



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020



4:45 p.m. with extended prelude music
on Facebook **Live**

COME

If you are joining us on Facebook Live, then you can find a copy of today's bulletin on our church website at westminsterakron.org.

Bolded text is read or sung by all. *Please rise in body or spirit.

Prelude of Seasonal Music

Pastorale from "Christmas Concerto"

Arcangelo Corelli
Amber Dimoff and Sarah Husak, violins

From "Song of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ"

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

I. Praeludium

II. Recitative: There were in the same country, shepherds

Elizabeth Crabtree & Valerie Niese Stewart

III. Air for Tenor: Be not afraid, ye shepherds

Ben Hayes

IV. Recitative and Air: And when these humble shepherds...On this day

Paul Stewart & Valerie Stewart

V. Chorus: On this day earth shall ring

VI. Ritornello

VII. Chorus: Born of a Virgin mild

O Holy Night (duet)

Adolphe Adam

Elizabeth Crabtree & Benjamin Hayes

*Call to Worship

Kara Hauerwas

Because Christ has been born in the world,

people who walked in darkness now live in great light.

Because Christ has been born in the world, we respond in wonder:

With the angels, we sing glory to God;

with the shepherds, we share the good news;

with Mary, we ponder the words of this night,

and the Word that has come into the world: Immanuel.

Choral Introit

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS'

*Hymn 41 O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be -
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove; glo - ry to
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the
Refrain
hold him, born the King of an - gels;
God, all glo - ry in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O
Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;
come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel ("God is with us").

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.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

ENCOUNTER

*Hymn 23, verses 1,3

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**1. 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.**

**3. 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.**

*Passing the Peace

Greet both friends and strangers saying,
"The peace of Christ be with you."

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

Because God so loved the world, God sent the Son into the world. In response to this good news of great joy, we offer songs of praise, tithes and offerings, and acts of service.

Offertory Anthem

In dulci jubilo (Now Sing We)

Dietrich Buxtehude

Now sing we, now rejoice. Now raise to heaven our voice; He from whom joy streameth poor in a manger lies; Not so brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies. Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee; Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child; Thro' thy grace and merit, blest Jesus, Lord most mild, Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!

Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heavenly ground? Where the angels singing with all His saints unite, Sweetest praises bringing in heavenly joy and light. Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

*Response Hymn 36, verse 4

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

**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.**

Time with Young Disciples

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

We would make room for you this night of all nights, dear Lord: room in our minds and hearts; room also in our life together.

Let your word be born in us anew so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, your splendor shines in us and through us. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Old Testament

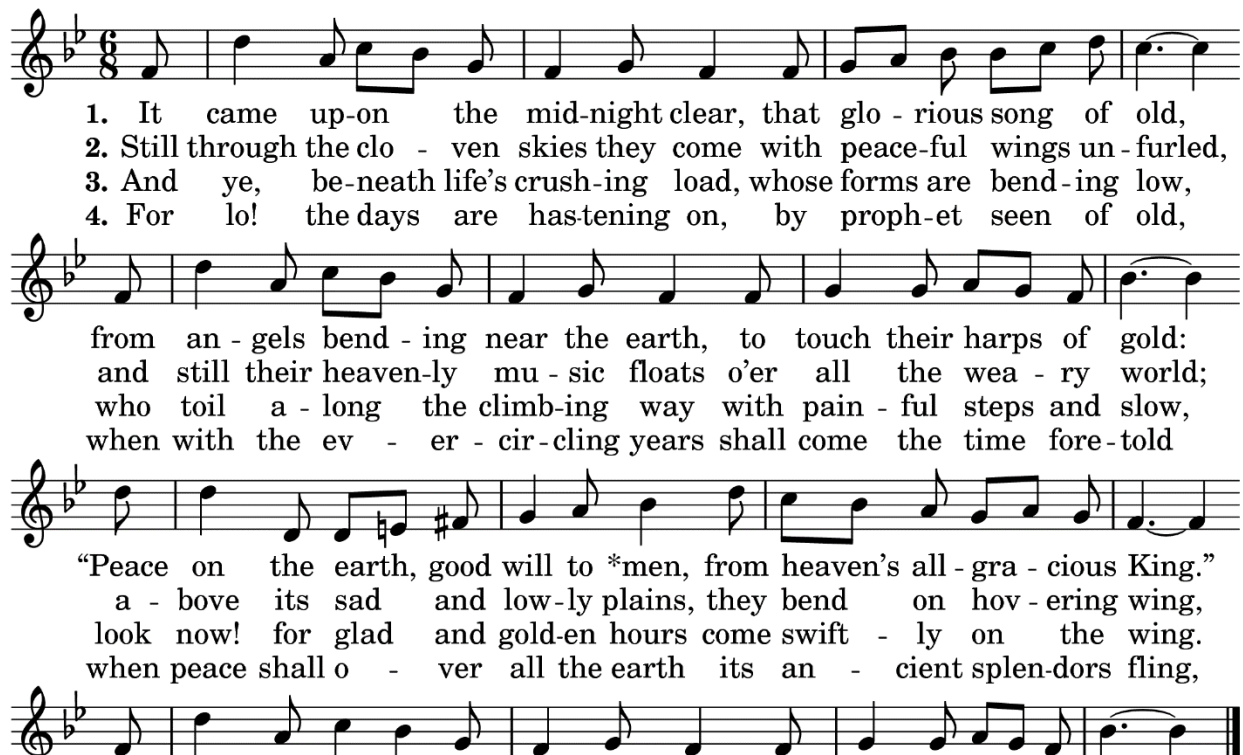
- ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.
- ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness

from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn 38, Verses 1 & 4

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL



1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by proph-et seen of old,
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told
"Peace on the earth, good will to *men, from heaven's all - gra - cious King."
a - bove its sad and low-ly plains, they bend on hov - ering wing,
look now! for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing.
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,
The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an-gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!
and the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.

The Second Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

New Testament

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

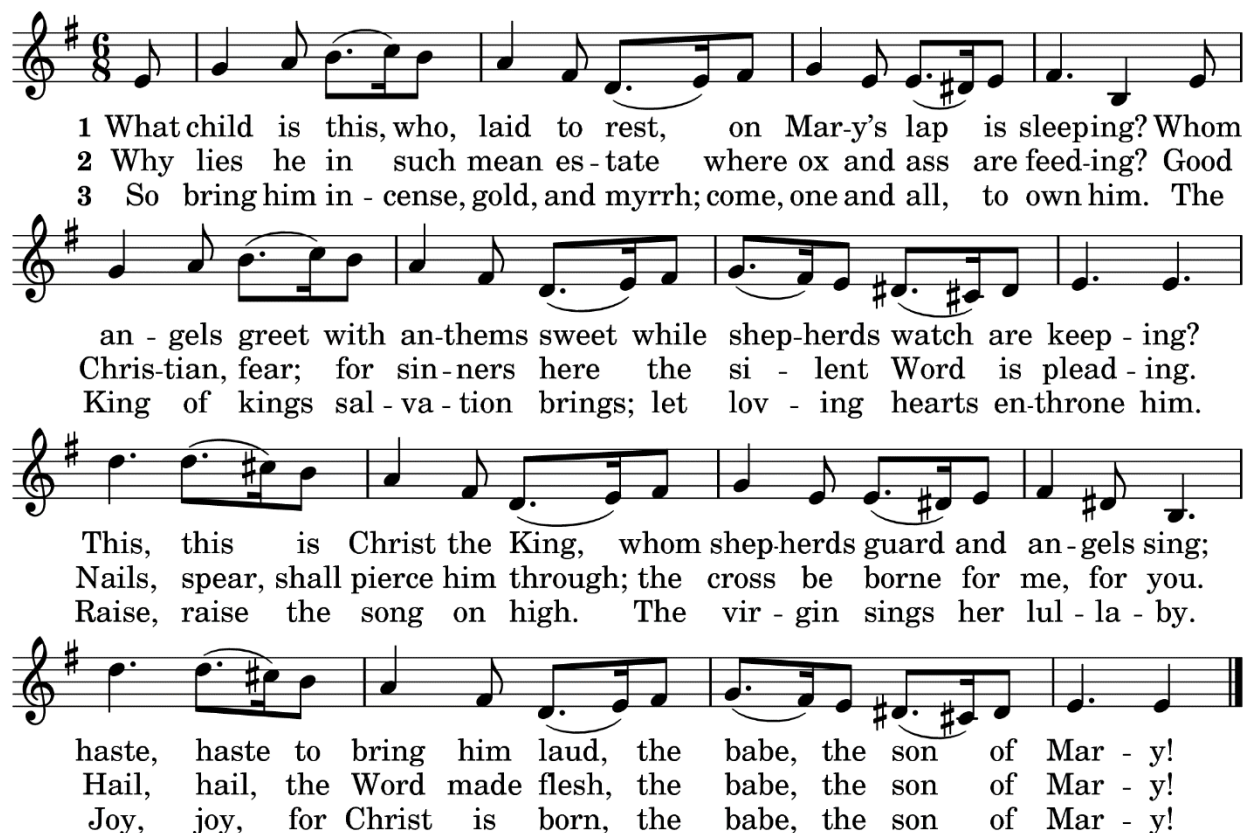
³All went to their own towns to be registered.

⁴Joseph 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.

⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

⁷And 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.



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleeping? Whom
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing? Good
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him. The
 an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.
 haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

New Testament

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ 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:

¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;
¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Made Known

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

We place our trust in Jesus Christ. After we refused to live in the image of God, he was born of Mary, sharing our genes and instincts, entering our culture, speaking our language, fulfilling the law of God. Being united to Christ's humanity, we know ourselves when we rest in him. Jesus Christ is the hope of God's world.

Prayers of the People, Silent Reflection and The Lord's Prayer

Glorious God, on this Christmas Eve, we sing beloved carols of Bethlehem, of shepherds and angels, of Mary and Joseph, and the infant Jesus, our Savior. Is there yet a new song we can sing to you? A song to be learned from the heavens and the earth: where the roar of the sea, the exultation of the fields, and the joy of the trees are already raised in a chorus of glad rejoicing, ready to welcome you. Even if no ear may hear your coming, help us hear the music of creation. Then, with the whole cosmos, we will sing of your salvation, declare your glory, and in a crescendo of praise, bless your name: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace! **Amen.**

**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.**

*Lighting of Congregational Candles

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! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

(Sung unaccompanied)

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.

*Charge and Benediction

Do not be afraid -
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness cannot overcome it.
Bear the light of Christ into the world
with hope and great joy!

May the love of God,
the light of Christ,
and the joy of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this holy
night and forevermore.

*Funding for tonight's violinists is provided
by the Brideweser Music Endowment Fund.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers For Chancel As we will continue online worship in the new year we thank all those who have made flower memorials this past year. Flower arrangements have added a richness to our worship experience. If you would like to make a flower donation in love or in memory in the coming year please contact Kristy Yates at ksjyates@gmail.com.

Youth Calendar/Confirmation class There is no Youth Group Zoom meeting Sunday, December 27 and Sunday, January 3. Confirmation class will start via zoom on January 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

No Tweens Zoom Meeting on December 27 and Sunday, January 3. The class will resume on Sunday, January 10, 2021.

No Zoom Bible Study on December 28, 2020.

No Zoom Adult Education and December 30, 2020.

No Choir Rehearsal on December 27, 2020 and January 3, 2021.

Virtual New Year's Fellowship Event Zoom in on Sunday, January 3 at 4:00 p.m. to wish your WPC friends a Happy New Year! Noisemakers, silly party hats, and glasses (both the kind you wear and the kind you drink out of) are encouraged! Zoom link to join the meeting: Passcode: 909310

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85744261600?pwd=THVuVlZ2OXJlMXBpVnpJM3RlVHpuUT09>

Puzzle Exchange Box

A reminder to jigsaw puzzle fans - check out the puzzle exchange box by the back door. It is getting pretty full of a variety of puzzles! Feel free to bring puzzles you are ready to pass along, and/or take one to enjoy.

Church offices will be closed on Friday, December 25, 2020, on Thursday, December 31, 2020 and on Friday, January 1st, 2021 in observance of the Holidays.

Year-End Gifts Because the church offices will be closed on December 31, we will need all contributions by Wednesday, December 30, 2020. During these difficult times, the church remains grateful for your faithful support. To give electronically on WPC website click under the tab "online giving" and use this QR Code.



The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Staff schedule in the office: **Monday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Tuesday** - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard, Claudine Schooley, and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, Adam Kalcic, and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, and Adam Kalcic.



Westminster Presbyterian Church
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2020 Christmas Poinsettias Memorials and Gifts

- In loving memory of Kaye Lebold from Charles Lebold & family
- In memory of John Holcomb from Marcia Holcomb & family
- In memory of Bob & Betty Johnson, Laurie Johnson Fox and Neil Johnson from Paul & Candy Johnson
- In memory of loved ones from Pat Schumacher
- In loving memory of Jon Daugherty from Ellen Daugherty
- In memory of our parents from Art & Jean Schooley
- In loving memory of Claude Wilton by Anna Marie Wilton & family
- In loving memory of Jules & Claire Pommier and Nancy Schiring from Bill Blackstone
- In memory of Ed's parents, Chuck & Marilyn Labbe and in honor of Laurel's parents, Millard & Martha Manning from Ed & Laurel Labbe
- In loving memory of Robert J. "Bob" Werner from Shirley Werner & family
- In loving memory of her husband, Jack Keogh; her parents, Dr. & Mrs. Edward H. Jones, Jr. and her brother, Douglas Edward Jones from Dr. Nancy Keogh
- In memory of my grandfathers, William O. Yates & Clarence D. Mann from Kacey Yates Gable
- In loving memory of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Sears from Sandy Gruneich
- In loving memory of our grandparents & great grandparents Hanna, Melver, Tutt & Ward from Cathy, Kevin & Zoe Melver
- In loving memory of our parents, Don & Marian Donaldson and Harry & Mary Ellen Shriner from Jim & Barb Shriner
- In honor of Jo Barnes and in memory of Bill & David Barnes from Bruce & Pookie Barnes, Brittany, Nichole & Winnie
- In loving memory of William Brideweser MD from Margaret Brideweser & family