

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 and on Facebook: Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church.

Assisting us in worship today are Helen Robles; Andrew Barnes Jamieson, piano; AJ Wester, Mezzo-soprano; 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.



December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude

Joy to the world
Andrew Barnes Jamieson

Greeting, Welcome, and Announcements

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

* Call to Worship

One: Do not be afraid. God is with us.
All: **Savior of the nations, come.**

* Hymn #249 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

Advent Candle Lighting *The Peng Family*

* Hymn *(see insert)* Creator of the Stars of Night *(all verses)* CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

* Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we anticipate the birth of our newborn savior. Yet we are depressed by the suffering and despair of our world. Our hearts grow hard with hopelessness. What reason is there to rejoice? We question your power and doubt our faith. Emmanuel, help us resist the overwhelming forces that drag us down. Lift our spirits so we can experience your transcendent presence and incarnate grace.

Solo "I Wonder as I Wander" John Jacob Niles
Andrew Barnes Jamieson, piano
AJ Wester, Mezzo-soprano

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)

Time with Young Disciples

Word Proclaimed

* Hymn #281 "What Child Is This?" GREENSLEEVES

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Luke 1:26-38 (p. 56-57)
One: The Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson: Luke 1:46-55 (p. 57)
One: The Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation Christmas Characters: Mary and "Letting it Be"

Sung Affirmation of Faith *(see insert)* "My Soul Cries Out"

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

Thanksgiving

Time for Generosity

Offertory "O, Holy Night" Adolphe Adam
Andrew Barnes Jamieson, piano
AJ Wester, Mezzo-soprano

* 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

* Hymn #270 Joy to the World ANTIOCH

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: Improvisation
Andrew Barnes Jamieson
(You are asked to remain seated for the Postlude)

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Portions of this service come from Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott as published by "Presbyterian Outlook".

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