

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas



**December 27, 2020  
at 10:30 a.m.  
on Facebook **Live****

**or on our church website  
at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org)**

## COME

Opening Voluntary

Pastoral Symphony (*Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

*Dancers from the Infinite Legacy Project\**

*We welcome you to Westminster's online worship service this Sunday. To set a more worshipful tone while watching this service at home, we encourage you to find a quiet space and light a candle.*

*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](http://westminsterakron.org).*

\*Call to Worship

Marcia Holcomb

Praise the Lord!

**Praise God from the heavens.**

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**Let us praise the name of the Lord, whose name alone is exalted  
above earth and heaven.**

Alleluia!

\*Hymn 51

See Amid the Winter's Snow

HUMILITY



1. See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2. Say, you ho - ly shep-herds, say, Tell your joy - ful news to - day.
3. "As we watched at dead of night, There ap-peared a won-drous light;



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom-ised from e - ter - nal years.  
Why have you now left your sheep On the lone-ly moun-tain steep?  
An - gels sing-ing 'Peace on earth' Told us of the Sav - ior's birth."

*Refrain*



Hail that ev - er - bless - ed morn, Hail re-demp-tion's hap - py dawn,



Sing through all Je - ru - sa-lem: Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

## ENCOUNTER

### Call to Confession

Jesus our Lord came into an indifferent world, yet his life revealed the inner thoughts of many. Let us confess our sins before God and one another that we may receive release from our sin.

### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Silence is observed.*

Response 574

Lord, Have Mercy

*Kyrie*

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved of God, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels, God covers us with the robe of righteousness. Know that you are forgiven in Jesus Christ and live as God's beloved.

\*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

We invite you now to greet one another saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

## Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

As the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so will God cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. With thankful hearts, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Anthem

An Old Carol

Roger Quilter  
*Elizabeth Crabtree, soloist*

*I sing of a maiden that is matchless; King of all kings to her son she chose. He came all so still, There his mother was, As dew in April that falleth on the grass. He came all so still To his mother's bower, As dew in April that falleth on the flower.*

*He came all so still, There his mother lay, As dew in April that falleth on the spray. Mother and maiden Was never none but she; Well may such a lady God's mother be.*

\*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

As you led Simeon to embrace the infant Jesus, guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light that we may welcome your saving Word. **Amen.**

#### The First Lesson

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Old Testament

- 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.
- 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- 2 The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
- 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

#### The Second Lesson

Psalms 148:1-14

Old Testament

- 1 Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!
- 2 Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!
- 4 Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!

- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,
- 8 fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
- 9 Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!
- 10 Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!
- 12 Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!
- 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the Lord!

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

Sermon

Rejoice!

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

## SERVE

\*Affirmation of Faith    Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.**

**Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and**

**is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and dead. His kingdom will never end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. The Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. The Spirit spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

As children of God and heirs of the promise, let us pray to the Lord, saying, **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

For the holy church of God, that all who have been baptized into Christ may shine like the dawn, bear witness to the Good News of Jesus, and light the way of salvation in Jesus' name, let us pray to the Lord: **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the earth, that governments and those in authority may protect the vulnerable, shelter the oppressed, and pursue the way of peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

For Akron, Ohio and for all places of human interaction and livelihood, that kindness may abound, compassion prevail, and harmony endure, let us pray to the Lord: **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

For the planet earth, our home, that we may honor her gifts, respect her limitations, and protect her resources, let us pray to the Lord: **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

For those troubled with illness, hardship, or conflict, that they may receive healing for their bodies, release from their burdens, and mending of their brokenness, let us pray to the Lord: **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

Hear us, O God, for our eyes have seen your salvation. Let your light shine through us and fill the world with the radiance of your love revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns in glory. **Amen.**

We pray silently...

Let us pray to the Lord: **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

And finally, together as the people of God, let us offer the words of the Lord's Prayer, saying in one voice:

The Lord's Prayer

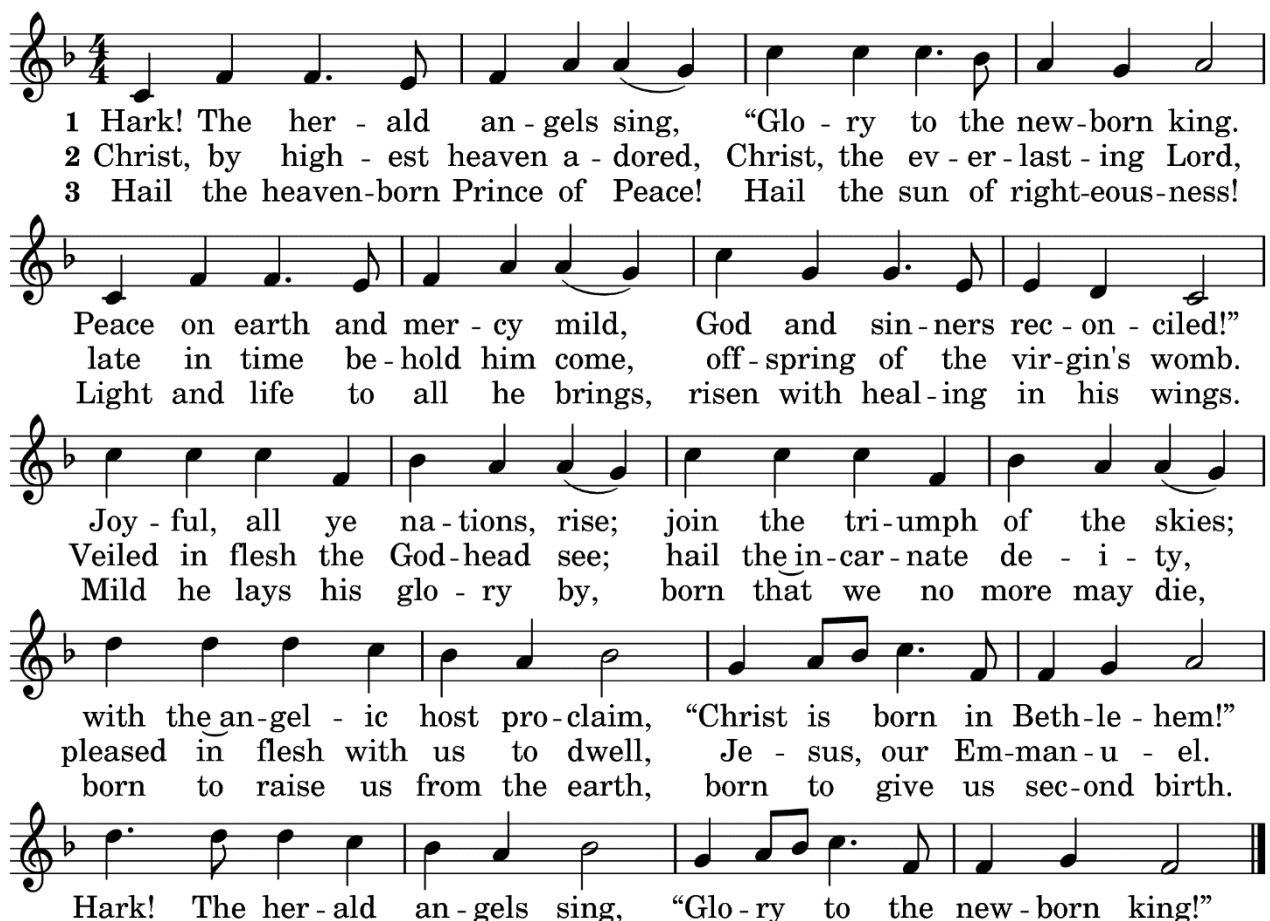
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**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.**

\*Hymn 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of right-eous-ness!  
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.  
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,  
with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

\*Charge and Benediction

Go forth in the world rejoicing.  
Spread the good news of Christ,  
our light and our redeemer.

May God, redeemer of Israel, dismiss us in peace;  
may Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Mary, uphold us in love;  
may the Holy Spirit, the power of God, guide us in truth.

Voluntary

Noel

George Frederick McKay

*\*The ILP is housed at Westminster Presbyterian Church, with a mission "to provide life-changing humanities education (which crosses socio-economic barriers) through meaningful exposure to the cultural projects of Pointillism Jazz Consort." Suzanne Winland, Founder.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The White Rose in the Chancel Today** is in memory of Mr. Frank Laidley Field Jr. who entered eternal life on December 20, 2020.

**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](mailto:ksjyates@gmail.com).

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

**No Tweens Zoom Meeting or Godly Play Stories** on January 3. The classes will resume on January 10, 2021.

**No Zoom Bible Study** on December 28, 2020.

**No Zoom Adult Education** on December 30, 2020.

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



### **Giving Tree 2020**

Thank you for your generous participation.



*Church offices will be closed on Thursday, December 31 and on Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the Holidays.*



### **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.

**First Sunday Food Collection** will be Sunday, January 3, 2021 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

This month we are in need of the following:

Canned Chicken Tuna and Hamburger Helper Canned Corn Rice Mixes like Knorr or Zatarain's Cocoa Packets Pancake Mix Cereal (children's)	Canned Tuna Canned Fruit, Applesauce Canned Green Beans Jelly Pancake Syrup Prepared Meals like Chef-Boyardee
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Thank you for supporting our food collection and distribution projects.

**To our Congregation** I would like to provide Jon with some constructive feedback on an annual basis in the form of an evaluation. I would like you to give me feedback on his performance to give the Personnel Committee guidance on any issues of which you are aware. You can email me or call me as listed below. I would like to let him know both where he is performing well and where he can improve. Anything you write and send to me will be kept confidential within the Personnel Committee. Thank you all, John N. Childs at 330-253-1946  
[jnchilds@bmdllc.com](mailto:jnchilds@bmdllc.com)

**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>

**CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of  
December 27, 2020 – January 2, 2021**

**Sunday, 12/27**

10:30 am    Worship Service on  
Facebook Live

**Wednesday, 12/30**

9:30 am    Zoom Staff Meeting

**Thursday, 12/31 - New Year's Eve**

Offices closed

**Friday, 1/1 - Happy New Year!**

Offices closed

**Saturday 1/2**

8:00 am    Food For Life in the Kitchen

**Year-End Gifts and Contributions** Just a reminder that your year-end gifts must be physically delivered to the Finance Office or postmarked on or before December 31, 2020 to be included on your 2020 Giving Statement according to IRS regulations regarding tax deductions allowable in a specific year. Because the church offices are closed on December 31, we will need all contributions by **2:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 30**. Thank you for your generous support of Westminster Presbyterian Church during 2020.

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.



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