



LIGHT *of* COMFORT *COME!*

**WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2023**

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Hank Vernon

PRELUDE

Patapan

arr. Biery

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE

Deana, Matt and Elliot Sun

We gather bringing the light of love.

At crowded tables, and alone in a wilderness
From hallelujahs, to heartwarming yet heavy hugs
With the twinge of leaving, and the joyful return

We gather, here.

Our world is broken, but each of us is a person of love.
Part of the people of the God called Love
People called to share love with others.
Even as we each seek for God's love to carry us

*To all who are able, please stand as we offer God thanks and praise.
Bold type face indicates that the congregation participates in word or song.

We gather with love,
 Love which makes our hearts beat strong
 Love which keeps us healing the deepest wounds
 Even those which cross the divide between this world and the next
 Love that whispers: "Here I am" in the silent stillness
 So we gather to light a candle, because this might be the spark we need:
 Love, here, with us.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Advent Carol

Beth Kenreich



Love, love! Hear the good news: Je-sus our Sav-ior brings love_ to you.

Love, love! Hear the good news: Je-sus our Sav-ior brings love_ to you.

PRAYER OF ADORATION (Unison)

Like pregnant Mary, we feel something stir within us a sense of wonder at the starlit sky, a feeling of love for our families, a twinge of joy as we find the gift that expresses our deepest appreciation, a sudden stillness when we sense your divine Presence. O God, help us be attentive to the rise of hope within us, bidding us to action. Amen.

*HYMN 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten
 Stanzas 1-5

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

1 Of the Father's love begotten,
 ere the worlds began to be,
 he is Alpha and Omega;
 he the source, the ending he,
 of the things that are, that have been,
 and that future years shall see,
 evermore and evermore!

2 By his Word was all created;
 he commanded; it was done:
 heaven and earth and depths of ocean,
 universe of three in one,
 all that sees the moon's soft shining,
 all that breathes beneath the sun,
 evermore and evermore!

3 O, that birth forever blessed
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

4 This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected.
Let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!

5 O ye heights of heaven, adore him.
Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent;
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: Let us confess our sins to the One whose mercy endures from generation to generation.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

God of peace, who sent light into the world in the coming of Jesus Christ: We confess that we have not followed the light given to us. We have not searched for signs of your love, or trusted the goodness of your good news. We have failed to praise your Son's birth as we have refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires so we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

KYRIEIt Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long;___
 be - neath the heav'n - ly hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;___
 and we at war__ on earth hear not the tid - ings that__ they bring;___
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife, and hear the an - gels sing!___

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.

GLORIAOf the Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Stanzas 1-5

Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,
 hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un - end - ing prais - es be.
 Hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - - - ion,
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!___

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Astonishing God, send your Holy Spirit upon us as we await the coming of your Son. Fill us with good things that we may conceive your reign on earth and glorify you according to your Word; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Luke 1:26-28*

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

PSALM 128 (Unison)

Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.
Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.
May you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel!

SECOND LESSON: *Luke 1:47-55*

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

SERMON

“Magnify the Lord”

Rev. John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 100**

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM A DECLARATION OF FAITH** (Unison)

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child.

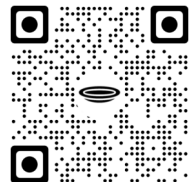
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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.

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 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**Away in a Manger**

arr. Mack Wilberg

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 baby awakes,
 But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
 I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
 And stay by my cradle till 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.

DOXOLOGYIn 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.

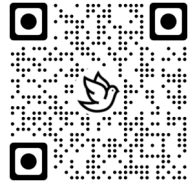
***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

*INVITATION AND THE LORD'S DAY GREETING

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. If you are joining us online, please remember to 'sign' our online friendship register:

- Click on the *Welcome to WPC!* Click here to sign the Friendship Register banner at the top of the website page
- Visit mywpc.org/friendship or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



*HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 born that we no more may die,
 born to raise us from the earth,
 born to give us second birth.
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn king!"

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

For lo, the days are has-tening on, by pro - phets seen of old,___
 when with the ev - er cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,___
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,___
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing. ___

POSTLUDE

Masters in This Hall

arr. Dixon

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.

∞ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ∞

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

∞ THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ∞

PASTORS

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff

Pam Hrcir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

Deana, Matt and Elliot Sun

LITURGIST

Hank Vernon

GREETER

9:30am Jay Hardy

USHERS

9:30am Nick Nicastro, Anne Nicastro, Rick Murray, Pat Murray

***WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Godwin and Sylvia Jones

***WINDSOR MEADE USHER**

Paul Hotinger

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Dick Sahlen and John Schoenberger

*Satellite campuses

↻ WPC Elders & Deacons ↻

SESSION: CLASSES OF 2024, 2025, 2026

Moderator: John E. Morgan Clerk of Session: Diane Schwarz

Administration: Faith Shartzler* (25), Sarah Houghland (25), Margie Newcomer (26), Jaynelle Oehler (24), Larry Pully (26)

Christian Education: Sallie McLain* (25), Kelly Kirkpatrick (26), JD Due (26)

Christian Outreach: Kay Allen* (24), Karen McKee (24)

Communications: Laura Hild* (24), Martha Squire (24)

Endowment Committee: Al Thomas* (25), Jim Austin (26), Joseph Kinard (26), Martha Squire (24), Hank Vernon (25)

Facilities: Dale Trowbridge* (25), Jerry Howell (26)

Resources: Tommy Michaels* (24), Elaine McBeth (25), Jay Eaton (26)

Worship: Jim Winthrop* (25)

**Moderator*

BOARD OF DEACONS: CLASSES OF 2024, 2025, 2026

Moderator: Janie Moyers (24) **Vice-Moderator:** Cooper Perry (25)

Pastoral Advisor: Pam Hrcir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

Secretary: Jo Ann Youhas (25)

Care Teams

Extra Care: Margie Ambrose (24), Jennifer LaDow (26), Lee Saxton (26)

Grief: Copper Perry (25) Dave Littell (25)

Welcoming a Child, Illness, Surgery, Hospice (WISH): Linda Eichhorn (24), Harold Herring (25)

Brookdale and Other Asst. Living: Robin Sabo (26)

Patriot's Colony: Sue Rennagel (25)

Williamsburg Landing: Joane Bozek (24) Doris Gilfillan(26)

Windsor Meade: Shirley Randolph (24), Happy Simmons (25)

Ministry Teams

Celebrations and Concerns: Dougie Winthrop (24), Phoebe Williams (24), Sarah Horner (25)

Christian Fellowship: Happy Simmons (25), Sue Rennagel (25), Nate Green (24), Emily Krogh (24), Sarah Dulaney (25)

Flower Sharing: Joane Bozek (24), Laura Bechtler (25): Leigh Salud (26), Carol Thomas (26)

New Member: Nancy Archibald (24), Deborah Rockafellow (25), Eric Beckhusen (26), Martha Burian (26)

Memorial Receptions: Nancy Moseley (24), Jo Ann Youhas (25), Janie Moyers (24), Rebecca Caprio (26)

Memorial Services: Terry Backus (24), Lynn Newcomer (24), Nancy Miller (24), Duncan McIver (26)

↻ SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ↻

- **Stephen Ministry offers help, hope, healing:** Are you going through a difficult time? A Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through difficult times or crisis. To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister's confidential care, please contact pastor Pam Hrcir (phrcir@mywpc.org). Learn more about this ministry at mywpc.org/stephen.
- **In need of one-on-one prayer?** After the 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday morning services, a Stephen Minister will be available in the Church Library to talk and pray with you. No need to sign up. All interactions and conversations with a Stephen Minister are confidential.
- **Monthly grief support group** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in room 220 on the second level. During this meeting we check in with one another and occasionally watch videos about a specific grief topic. All are welcome to attend.

↻ PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ↻

To share a joy or concern, please visit www.mywpc.org, select GET CARE on the menu bar, then PRAYER REQUEST from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click SEND REQUEST on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will be shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office (757) 229-4235 with your request. The Prayer Chain Coordinator is: Jo Ann Youhas (handbellringer@cox.net). Please notify Jo Ann when you would like to remove your name from the prayer chain.

If you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request, please contact the Pastor-on-Call listed below for this week. To reach a Pastor during the week, please call the church office.

Sunday, December 24 – Saturday, December 30

Pastor Pam Hrcir • phrcir@mywpc.org • 757-508-4668

Please pray for:

- Peace for Nancy (Tom) Moul's brother, Richard Friese, who is declining with brain cancer, Carol McNeel, Melissa Flaherty, daughter of WPC members Linda and Dick Poinsett, Jean Hibbard, Bob Siclari, Ellie Thuermer, Stephen Custer, Jean Young.
- Those who have recently lost loved ones, those recovering from various surgeries and our sick and shut-ins who are at home or facility bound.
- Those serving our country in the military services and their families.
- Those affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine.

🎀 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🎀

- **THANK YOU** to all who donated poinsettias which makes it possible to enhance our worship experiences. They may be picked up AFTER the 8:00pm Christmas Eve service or during the week. Please cross your name off the list on the chancel steps when you get your poinsettia and kindly leave the plastic saucers.
- **New this year, we are offering poinsettia's to WPC members who would like to deliver one or two to someone special.** Please feel free to stop by the church, **Tuesday, December 26 or Wednesday, December 27 between the hours of 10am – 2pm.** Deacons will be on board to assist you bring them to your car.
- **Presbyterian Men's Fellowship Meeting, 8am Saturday, January 6, 2024:** On Saturday, January 6, our Presbyterian Men's Fellowship will have Gerry Ward, Certified Financial Planner with Anchor Investment Management, and Hank Vernon Jr, retired CFP and PMF's program chair, for a joint presentation titled "*Financial Planning for Grandparents.*" As we start 2024, Gerry and Hank will share their expertise by presenting ideas to consider in setting up a workable plan to instill financial responsibility in our grandchildren and children. If you are interested in learning ways to mentor financially responsible grandchildren, you won't want to miss this highly informative and entertaining program. Plan now to attend and join Gerry and Hank for breakfast. Also, it promises to be an excellent opportunity to get up-to-date on the latest thinking in financial planning.

The meeting begins at 8:00am in Stevenson Hall with fellowship and breakfast. All men and women of the Williamsburg community and guests are welcome. There is a time for fellowship, a delicious catered breakfast, and a hymn sing. Please make your reservations by Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at the church Welcome Center, or online, so that we can have enough food for all. **A donation of \$10.00 will be requested at the breakfast.**

- **Open flower dates in 2024: Three Sundays in 2024 are available to donate flowers for worship.** They are February 4, November 3 and December 29. The Flower Calendar is in the back of Stevenson Hall. If interested, put your name and contact information on the calendar and let *Ruth Cobb know.
- **The WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 2 pm** in the WPC Library (and on Zoom) to discuss *Demon Copperhead*, by Barbara Kingsolver.
- **Summer Meals for Kids: New WPC Coordinator Needed.** After 6 years of devoted service, Hazel Whitney must step aside from leading WPC in this critical community program. Is it your next call? Consider serving to:
 - Coordinate with Meals on Wheels & partner churches.
 - Organize weekly WPC volunteers using Sign-up Genius.
 - Participate on Hunger & Homeless Outreach Team

Interested? Contact *Jim Kirkpatrick to volunteer or for more information.

***Contact information can be found in our online directory.**

You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.

More information about the events and announcements listed above can be found on our website at mywpc.org/news/ or on the church calendar.

∞ THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ∞

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE

9:30am *4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service / Sanctuary
11:00am *Christmas Eve Family Service and Pageant / Sanctuary
8:00pm *Candlelight Service / Sanctuary
**Services will be lived streamed.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

The Church Office is Closed for the Christmas Holiday.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

The Church Office is Closed for the Christmas Holiday.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

The Church Office opens.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

∞ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ∞

December 31, 2023

Please join us for a service of Lessons and Carols.

*9:30am service is live-streamed on mywpc.org. **11:00am service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740