

**Welcome to Worship** at Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church, located at 4950 W. Pratt Avenue in Skokie, Illinois.

Faith in Jesus Christ is the mark of a Christian and a disciple of Christ, and is therefore the only requirement for membership in this Church. Please prayerfully consider joining this family of faith - talk with our Pastor, and learn more by visiting us at [www.cwupc.org](http://www.cwupc.org) and on Facebook: Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church.

**Assisting us in worship today** are Jim Nadder; AJ Wester, alto and George Radosavljevic, piano; Pat Radosavljevic, Music Director; and Pastor Stuart Barnes Jamieson.

**The Session, Deacons, Trustees, Officers, and Staff of  
Carter - Westminster United Presbyterian Church**

**Session Ruling Elders:** Georgette Joseph, Carolyn Kapteyn, Najeba Badal, John Yonan, Elizabeth Brown, David Americus, Peter Ellyin, and Doris Nadder.

**Deacons:** Phyllis Boba, Irene Ellyin, Neena Ishu, Helen Oshona, Hilda Karam, and Shirley Rustemeyer.

**Trustees:** Donald Rustemeyer; Hugh McBride, Mac McClendon, and Robert Rustemeyer.

**Staff and Church Leaders:**

The Rev. Stuart Barnes Jamieson, Pastor

Clerk of Session - Georgette Joseph

Music Director and Organist - Pat Radosavljevic

Church Administrator - Anna Torgerson

Church Treasurer - John Yonan

Financial Secretary - Doris Nadder

*Becoming the Beloved Community*

**Carter - Westminster United  
Presbyterian Church**

*Gathered for Worship*

*Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.*

*Prepare  
the way  
of the  
LORD.*

**December 10, 2023**

Second Sunday of Advent

**Gathering in God's Name**

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Prelude

The Shepherds at the Manger  
George Radosavljevic, piano

Franz Liszt

Greeting, Welcome, and Announcements

One: The Lord be with you. All: And also with you.

\* Call to Worship

One: Wilderness living calls us to seek God in the voice that cries out,  
**All: “Valleys will be lifted up and mountains will be made low,”**  
One: to seek God in the sound of the one who speaks of peace,  
**All: “The day of the Lord is coming,”**  
One: to seek God in the loud noise that foretells what will be made new.  
**All: In the wilderness, let us listen only for God’s voice. Let us worship God!**

Advent Candle Lighting *The Americus Family*

\* Hymn (*see insert*) *Creator of the Stars of Night*

\* Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent. We have failed to share as we should. We have failed to honor the poor and the oppressed. We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation. Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts.**

Time of Silence for Personal Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

One: ...Believe the good news.  
**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Response: *Glory to God*

\* Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

*(Without leaving your seat, share the peace with those around you)*

## **Word Proclaimed**

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Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Mark 1:1-8 (p. 34)

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Time with Young Disciples

Second Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11 (p. 667)

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Meditation “Christmas Characters: John the Baptist and Wilderness Voices”

Affirmation of Faith (*see insert*)

\* Hymn #245 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns - Prayers of the People - The Lord’s Prayer

## **Thanksgiving**

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Time for Generosity

Offertory *Tiny Child* Carol Murray  
*The Chancel Choir*

\* Doxology # 815 “Praise God”

\* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

**Gracious God, accept these gifts in grateful response for your generosity. May these gifts bring joy to those most in need of Christ’s mission and ministry. Amen.**

## **Sending**

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\* Hymn #258 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: *Festival Intrada on Adeste Fideles* David Lasky  
*Pat Radosavljevic, organ*  
*(You are asked to remain seated for the Postlude)*

\* Going Forth  
*\*Please rise in body and/or in Spirit*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Portions of this service come from Rev. Teri McDowell Ott as published by “Presbyterian Outlook” and from “Call to Worship” published by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

The Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy was written by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett as part of her 2023 Advent Candle Liturgy for the “Presbyterian Outlook”.