

## Church Staff

Pastor • Chad Reynolds  
Assistant Pastor • Trevor Downie  
Director of Music Ministries • Catie M. Hane  
Pianist • Nancy Bruyere Sperling  
Communications Director • Jen Partee  
Administrative Assistant • Penny Greer  
Custodian • Richard Dowdle

## Elders

Adam Bruyere  
Dennis Campbell  
Bruce Marshall  
Paul Moore  
Pete Partee  
Jim Potts  
Bruce Senn  
Wayne Smith

## Deacons

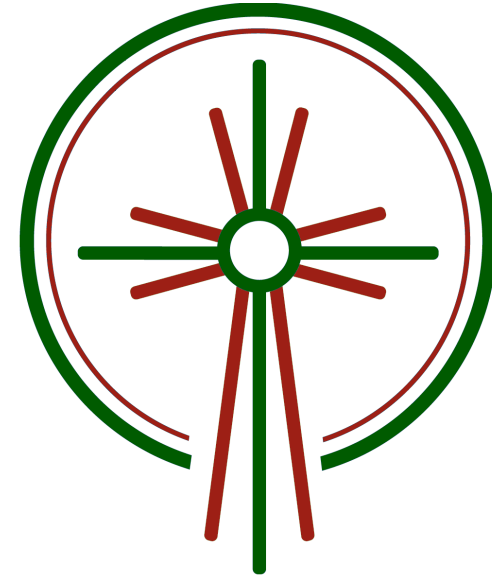
Jim Davidson  
Randy Davis  
Reed Edwards  
David Underwood  
David Zwan

Church Website • [wmpres.com](http://wmpres.com)



Westminster  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*The vision of Westminster Presbyterian is to know God in his glory, grow in grace together, and show the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our community and beyond.*



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Know • Grow • Show

# **A Service of Lessons and Carols**

## **Christmas Eve 2023**

**Prelude** • O Come, All You Unfaithful

O come, all you unfaithful. Come, weak and unstable.  
Come, know you are not alone.

O come, barren and waiting ones, weary of praying,  
Come, see what your God has done.  
Christ is born for you.

O come, bitter and broken. Come with fears unspoken.  
Come, taste of His perfect love.  
O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run,  
See what your God has done.

He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon,  
His promise is peace, for those who believe.  
So come, though you have nothing. Come, He is the offering.  
Come, see what your God has done.  
Christ is born for you.

**Advent Candle** • Pete, Jen, Casey, Finley, Partee

**Invocation and Prayer of Praise** • Rev. Trevor Downie

\* Congregational Hymn • *O Come, All Ye Faithful* • 208

\* Congregational Hymn • Silent Night • 210

Guitar: Pete Partee

**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**  
**Shepherds quake at the sight**  
**Glories stream from heaven afar**  
**Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia**  
**Christ the Savior is born**  
**Christ the Savior is born**

**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**

**Silent night, holy night**  
**Wondrous star, lend thy light.**  
**With the angels let us sing**  
**Alleluia to our King.**  
**Christ the Savior is born,**  
**Christ the savior is born!**

\* Benediction

**Choir** • *Behold the Lamb* • Story & Peterson, arr. Keith Christopher

Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin.  
Behold, the Lamb of God, the life and light of men.  
Behold, the Lamb of God, Who died and rose again.  
Behold, the Lamb of God, Who comes to take away our sin.

Behold our broken hearts. We need You.  
Behold the sin of man.

Son of God, Emmanuel.  
Son of man, We praise You.

Behold, the Lamb, the hope of man.  
Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin.  
Behold, the Lamb of God, the life and light of men.  
Behold, the Lamb of God, Who died and rose again.  
Behold, the Lamb of God, Who comes to take away our sin.

**Homily** • Rev. Chad Reynolds

\* **Congregational Hymn** • *Away in a Manger* • 204

*(Lighting of the candles will take place during the singing of the hymn.)*

\* **Procession to the Courtyard**

**First Lesson** • Rev. Trevor Downie

Genesis 3:1-15 • The Fall of Man and the First Proclamation of the Gospel

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

**Choir** • *O Holy Night* • Adolphe Adam  
Amy Link, Catie M. Hane

## Second Lesson • Kristy Davidson

Isaiah 7:10-14; 9:2, 6-7 • The Prophet Isaiah Foretells the Coming of the Messiah

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Choir • *Lo, How a Rose* • arr. Jean Anne Shafferman**

## Third Lesson • Lizzie Davidson

Micah 5:2-5 • The Peace That Christ Will Bring Is Foretold

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

**Choir • *The First Noel* • arr. Dan Forrest**  
*Congregation join in singing the last stanza.*

**Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.**

## Eighth Lesson • Jim Potts

John 1:1-14 • John Unfolds the Great 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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

**\*Congregational Hymn • *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night* • 222**

### **Seventh Lesson • Laney Reynolds**

Matthew 2:1-11 • The Wise Men Are Led by the Star to Jesus

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

**\* Congregational Hymn • O Little Town of Bethlehem • 201**

### **Fourth Lesson • David Zwan**

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 • The Angel Gabriel Greet the Virgin Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered 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 called holy - the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

**Choir** • *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* • arr. David Bryant

## **Fifth Lesson** • David Underwood

Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-7 • Matthew and Luke Tell of the Birth of Jesus

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Choir** • *Who But the Lord?* • Susan Bentall Boersma and Craig Courtney

O come, Thou bright and morning star  
And bring us comfort from afar.  
Dispel the shadows of the night  
And turn our darkness into light.

Who but the Lord can give the shadows light,  
Can break into the dark, draw morning from the night?  
Who but the Lord will hear our cry and answer, "Here am I"?

Who but the Lord makes blinded eyes to see,  
Brings music to the deaf, sets the lonely captive free?  
Who but the Lord will by His glory show the paths of peace?

O shine on us the brightness of Your face,  
To earth's remotest end, ev'ry people, ev'ry race.  
O shine on us, until to each is shown Your saving grace.

Who but the Lord can give the shadows light?  
None but the Lord.

## **Sixth Lesson** • Rev. Chad Reynolds

Luke 2:8-16 • The Shepherds Go to the Manger

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."