



# WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

### 8:00PM • DECEMBER 24, 2025

## 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

Canonic Variations on *Vom Himmel Hoch*

J. S. Bach

#### PASTORAL GREETING

#### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

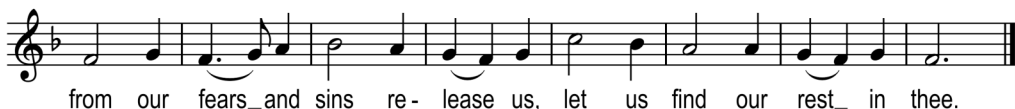
Rev. Pam Hrcir and Rev. John E. Morgan

Leader: We call this candle Hope. We call this candle Peace. We call this candle Joy. We call this candle Love. We light tonight the Christ candle because in Jesus Christ the light of God has come into the world.

#### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL



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



Our sanctuary is equipped with a T-coil hearing loop. Look for the blue sticker on the pews.

## PRAYER OF ADORATION (Unison)

**All:** 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.

### \*HYMN 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him,  
born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God,  
Light from light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
very God, begotten, not created!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels;  
sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all  
glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

## THE WORD

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** *Isaiah 9:2-7*

**\*HYMN 115**

*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 bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
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.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING:** *Luke 2:1-20*

**SERMON**

*"God in the Flesh"*

Rev. John E. Morgan

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

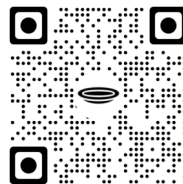
This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought. (Refrain)

## OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ 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 one of the following ways:



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

## OFFERTORY

### O Holy Night

arr. John Behnke

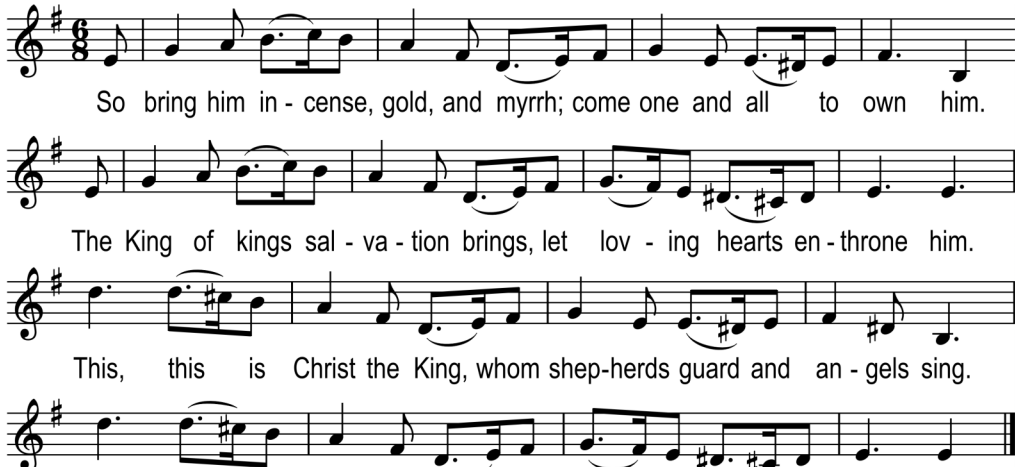
O holy night! The stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope—the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is just and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise his holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

## \*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.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!

## \*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 134**

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

**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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

## **\*BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

Festive Overture on *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Lehenbauer

The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer. You may remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly and without disturbing those who choose to stay.

## **THIS EVENING'S MUSIC**

This evening's organ music features the Canonic Variations on *Vom Himmel Hoch*. The English translation of the hymn, entitled "From Heaven Above, To Earth I Come", can be found on page 111 in the pew hymnal. Bach composed a series of five variations of increasing musical complexity. The first variation opens with a descending scale in the right hand, representing Christ's coming among us. The left hand plays the identical musical line throughout the entire piece, slightly delayed, while the melody appears in the pedal line. The second variation is of similar style, with the left hand mirrors the right hand but starting on a different note. By the fifth variation, the melody appears in all voices in a variety of decorations including inverted (upside down). The closing flourish features six independent musical lines wrapping around Bach's signature motif, spelling his name (B-A-C-H) in the last measure. Bach's genius shines in making this mind-bending composition joyful and appropriate for the season. Want to know how to spell B-A-C-H on a keyboard? Or see the various musical lines interweaving? Consult our organist or watch the clever YouTube video entitled "Vom Himmel Hoch (Deconstruction)".



## ∞ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ∞

The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
by Dr. John M. Pitman III, Second Lieutenant John M. Pittman IV,  
Annamaria Pittman, Bert Pitman and Mrs. Mary Bissell 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.

## ∞ THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS EVENING ∞

### PASTORS • CANDLE LIGHTERS

John E. Morgan, Pastor  
Pam Hrcir, Associate Pastor

### MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries  
Norman Elton, Organist  
Chancel Choir

### GREETERS

Cherie Wodarski, Rebecca Caprio

### USHERS

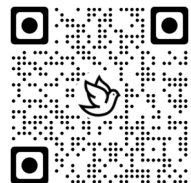
Shanna Due, JD Due, Sam Due, John Due, David Littell, Tom Moul, Joan Seamon

### AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIAN

John Schoenberger

## ∞ 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



**WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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