

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 Anna Maria Virga; George Radosavljevic, piano and harpsichord; 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.



December 31, 2023

First Sunday of Christmas

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude Glory to God in the Highest Giovanni Battista Pergolesi
Pat Radosavljevic, organ

Greeting, Welcome, and Announcements

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

* Call to Worship

One: As the land is renewed each year and new crops sprout,
All: so the Lord God is restoring us.
One: We are transformed by God's glory and power,
All: God's revelation in a little child.
One: Salvation shall bring complete transformation.
**All: The Lord God is saving us. With our whole being
we rejoice in our God. Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #288 We Three Kings KINGS OF ORIENT

* Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share your love; times when we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; indifference to your claim on our whole lives through Jesus Christ; and a lack of gratitude for your amazing grace by which you save us and call us to be your people. Lord, forgive us. As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead. Show us how to be your children and your heirs, forgiven and freed to live for our God and for one another in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (p. 692)
One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Time with Young Disciples

Second Lesson: Luke 2:22-40 (p. 59)

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

Meditation "Waiting and Looking Forward"

Affirmation of Faith *(see insert)*

* Hymn #343 Amazing Grace AMAZING GRACE

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

Thanksgiving

Time for Generosity

Offertory Aria J.S. Bach
George Radosavljevic, harpsichord

* Doxology # 815 "Praise God"

* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Gracious and giving God, we give thanks to you for you are good. Your steadfast love endures forever. We thank you for the blessings of the past year and for how you have stood with us and guided us in difficult times. We give thanks that you will stand with us and guide us in the year to come. Bless these offerings that they may be used to your glory and in service to others in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Help us to have grateful hearts and to live as the joyful people of God; through Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all. Amen

Sending

* Hymn *(see insert)* Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child WONDERFUL CHILD

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: He is Born! French Carol arr. John Carter
Pat and George Radosavljevic, piano
(You are asked to remain seated for the Postlude)

* Going Forth

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