



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024 • 8:00 P.M.

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

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 GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

### ORGAN PRELUDE

Fanfare on “O Come All Ye Faithful”	Fey
Jazz Prelude on “In the Bleak Midwinter”	Utterback
O Little Town of Bethlehem	arr. Phillips
Joy to the World	arr. Fey
Meditation on “The First Noel”	Fey

### PASTORAL GREETING

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\* Please rise in body or spirit.  
The people’s responses are in **bold type**.

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

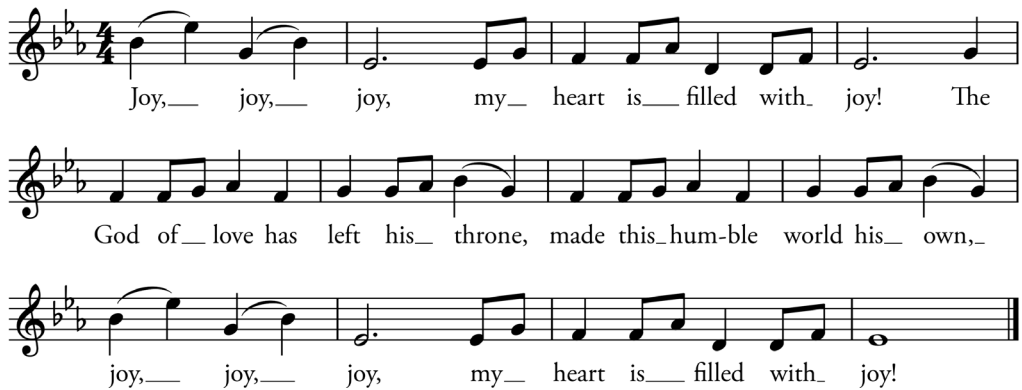
Pastors John Morgan and Pam Hrcir

Tonight we light the Christ Candle, for God is with us! Hope is with us, Peace is with us, Joy is with us, and Love is with us, for God is here and God is in everything including in you. You are a blessing, it is what God said. If you hear nothing else, hear this: you are a blessing. For our creating God breathed life into your being and made you a creator too. In lighting the Christ candle, we recognize that God came to be like us, to be human, to face our struggles and for that reason God knows us fully and loves us just as we are, each and every one. And God does not hear our rebuttles of this fact, we are a blessing. On this Christmas Eve may we breathe that in.

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Still, Still, Still

STILL, STILL, STILL



Joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy! The  
 God of love has left his throne, made this humble world his own,  
 joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy!

**PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)**

Loving God, we offer our thanks for the gift of love born to us on this most joyous night. Like the shepherds, let us approach the manger with wonder and awe. Like the magi, let us come with grateful hearts. And let us open our hearts to receive the good news of which the angels sang. On this most holy night, we offer our prayers for peace in our world. Help us to make peace possible as we follow in the footsteps of the maker of peace who came to us as a babe in Bethlehem. Amen.

# THE WORD

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

## \*HYMN NO. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 2:1–20

## SERMON

*Those Who Walked in Darkness*

Rev. John E. Morgan

## \*HYMN NO. 147

The First Nowell

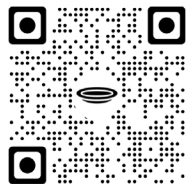
THE FIRST NOWELL

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

## OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us share God's love with our neighbors all over the world. Offering envelopes can be found inside the friendship register book. We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in any of the following ways:

- Place your offering in the plates as you exit the sanctuary.
- Give online at [mywpc.org/offering](http://mywpc.org/offering) or scan the QR code at the right.
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.



**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Away in a Manger

arr. Molly Ijames

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed;  
 The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
 The stars in the sky looked down where he lay;  
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
 But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
 I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
 And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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.  
 Amen.

**\*DOXOLOGY**

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come one and all to own him.

The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

**Leader:** God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. In Christ was life and the life was the light of all people.

**People:** **The light shines in the darkness; and the darkness has never been able to put it out. That was the true light, which enlightens everyone that comes into the world. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; those who follow me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.”**

## LIGHTING OUR CANDLES FROM THE CHRIST CANDLE

*When lighting candles, please hold the lit candle upright*

**HYMN**

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

*Please remain seated*

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!

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

*Please extinguish your candle*

**\*HYMN NO. 134**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Harmon

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**∞ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ∞**

The chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God  
by Dr. John M. Pitman III and Mrs. Mary Bissell Pittman,  
Second Lieutenant John M. Pittman IV, Annamaria Pittman, and Bert Pittman,  
in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. John M. Pittman Jr., Rev. F. W. Pittman,  
John M. Pittman Sr., Catherine P. Pittman, Mary Sue Pittman Aldrich,  
Mary L. Pittman, Ella Pittman Jones, and Lawrence C. Pittman.

**∞ THIS SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ∞**

**The First Sunday of Christmas • December 29, 2024**

*Please join us for a service of Lessons and Carols*

The 9:30 a.m. service is livestreamed on [mywpc.org](http://mywpc.org).  
The 11:00 a.m. service is broadcast on FM 93.5 “The Burg” and AM 740.

≈ **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS EVENING** ≈

**PASTORS**

John E. Morgan, Pastor  
Pam Hrcncir, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries  
Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music  
The WPC Chancel Choir

**GREETER**

Rebecca Caprio

**USHERS**

Matthew Underwood, Pat Underwood, JD Due, Shanna Due,  
Rick Murray, Pat Murray, David Littell, and Megan Davis

**AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIAN**

John Schoenberger

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≈ **A FEW NOTES** ≈

**If you are joining us online**, please let us know through our online friendship register at [mywpc.org/friendship](http://mywpc.org/friendship).



**Children are welcome at WPC!** We have children's worship bags and sensory objects available to be borrowed while in the building. Please ask an usher if you need assistance in locating anything. And relax—God put the wiggle in children, so don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

# Merry Christmas

*Welcome to Williamsburg Presbyterian Church!*

*Thank you for joining us in worship.*

*Your presence with us this evening is a blessing.*



**Williamsburg Presbyterian Church**

215 Richmond Rd | Williamsburg, VA | [mywpc.org](http://mywpc.org) | 757.229.4235