

# WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

### DECEMBER 31, 2023

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## PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Holy God of Light, we welcome the Christ-child into the world. In him we hear the echoes of the prophets of old and foresee his acts that will change the world forevermore. Amen.

## THE GATHERING

### PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

#### PASTORAL GREETING AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

#### PRELUDE

Variations on *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Taylor

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It is the season of Christmastide during which we speak of love.

**All: We speak of joy.**

Leader: We speak of peace and hope.

**All: We speak of candlelight and fireside.**

Leader: We speak of dreams and possibilities.

**All: We speak of “glorias” and angel choruses.**

Leader: We speak the words “Do not be afraid”.

**All: During Christmastide, we share the mystery of Christmas to bring light into the world.**

Leader: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

**All: Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of the faithful as we worship and continue to experience the mystery of Christmas, the mystery of God born as a babe in a manger to bring peace, joy, love and hope to all of creation.**

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\*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.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Merciful God, we confess that during this Christmas season we become distracted with gift giving and celebrations. We lose sight of the incredible act of love born in a manger. As we enjoy abundance, we confess that we have not taken care of those in need; we turn our heads to the ways of injustice and we hurt others and harm ourselves. Loving God, in your mercy, forgive us.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Hear the good news. God pours out the Spirit richly upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, through grace, we might encounter the powerful and transforming truth of God incarnate. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**BIDDING PRAYER** (Unison)

Divine Voice, in the beginning, it was you who spoke over the water and brought forth creation. And then it was you who asked, “Cain, where is your brother?” It was you who spoke to Elijah in a still, small, voice. And it was you, through angels, who spoke to Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. You have always been speaking—in words, in memories, in songs, and in dreams. We come to you today, asking for the strength to join our voices to yours. Open our ears to hear the voices of those crying out. Open our mouths to speak aloud your dream for this world. We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.

## FIRST LESSON AND CAROL

**GENESIS 1:1-5**

1 <sup>1</sup>When God began to create the heavens and the earth— <sup>2</sup>the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters— <sup>3</sup>God said, “Let there be light.” And so light appeared. <sup>4</sup>God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God named the light Day and the darkness Night. There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

## JOHN 1:1-5,14

In the beginning was the Word  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> The Word was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Everything came into being through the Word,  
and without the Word  
nothing came into being.

What came into being

<sup>4</sup> through the Word was life,  
and the life was the light for all people.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh  
and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,  
glory like that of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.

## CAROL — HYMN 123

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

*Stanza 1 - all*

*Stanza 2 - left side (piano side)*

*Stanza 3 - all*

*Stanza 4 - right side (pulpit side)*

*Stanza 5 - all*

## SECOND LESSON AND CAROL

### ISAIAH 61:1-3

The LORD God's spirit is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me.

He has sent me

to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim release for captives,  
and liberation for prisoners,

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and a day of vindication for our God,

to comfort all who mourn,  
3 to provide for Zion's mourners,  
to give them a crown in place of ashes,  
oil of joy in place of mourning,  
a mantle of praise in place of discouragement.  
They will be called Oaks of Righteousness,  
planted by the LORD to glorify himself.

## LUKE 4:16-21

<sup>16</sup> Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the prisoners  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to liberate the oppressed,*

<sup>19</sup> *and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

<sup>20</sup> He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

CAROL — HYMN 145

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

## THIRD LESSON AND CAROL

### ISAIAH 11:1-9

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

## **Matthew 3:1-7, 11**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

CAROL — HYMN

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentleman*

GOD REST YOU MERRY

1. God rest ye mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let no - thing you dis - may,  
 2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came,  
 3. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas Day  
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same;  
 and in true love and fel - low - ship each oth - er now em - brace;

to save us all from Sa - tan's thrall when we were gone a - stray,  
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas is filled with heav'n - ly grace.

*Refrain*

O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy;

O ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

## FOURTH LESSON AND CAROL

### MICAH 5:2-4

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

### MATTHEW 4:12-17

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. <sup>14</sup> This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

<sup>15</sup> *Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,*

*alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles,*

<sup>16</sup> *the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light,*

*and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in shadow of death.*

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to announce, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!"

**HOMILY**

*The New Story*

Rev. Pam Hrcirc

**\*CAROL — HYMN 121**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Responsive):

Leader: We believe in telling the story

**All: The story of a loving and merciful God, who will not let God's people go; the story of a baby who grew up and changed the world; the story of our faith.**

Leader: We believe in living the story

**All: By by welcoming all into our community life; by loving our families, our friends, and even those we do not know or do not like; by comforting the sick, the lonely, the grieving.**

Leader: We believe in becoming the story

**All: By praying, by worshiping, by studying the Word, by serving, by listening, speaking.**

Leader: We believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**All: We believe the good news is too good to keep to ourselves. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## FIFTH LESSON AND CAROL

### ISAIAH 43:1-3

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

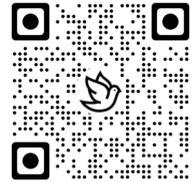
<sup>3</sup>For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

### MATTHEW 22:34-40

<sup>34</sup> When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup> and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” <sup>37</sup> He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

## 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.

## \*CAROL — HYMN 144

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

CRANHAM

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

# SIXTH LESSON AND CAROL

## JOEL 2:28-29

The Lord said

<sup>8</sup>“Then afterward

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup>Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

## MATTHEW 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## CAROL — HYMN 151

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

*Stanza 1 - all*

*Stanza 2 - higher voices (those who normally sing soprano or alto)*

*Stanza 3 - all*

*Stanza 4 - lower voices (those who normally sing tenor or bass)*

*Stanza 5 - all*

## SEVENTH LESSON AND CAROL

### ISAIAH 40:28-29, 42: 16

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>16</sup> I will lead the blind  
by a road they do not know;  
by paths they have not known  
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I will do,  
and I will not forsake them.

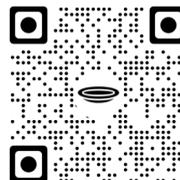
## REVELATION 22:12, 16-17, 20

<sup>12</sup>“Look! I’m coming soon. My reward is with me, to repay all people as their actions deserve. <sup>16</sup>“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to bear witness to all of you about these things for the churches. I’m the root and descendant of David, the bright morning star. <sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let the one who is thirsty come! Let the one who wishes receive life-giving water as a gift.” <sup>20</sup>The one who bears witness to these things says, “Yes, I’m coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

### \*INVITATION AND THE LORD’S DAY GREETING

We are glad you are worshiping 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](http://mywpc.org/friendship) or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



\*CAROL — HYMN 136

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Toccata on Joy To The World*

Phillips

The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer.

### 🌀 THE CHANCEL FLOWERS 🌀

The Chancel Flowers are given today to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, John David Chambers by Kathy Chambers.

∞ THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ∞

**PASTOR**

Pam Hrcncir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

**ASSISTING THE PASTOR**

Elder Elaine MacBeth

Elder Tom Bozek

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries

Norman Elton, Organist

**SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN**

Adrian Williams

**LITURGIST**

Jim Winthrop

**GREETER**

9:30am Karen Annoni

11:00am Ann Schulte, Ralph Simmons

**USHERS**

9:30am Tony Annoni, Pat Underwood, Matt Underwood, Dave Littell

11:00am Bob Bolstad, Nancy Rose, Maxine Cunningham, Kirk Lovenbury

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST**

Nate Green, Faith and Len Shartzler

**\*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Dick Sahlen

**\*WINDSOR MEADE USHER**

Paul Hotinger

**AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS:** Duncan McIver and John Schoenberger

\*Satellite campuses

## 🌀 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🌀

- Pastor John E. Morgan is spending time with family.
- **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/](http://mywpc.org/news/) or on the church calendar.**

☞ OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS ☞

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

- 9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit [mywpc.org](http://mywpc.org) to access  
10:30am Fellowship Coffee Hour / Stevenson Hall  
11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or [wmbgradio.com](http://wmbgradio.com)  
6:30pm Community of Faith Mission Emergency Shelter / Kitchen, Stevenson Hall, LL009-LL12

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1**

***Church Office is closed until Tuesday, January 2, 2024.***

- 1:00pm Caregivers Support Grp / Rm 123  
6:30pm Community of Faith Mission Emergency Shelter / Kitchen, Stevenson Hall, LL009-LL12

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 2**

- 1:00pm Staff Meeting / Zoom  
6:30pm Presbyterian Women's Circle 4 / Zoom  
6:30pm Community of Faith Mission Emergency Shelter / Kitchen, Stevenson Hall, LL009-LL12  
7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049  
7:00pm Earthcare Committee / 7:00pm

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3**

- 10:00am Monthly Grief Support Group / Rm 220  
6:30pm Community of Faith Mission Emergency Shelter / Kitchen, Stevenson Hall, LL009-LL12  
7:00pm Christian Fellowship Committee / Church Library

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 4**

- 9:00am Sanctuary closed for weekly cleaning  
9:30am Presbyterian Women's Circle 1 / Stevenson Hall  
4:30pm Carol and Junior Choir Rehearsals / Choir Rms  
6:30pm Community of Faith Mission Emergency Shelter / Kitchen, Stevenson Hall, LL009-LL12  
7:30pm The Squares Men's Bible Study / Rm 227

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 5**

- 6:30pm Community of Faith Mission Emergency Shelter / Kitchen, Stevenson Hall, LL009-LL12

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 6**

- 8:00am Presbyterian Men's Fellowship Breakfast / Stevenson Hall  
6:30pm Community of Faith Mission Emergency Shelter / Kitchen, Stevenson Hall, LL009-LL12

☞ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ☞

**JANUARY 7, 2023 - SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper will take place at all services.**

The sermon, "Have You Heard About the Holy Spirit" will be based on Acts 19:1-7.

**\*9:30am service is live-streamed on [mywpc.org](http://mywpc.org).**

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