



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

5:00 & 8:00 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 "Regent Square"	Hal Hopson
"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"	Hal Hopson
"Joy to the World"	Hal Hopson

A Christmas Prelude for Flute and Organ	Charles Callahan
A Christmas Medley	Sam Levine

Selections from Variations on a Noël	Marcel Dupré
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The First Nowell	David Willcocks
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.**

**Living God, on this holy night we gather -
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;**

to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.
May the good news of this night inspire us
to tell the world of our great joy:
for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.
Glory and praise to you forever! 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*)

Psalm 98

Marty Haugen

Refrain:



All the ends of the earth_ have seen_the pow-er of God;



All the ends of the earth_have seen the pow-er of God._

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.**

ANTHEM

arr. Tim Kile

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to Thee,
O Israel!

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
And bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
And turn our darkness into light.

O Israel, rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to Thee,
O Israel!

God with us, Emmanuel.

***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)

***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

Carl Schalk

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

**Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word,
I come in half-belief, A pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me.**

**In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet, newborn Babe, how frail, And in a manger bed:
A still small Voice To cry one day for me.**

**How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare:
A Child, a Son, The Prince of Peace for me.**

Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned
Its way into my heart: Unasked, unearned,
To die, to live, And not alone For me.

***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**

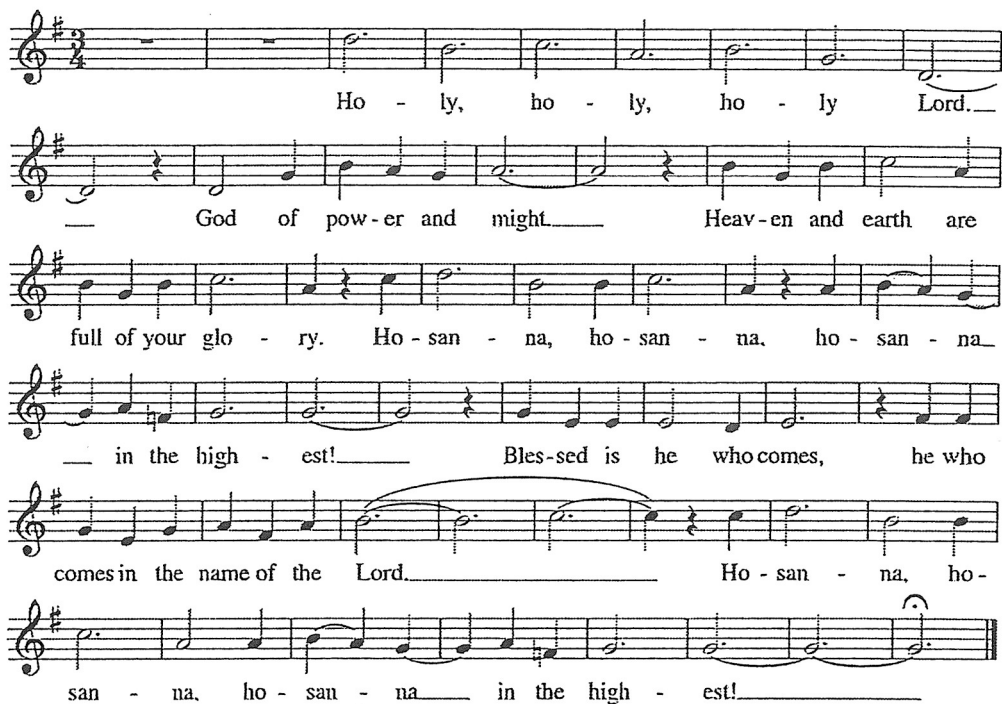
***GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

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:

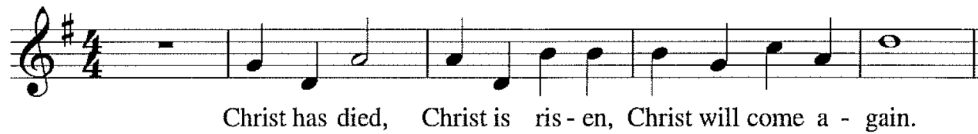


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. —
— God of pow-er and might. — Heav-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na
— in the high - est! — Bles-sed is he who comes, he who
comes in the name of the Lord. — Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na — in the high - est! —

(The congregation may be seated.)

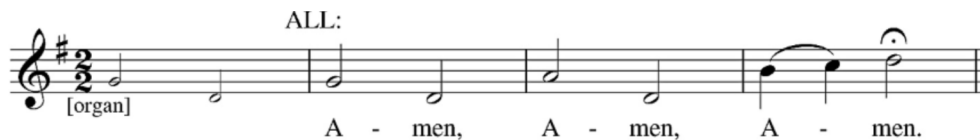
You are holy, O God of majesty... dedicated to your service.

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:



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.



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

Appalachian Carol/arr. Kyle Pedersen

I Wonder as I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
how Jesus the Savior had come for to die;
for poor orn'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

How I, a mere mortal, may look up in awe
as Bethlehem's star beckons me through the dawn;
it shines on the manger, the Prince of all peace
and bids me to wonder, "Is this gift for me?"

Emmanuel.

The gift in the manger is given for all,
the strong and heroic, the lost and the small.
Christ bids to our stone hearts, “come soften and give,”
and offers his own heart, so others may live.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
how the light of the heavens is born in this child.
The universe dances with glory and grace
and I gaze in the manger and see love’s face.

Emmanuel.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
I wonder under the sky.

The Wexford Carol

Traditional Irish
arr. Mark Sedio

Good people all, this Christmastime,
Consider well, and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done,
In sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day:
In Bethlehem upon that morn,
There was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God’s angels did appear,
Which put the shepherds in great fear.
“Prepare and go,” the angels said,
“To Bethlehem, be not afraid:
For there you’ll find, this happy morn,
a princely Babe, sweet Jesus born.”

With thankful heart and joyful mind
The shepherds went the babe to find,
And as God’s angel had foretold,
they did our Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger he was laid,
And by his side the Virgin maid,
Attending on the Lord of life,
Who came on earth to end all strife;
Who came on earth this Christmas night.

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
 of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
 It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
 when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
 with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
 To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,
 when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
 dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
 Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
 and lightens every load.

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

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.**

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.**

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

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

J.S. Bach

*(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. Dr. Guy D. Griffith
Associate Pastor of Adult Faith Formation

Lay Liturgists

5:00 PM Bill Christie
8:00 PM Lisa Atkinson

Music

Eva Tatum, cantor
Sam Levine, pennywhistle
Westminster Choir

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 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

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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)



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