

LIGHT *of* COMFORT *come!*



WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE • DECEMBER 24, 2023 • 11AM

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

HARP PRELUDE

Christmas Selections for Harp

Sydney Harris

PASTORAL GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Amy Beckhusen, Scott Challener, Gabe and Annie Challener

We gather bringing the light of love.

A Love that is more than romance

A Love that is more than concern and care

A Love which warms us even in the fog of our coldest breath

We gather, here.

Our world wants love to be easy, to be sweet like candy

But we are people of Love

Called to share Love with others

(Liturgy continues on the next page)

*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.

Even as we need God's love to help us through
We gather with Love,
And Love points us to be brave
Love points us back to what matters
Love comes from God, is of God, and IS God.
God loves you, and so do I.
So we gather to light two candles, because each is the spark we need:
Love, here, with us.
God, 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)

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.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Please note: Each scene will include a narration, a reading, children's pantomime, and end with congregational song.

Scene 1

WELCOME TO THE STORY

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

(Please remain seated)

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!

Scene 2

MARY RECEIVES GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HYMN

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

(Please remain seated)

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Scene 3

JOSEPH RECEIVED GOD'S PEACE

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

(Please remain seated)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

(Hymn continued on the next page)

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Scene 4

JOSEPH AND MARY TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

(Please remain seated)

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

Scene 5
THE INN KEEPER TAKES MERCY ON THE COUPLE

HYMN

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

(Please remain seated)

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid 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 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.**

Scene 6
THE SHEPHERDS ARE BLESSED

HYMN

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

(Please remain seated)

**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

Scene 7
WISE MEN SEEK GOD'S GIFT

HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

(Please remain seated)

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.**

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

Scene 8
GOD'S LIGHT LEADS US ALL

***HYMN**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

(Please stand)

**Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing. (Repeat)**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all our songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy. (Repeat)**

**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. (Repeat)**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love. (Repeat)**

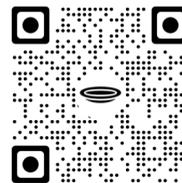
MESSAGE

"Dancing at the Manger"

Rev. John E. Morgan

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

The Angels were Singing

Greg Gilpin

WPC Children and Youth

The angels were singing a jubilant strain.
The heavens were ringing; earth caught the refrain.

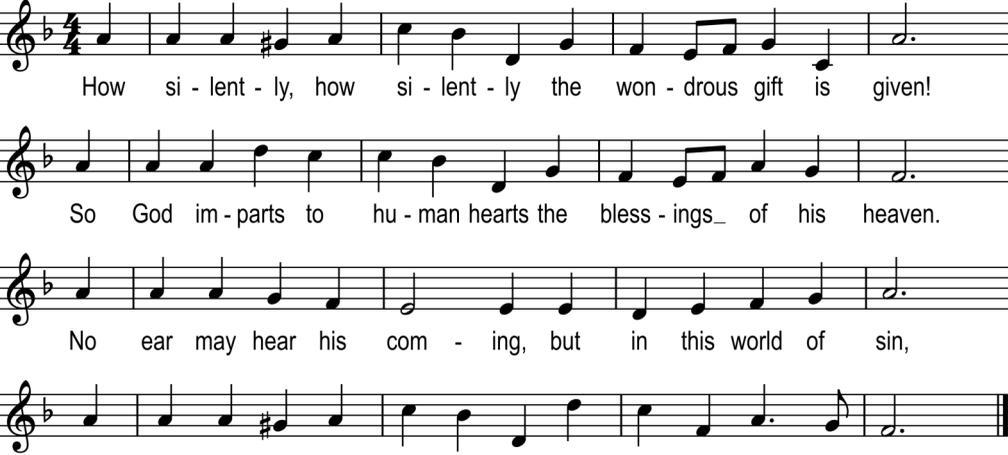
The angels were singing,
good news they did bring:
in Bethlehem stable, a baby, a king!

How joyous they're singing of peace and goodwill,
and Christmas is bringing
that song to us still!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*DOXOLOGY

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS



How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings_ of his heaven.
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CHRISTMAS PRAYER

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

(Please turn your candle on.)

HYMN

Silent 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**

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

arr. Chapman

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 Aldridge, Mary L. Pitman, Ella Pitman Jones,
Lawrence C. Pitman, Mary Phillips Pitman 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 THIS MORNING ∞

PASTORS

John E. Morgan, Pastor

Pam Hrcir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

MUSIC MINISTRY

Rebecca Elton, Pageant Director and Director of Carol and Junior Choirs

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries

Norman Elton, Organist and Director of Westminster Ringers

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sydney Harris, Harpist

WPC Children and Youth

GREETERS

Laura Osman, Ann Schulte

USHERS

Jeri Hardy, Gary Davis, Jodie Davis, Megan Davis

CANDLE LIGHTERS

Amy Beckhusen, Scott Challener, Gabe and Annie Challener

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIAN

John Schoenberger

∞ SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ∞

1st Sunday of Christmas • December 31, 2023

Please join us for a Lessons and Carols Service.

***9:30am service is live-streamed on mywpc.org.**

****11:00am service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740**



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❧ **WORDS OF WELCOME AND INFORMATION** ❧

- **Welcome to Williamsburg Presbyterian Church!** Any Usher (designated with a name tag) will be glad to answer your questions, help you find your way around, or help you find ways to connect with the ministries and people in this community of faith. Please feel free to ask an usher for large-print worship bulletins, directions to the restrooms, coat racks or access ramps.
- **If you would like more information about WPC,** please visit the church website at mywpc.org and subscribe to receive news from the church office via email.
- **For those of you with a T-coil option** installed in your hearing aid, our sanctuary includes two loop systems allowing you to better understand the spoken word. Although you may find adequate reception in many pew seating locations on the main floor, the highest signal levels will be between the two lines shown in the photo (4th-6th rows) and extends from the center aisle to the pew divider in each row.
- **The Christian Education Ministry provides worship bags for children to use during the worship service.** You will find them hanging on a rack outside the side door to the sanctuary. The worship bags include information, activities, books, worship bulletins, and family supplements to help connect children and families with the story of Christmas and God with Us. These bags also include manipulatives which help children connect to other parts of the service such as music, the confession, and prayers at a level they can understand. Please return the worship bags after the service.