



# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

10:30 PM

Cover photo by  
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.

### *About the Choral Introit*

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" [hymn no. 20], this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.  
TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848;  
MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849.

## GATHERING

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

### PRELUDE

Prelude on "Veni, veni Emmanuel" Paul Fey

Selections from Variations on a Noël Marcel Dupré

"Carol" Meditation Craig Phillips  
"Cradle Song" Lullaby Malcolm Archer

Prelude on "Regent Square"  
"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"  
"Joy to the World" Hal Hopson

The First Nowell  
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen David Willcocks

### \*CHORAL INTROIT

IRBY

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed.  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed.  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall.  
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

Do not be afraid; I bring good news of great joy!  
**Light shines on those who walk in darkness.**

A child has been born for us, a son given to us.  
**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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



Jesus Christ, born in our midst,  
we seek your good news as one people.  
In your life and by your birth  
we receive your grace appearing,  
we experience your salvation nearing,  
and we feel your great light dawning.  
Draw us deeper into this mystery  
in the stillness and silence  
of this Christmas Eve. Amen.

*(The Cross and Bible lead the procession, symbolic of the centrality  
in worship of Jesus Christ - the Living Word, and the Bible - the written Word.)*

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 133**

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE**

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

**Isaiah 9:2-7** (*Old Testament, page 638 in your pew Bible*)

Psalms 98

Marty Haugen

**Refrain:**



Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done wondrous deeds;  
God's right hand has won the victory, God's holy arm. **Refrain.**

The Lord has made salvation known, God's justice revealed to all;  
Remembering kindness and faithfulness to Israel. **Refrain.**

All of the ends of earth have seen salvation by our God.  
Joyfully sing out, all you lands, break forth in song. **Refrain.**

Sing to the Lord with harp and song, with trumpet and with horn.  
Sing in your joy before the king, the king, our Lord. **Refrain.**

**Titus 2:11-14** (*New Testament, page 215 in your pew Bible*)

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

### **\*GOSPEL PROCESSION**

*(The congregation stands for the Gospel. The Gospel is read in the midst of the people, symbolic of the Word made flesh and dwelling among us. As the Bible is carried into the Nave, please turn in the direction of the reader, and join in singing:)*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

### **\*GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 2:1-20** (*New Testament, page 58 in your pew Bible*)

*(Following the reading of the Gospel, the congregation will sing:)*

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations  
prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

### **SERMON**

“Down to Earth”

Donovan Drake

*(A moment for meditation)*

### **ANTHEM**

Carl Schalk

Before the Marvel of This Night

Before the marvel of this night,  
adoring, fold your wings and bow,  
then tear the sky apart with light  
and with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,  
that fear and death and sorrow cease:  
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!  
Sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song,  
this is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng,  
in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heav’nly bliss,

a teasing taste of what they miss:  
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!  
Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!  
The love that we have always known,  
our constant joy and endless light,  
now to the loveless world be shown,  
now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love,  
the love that rules our universe above:  
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love!  
Sing love, sing God is love!

## **\*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.**

**We affirm that Jesus was born of a woman  
as is every child,  
yet born of God's power  
as was no other child.  
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)*

## **THE EUCHARIST**

### **OFFERING ANTHEM**

English Carol  
arr. Robert Lau

### **Sussex Carol**

On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring.  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad?  
When sin departs before his grace,  
then lift and health come in its place.  
Then all creation with joy may sing,  
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia.  
Glory! Glory to God! Glory!  
Now and forevermore, amen.

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

MENDELSSOHN

**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 God-head 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!"**

### **\*INVITATION**

### **\*GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

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

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

It is truly right and our greatest joy...  
and we behold your glory, Immanuel!

Therefore, we praise you,  
joining our voices with the celestial choirs,  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.

God of pow - er and might. Heav - en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na

in the high - est! Bles - sed is he who comes, he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -

san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

*(The congregation may be seated.)*

You are holy, O God of majesty... dedicated to your service.

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...  
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
now and forever.

ALL:  
[organ] A - men, A - men, A - men.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (Prayed in unison; see page 35 of hymnal for text)

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

(The people will move forward as directed by the ushers. The celebrant will give each worshiper the bread. The worshiper dips the bread in the cup and partakes. An appropriate response is “Amen” or “Thanks be to God!”

Please return to the pews, using the side aisles.)

Music during Communion

## ANTHEMS

Text: Christina G. Rossetti

Music: Gustav Holst

arr. G. Alan Smith

### In the Bleak Midwinter

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, heav’n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heav’n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

In the bleak midwinter.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### SENDING

*(The plastic shield that you received with your candle is intended to ensure the safety of the congregation. Slide the shield down the candle for the purpose of lighting the candle. Once lighted, slide the shield up to fully enclose the flame.)*

## SPREADING THE LIGHT



**HYMN**

GLORIA

## 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.  
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 newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**HYMN**

## Away in a Manger

MUELLER

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.

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.

**HYMN**

## Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

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****POSTLUDE**

J.S. Bach

In dulci jubilo (Hymn 132) BWV 608 &amp; BWV 729

---

\*(Those who are able may stand.)

## 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 one of the pastors on staff by calling 615.292.5526, the church office.

## Worship Leaders

### Preaching

Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake  
Pastor and Head of Staff

### Liturgist

Rev. Stephanie Boaz  
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

### Lay Liturgist

Fran Linley

### Communion Preparation

Suzie and Richard Lane

### Music

Eva Tatum, cantor  
Laudate Choir and Alumni

John Semingson  
Director of Music Ministries

Dale Nickell  
Organist and Associate Director of Music Ministries

### Mask Policy

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville is mask optional.

### Hearing Assistance

We offer personal FM Receivers with an earpiece, located in the Narthex and in the Parlor on the Welsh dresser. Instructions can be found at each location.

### Large Print Hymns

Looking for large-print hymns? They can be found in the Narthex at the Sanctuary entrance or in the Parlor on the Welsh dresser.

### Recorded Worship Services

To watch a service at a later time, go to [www.nashvillewpc.church](http://www.nashvillewpc.church) and scroll down to the Worship Service Archive. Click on the service you would like to view.

### Dial-a-Sermon

Dial 629.206.1073 after 10:15 AM each Sunday morning to listen to the sermon. The sermon will be available all week.

### Copyright Information

The music used in the service this morning is copyrighted under Christian Copyright Licensing International, Inc., No. 1121525.

### 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)

# MINISTRY TEAM



Donovan Drake  
Pastor  
ddrake@nashvillewpc.org



Sophie Maness  
Executive Director of Children's  
& Community Life Ministries  
smaness@nashvillewpc.org



Stephanie Boaz  
Associate Pastor for  
Congregational Care  
sboaz@nashvillewpc.org



Adam DeVries  
Parish Associate for Youth  
adevries@nashvillewpc.org



Guy D. Griffith  
Associate Pastor for Adult  
Faith Formation  
ggriffith@nashvillewpc.org



Hannah Norris  
Youth & Missions Program  
Coordinator  
hnorris@nashvillewpc.org



Ashley Higgins  
Associate Pastor  
for Young Families  
ahiggins@nashvillewpc.org



John Semingson  
Director of Music Ministries  
johns@nashvillewpc.org



Will Wellman  
Director of Theology and  
Community Initiatives  
wwellman@nashvillewpc.org



Dale Nickell  
Associate Director of Music  
Ministries and Organist  
dnickell@nashvillewpc.org



3900 West End Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205-1899  
615.292.5526 | [www.nashvillewpc.church](http://www.nashvillewpc.church)



3900 West End Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205-1899  
615.292.5526 | [www.nashvillewpc.church](http://www.nashvillewpc.church)