbells and Organ

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the light is brought into the Sanctuary, and the candles on the Advent wreath are lighted, the congregation is invited to sing the following:

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

Look! The young woman is with child. He will be called Emmanuel, God with us.

His name will be Jesus, for he comes to save us. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways - in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, and in resurrection from the dead - show us the face of Emmanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray; in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 360

UNSER HERRSCHER

Christ Is Coming! [See page 4 for hymn]

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed:
The night is far gone; the day is near. (Romans 13:11)

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess
that we do not walk in your light.
We choose what is evil
and refuse what is good.
We scorn our neighbors
and laugh at others' troubles.
Forgive us; deliver us;
let your face shine on us,
so that we may be ready
to meet our Emmanuel,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silent confession)

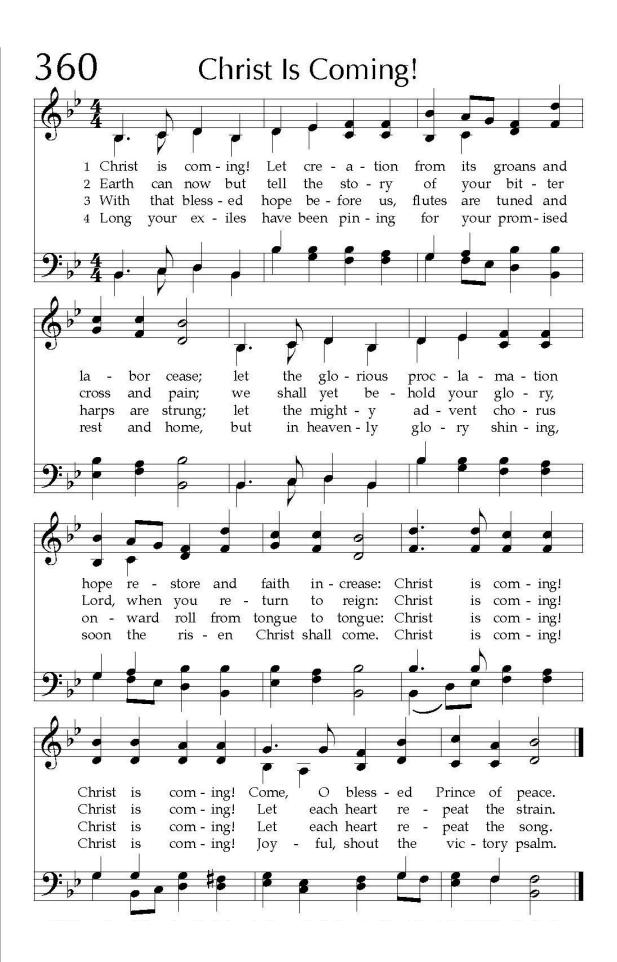
Call to and Prayer of Confession

Having praised the holiness of God, we must also face the errant state of the world and of our lives, confessing our unworthiness to enter into God's presence. Nevertheless, we approach God with confidence, trusting in the mercy of Jesus Christ. This turn from communal praise to corporate confession, established on the promise of God's grace, is one of the hallmarks of the Reformed tradition.

Please wear your mask when singing.

## About Hymn 360

This hymn by a 19th-century Scottish pastor is specifically based on Revelation 1:7 and 22:20, with allusions to several other New Testament passages. Unlike medieval hymns that focused on judgment, this text understands the Second Coming as an occasion of triumph and joy. TEXT: John Ross Macduff, 1853; MUSIC: Joachim Neander, 1680.



## **Kyrie**

## James MacMillan

(Sung responsively by the choir and congregation)



## About the Kyrie

The Kyrie (Greek "kyrios" [Lord]) is a corporate musical prayer for grace.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

## \*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 Refrain:

**Donald Pearson** 



Arise, shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has dawn'd upon you. For behold, darkness covers the land, deep gloom enshrouds the peoples. *Refrain*.

For over you the Lord will rise and his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawning. *Refrain*.

#### Assurance of Pardon

A declaration of forgiveness proclaims the good news of God's mercy and offers the assurance of pardon in Jesus' name. The liturgist pours water into the font, which reminds us of the grace and cleansing of our Baptism, and the baptismal call to new life in Christ.

#### Act of Praise

The Act of Praise brings together the choir and congregation to sing God's praise. Your gates will always be open by day or night they will never be shut. They will call you the city of the Lord the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. *Refrain*.

Violence will no more be heard in your land. Ruin or destruction within your borders. You will call your walls salvation and all your portals praise. *Refrain*.

The sun will no more be your light by day, by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

The Lord will be your everlasting light and your God will be your glory. *Refrain*.

#### CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

## **ANTHEM**

English Carol, arr. Page Now the Holly Bears a Berry

Now the holly she bears a berry as white as the milk, And Mary she bore Jesus who's wrapped up in silk.

And Mary she bore Jesus, our Saviour for to be, And the first tree that's in the green wood It was the holly. Holly, holly, And the first tree that's in the green wood It was the holly.

Now the holly she bears a berry as blood it is red, And we trust in our Saviour who rose from the dead. *And Mary she bore Jesus*, ...

#### THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### **SCRIPTURE**

Hear the Word of God! Our ears are open.

## Micah 5:2-5a

(Old Testament, page 865 in your pew Bible)

Choir: Lord Jesus, come soon!
Congregation: Lord Jesus, come soon!

This carol, also known as the "Sans Day Carol", is a traditional Cornish Christmas carol named after the Cornish village of St. Day, where it was found around the turn of the 20th century.

Prayer for Illumination

A Prayer for Illumination calls on the Holy Spirit to empower the reading, understanding, proclaiming, and living of God's word. This sense of utter reliance on the illumination of the Spirit is an important and distinctive mark of the Reformed tradition.

ANTHEM arr. Paulus

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; And gather'd all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together Proclaim the Holy Birth;
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

Hebrews 10:5-10 (New Testament, page 224 in your pew Bible)

ANTHEM G.F. Handel

I Know that My Redeemer Liveth (Messiah)

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.
And though worms destroy this body,
yet in my flesh shall I see God.
For now is Christ risen from the dead,
the first-fruits of them that sleep.

## **GOSPEL**

Luke 1:39-45 (New Testament, page 57 in your pew Bible)
Canticle

## Song of Mary

Larry King

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day, all generations shall call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in ev'ry generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers.

to Abraham and his children forever.

Larry King, composer of this chant-like setting of the Song of Mary, was Choirmaster and Organist at Trinity Church-Wall Street in lower Manhattan for 21 years (1969-90). Sadly, he died from multiple myeloma at the age of 58 in 1990.

**SERMON** "What a Gift" Donovan Drake

(A moment for meditation)

## **ANTHEM**

Wonderful Peace

Gustav Nordqvist

Peace, peace, wonderful peace; Peace to the world is given.

Hush'd are the angels, so still is the night;

Then in the East shone a heavenly light.

Join in the chorus, his praises sing!

Glory to God, to the newly born King.

Peace, peace, wonderful peace; Peace to the world is given.

Peace, peace, bearer of peace, All of goodwill receive him.
Holiest of nights, O most wond'rous of days;
Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.
Join in the chorus, his praises sing!
Glory to God, to the newly born King.

Peace, peace, wonderful peace; Peace to the world is given.

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus, the long-expected Savior,
came into the world as a child,
descended from David,
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.

He lived as a Jew among Jews.

He announced to his people
the coming of God's kingdom
of justice and peace on earth.

The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship
between God and humanity
that God always intended.

(From A Declaration of Faith)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

This beautiful carol

professor, Gustav Nordqvist (1886-

is by Swedish composer,

organist, and

1949). He was

organist for the

harmony at the

Conservatory of

Stockholm. The

message of this

carol is needed more than ever for our present day.

Adolf Fredrik

church and a teacher of

Royal

Music in

## **THANKSGIVING**

#### **OFFERING**

Anthem

English Carol, arr. Dan Forrest See Amid the Winter's Snow

Alleluia.

See, amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Hail thou ever-blessed morn,
hail redemptions happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem." Alleluia.

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies, He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim. *Hail thou ever* ...

Sacred infant all divine, what a tender love was Thine, Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world is this.  $Hail\ thou\ ever\dots$ 

#### \*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!

## \*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.

You deliver us, O God,
from exile, separation, and despair
into communion with each other, with you,
and with your good news.
We thank you for all that draws us close together,
astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude.
Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude
for what you give us every day
and as honor to your presence in our world;
for the sake of those who stand in need
and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.

To GIVE, please scan the QR code below:



"See Amid the Winter's Snow" is an English Christmas carol with text by Edward Casel and first published in 1858. In 1871, English composer, Sir John Goss, composed this beautiful tune for it and named the tune, "Humility.'
Contemporary composer, Dan Forrest (b. 1978), arranged the carol for choir and orchestra in 2016. This morning it is offered with choir, piano, and percussion. Forrest has been described as having "an undoubted gift for writing beautiful music ... that is truly magical.'

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God's grace elicits our heartfelt gratitude. We respond to the good news of forgiveness with joyful acclamations of praise!

## \*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.

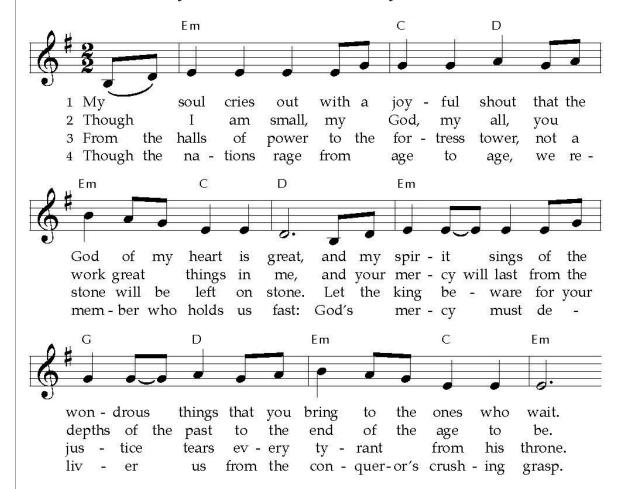
## **SENDING**

Please wear your mask when singing.

About Hymn 100

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the Magnificat, Mary's song at the meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing. TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990; MUSIC: Irish melody.

\*HYMN 100 STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN
My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout





## **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Choir: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Congregation: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

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music used in the
service this morning
is copyrighted under
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#### About the Postlude

The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of worship. Andrew Carter was born in 1929 into a Leicestershire family of tower bell and handbell ringers. He chose his favorite advent hymn to set in a grand French Toccata-style after being inspired by the great Jean Guillou. The work was premiered by John Scott at Yorkminster in 1995.

Andrew Carter

<sup>\*(</sup>Those who are able may stand.)

## **Our Mission**

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)

# **Today @ Westminster**

## **Worship Leaders**

## **Preaching**

The Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake Pastor

## Liturgist

Margie Quinn
Director of Youth and Their Families

## Lay Liturgists

8:30 AM Jane Kirchner 11:00 AM Virginia Reynolds

## **Advent Wreath Lighters**

8:30 AM The Fuqua Family 11:00 AM The Cole Family

#### Music

Harvard Handbells Westminster Choir

Dr. John Semingson Director of Music Ministries

Dr. Polly Brecht Organist

Grace Woodworth Oboe

Susan Kelly Soloist

Chris Norton Percussion

## **Childcare Room Locations**

Classroom 146 - babies

Classroom 152 - toddlers

Classroom 151 - 2s and 3s

Classroom 160 – 4s, 5s and kindergarten

## **Sanctuary and Parlor Flowers**

If you would like to provide flowers for the Chancel urns in the Sanctuary (\$150) or the refectory table in the Parlor (\$75) during 2022, please contact Terri Eckert, 615.292.5526 or by email at teckert@nashvillewpc.org to select your Sunday. Please note that 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 or honor your loved ones.

## **TODAY @ WESTMINSTER**

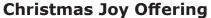
## **WORSHIP**

#### Welcome

Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes you to share our common journey to become more faithful disciples of Christ. Any who are interested in joining us in this journey are invited to contact:

Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Associate Pastor

Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, 615.292.5526; hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org



By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

Please scan the QR code below to connect to the Offering page or visit pcusa.org. Envelopes are also available in the pews.





# The Alternative Christmas Gift Market will close on Christmas Day.

Please consider a gift of \$5, \$25, or \$100 to support one of twenty non-profit organizations that is providing much needed support to those in need this holiday season.

Visit the Alternative Christmas Gift Market [link: https://nashvillewpc.church/alternative-christmas-gift-market/] page to purchase gifts online and to get more information about our featured organizations.

Our final day to collect checks in the Parlor between services will be today, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

## A Note From Polly -

Dear Westminster,
Thank you so much for your
generous gifts and cards over
the last few weeks. Words can't
adequately express how much your
thoughtful reception last Sunday
meant to me. I will be forever
grateful to you and thankful that
for 30 years I could be a part of
Westminster's music program.

It is truly a special place.
- Polly

## **TODAY @ WESTMINSTER**

**ADULT EDUCATION Classes begin at 9:45 AM** 

**Today's Classes:** 

Faith & Fellowship ● 214

Search • 211

## The CALLING • Goodpasture Hall

Chad Folk will be leading a discussion on Luke and the escape to Eqypt after Jesus' birth - and how this fulfils the prophecy.

## **Young Families • Overlook Room**

This Sunday, Tom Wylly will be discussing the wonderful book "What is so amazing about grace" by Philip Yancey. We will discuss guilt, grace, and forgiveness.

Please come join us.

## **GENEROSITY 2022**

Please scan the QR code below to make your 2022 pledge.



## **GENEROSITY 2022**



The Christmas season is typically a time of generosity and hospitality. We see it in the Salvation Army bell ringers. In 1891 a Salvation Army captain placed a red iron pot at the foot of Market Street and was able to feed the poor of San Francisco for Christmas. The concept spread across the nation and is now a universal sign that Christmas is coming to those in need. Just as the sound of the Salvation Army bell reminds us of helping those in need, so too does the contagious hospitality we see at Westminster. Living Waters, Alternative Christmas, Joy in Learning and Room in the Inn to name just a few, all embody healing and bring hope to those who are weary and powerless. Like the red iron pot, Westminster is a symbol - a path of hope. As we consider our pledges for 2022, let us remember the hospitality that Westminster fosters to care for those who are most vulnerable, desperate and weighed down. Let us remember how our joyful giving transports our hearts to where Jesus would be - with the poor, the lonely, and the marginalized. We know that our most treasured gifts are the ones with the most love behind them and there is great love in creating paths of hope.

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Kelly Christie
 Generosity Committee Chair

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## Standing in the Need of Prayer

Westminster's Congregational Care Prayer Team regularly prays for the prayer requests and needs of this congregation and beyond.

If you have a prayer request to share, please contact Elizabeth Trabue, Prayer Team chair, elizabethtrabue@gmail.com or, Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org; 615-292-5526.

# **Enhance Your Advent Experience** with Centering Prayer

The Westminster Centering Prayer Group gathers in the Harwell Chapel on Mondays from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM.

## All are invited to join.

The prayer time begins with a brief liturgy and contemporary reading, and moves into 20 minutes of silent meditation. Participants have found it to be a peaceful and calming start to their weeks, sitting in holy silence and feeling the sacredness of shared intention and divine presence.

For more information, please email Elizabeth Trabue at elizabethtrabue@ gmail.com or Heidi Hudnut-Beumler at hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org.

## The Gift of Meals: Can You Help?

The power of a meal, whether homemade or purchased, is immeasurable. At Westminster, we seek to provide meals at times of need, such as illness, loss, new babies, and recovery processes.

We are starting a new team to work with our Families with Young Children Care Ministry specifically focused on the young families with new babies, as well as in times of illness or other needs.

- If you would like to be part of this new meals team to support families with babies and young children, please in touch with Catie Lee, chair of this care ministry: catielee1@gmail.com
- If you would like to join our existing Special Meals Team which is focused on the needs on families with teens, singles, couples, and older adults, please contact Cathey Fuqua, chair of this team: catheyfuqua@hotmail.com

Might you have a need – or know of needs in our church family? Please be in touch with: Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org; 615-292-5526.

We are a community of faith that shares each other's burdens and joys!

# THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

## Sunday, December 19

8:30 AM Worship

9:45 AM Adult Sunday School

Children's Sunday School Youth Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

4:00 PM Journey with Jesus

5:00 PM Laudate Youth Choir

6:05 PM Youth Group

## Monday, December 20

11:45 AM Centering Prayer

## Tuesday, December 21

7:30 AM Bible Study

9:00 AM Harvard Handbells rehearsal

## Wednesday, December 22

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study

6:00 PM RITI

7:00 PM Westminster Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 23

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study

## Friday, December 24

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study

## Saturday, December 25

- Campus Closed -

## Sunday, December 26

11:00 AM Worship

Monday, December 27

- Campus Closed -

#### **Year-End Contributions**

The office will be closed on Monday, December 27 and Friday, December 31. If you have not had an opportunity to make your 2021 Generosity pledge payment, please visit or call the office on Dec. 28, 29, & 30. All year-end contributions postmarked or received by December 31, 2021, will be included on your 2021 giving statement. Contributions postmarked or received on or after January 1, 2022, will be included on your 2022 giving statement.

#### **December Calendar**

#### **Christmas Eve Services**

December 24

2:00 PM Family Service Children are invited to bring offerings of canned and boxed food for Second Harvest Food Bank and dress up as anything from the nativity story. Masks Required.

5:00 PM Candlelight Communion Worship Service • Sanctuary Masks Required.

8:00 PM Candlelight Communion Worship Service • Sanctuary Masks Required.

10:30 PM Candlelight Communion Worship Service • Sanctuary Masks Encouraged.

Childcare available during the 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM services.

Due to limited parking, please carpool.

## **Christmas Brass**

December 26 11:00 AM • Sanctuary