

Welcome to Worship on this Christmas Eve 2024

If you are new to the Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church community of faith, please accept our warmest welcome - especially on this most holy night. We invite you to come and worship here again - Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m.

Special Thanks to all of those assisting in worship this evening, including our greeters, and ushers; to our Advent Wreath lighters: Shirley, Judy, Don, and Bob Rustemeyer; to our readers: Peter Ellyin; Hilda Karam; Helen Robles; Mac McLendon; Jim Nadder, David, Michael, Joey & Alexis Americus; Heidi Musser; to our musicians: Elizabeth Brown, organ; Handbell Choir: Pastor Stuart Barnes-Jamieson, Elizabeth Brown, George Radosavljevic and Peter Ellyin; Section leaders: Jacqueline Piccolino, soprano; AJ Wester, alto, Zach Walz, bass and George Radosavljevic, piano; and to Pastor Stuart Barnes Jamieson

You are invited to worship with the Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church community every Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

Carter - Westminster United Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve 2024

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

5:00 PM

>Welcome to Worship on this Christmas Eve, and if you are a first-time visitor, please fill out a Visitors' Card, located on the table in the Narthex. Thank you.

Please be careful, later in this service, to dip the unlit candle into the flame of the lit candle. Please be mindful of those around you with your lit candle.

The Gathering

Prelude Vom Himmel Kam der Engel Schaar J.S. Bach
(To Shepherds as They Watched by Night)
Elizabeth Brown, Organ

A note from your music director on the Prelude:
This prelude is a type somewhat different from typical Bach chorale preludes. The rapid descending and ascending passages in the manuals symbolize the descending and ascending of the angels between heaven and earth at the time of Christ's birth. The pedal part suggests perhaps the shepherds moving up and down the hill to follow the flight of the angels." When I listen to this prelude, I imagine the shepherds out in the field on a cold, dark night.

Greeting, Welcome and Announcements

*Special Thanks to those who have
donated poinsettias
to beautify our Sanctuary for Christmas:*

- *Martin Aivaz*
- *Elizabeth Brown*
- *Rodney Esmael*
- In memory of **Norman & Violet Americus**
from the Americus Family
- In memory of **Don LaPato**
from the Americus Family
- In memory of **Fred Musser (Opa),**
from Erika Musser
- In memory of **Anita Nourai,**
from Helen Robles
- In celebration of Carter-Westminster Church,
from John Yonan

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.

*The Christmas Gospel Reading: John 1:14

*Hymn # 270

“Joy to the World!”

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Joy to the World
Pat and George Radosavljevic, piano

*Going Forth to a very Merry Christmas, and a New Year of Peace!

**Please rise in body and/or in spirit!*

* Call to Worship

One: What kind of hope can endure this world?

All: The hopes and fears of all the years are met right here
tonight

One: How can we speak peace when the world is at war?

All: Tonight, there will be heavenly peace and mercy mild; God
and sinners, reconciled.

One: Where is the joy of celebration
when so many are hungry and hurting?

All: All heaven and nature sing; the weary world rejoices.

One: When will love come and save us?

All: The wonders of God's love are made flesh tonight. The angels
sing “gloria,” and we have nothing to fear.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

Rustemeyer Family

We begin by singing together “Wait for the Lord”

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

90

Wait for the Lord

(Psalm 27)

Refrain

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

* Hymn # 249 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (*all verses*)

ADESTE FIDELES

The Lessons and Carols

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5 The Creation

Peter Ellyin

Hymn #245: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (*verses one & four*)

Second Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9 *A Shoot from Jesse*

Hilda Karam

"Our Lord, Emmanuel"

The Chancel Choir

with Jacqueline Piccolino, soloist

Hal H. Hopson

Third Lesson: Micah 5:2-4 *The Prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem*

Mac McLendon

* Hymn # 250: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (*verses 1 and 3*)

ST. LOUIS

Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary

Helen Robles

"O Come Little Children"

The CW Handbell Choir

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus

Jim Nadder

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

The Shepherds go to the manger - David, Michael, Joey, Alexis Americus

* Hymn # 277 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (*all verses*)

MENDELSSOHN

Call to Offering

Offering

Carols of the Night
The Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

* Doxology # 815

"Praise God"

OLD HUNDREDTH

* Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: Rejoicing in the birth
of Christ our Savior,
we give to God
what we first received from God,
the gifts of our lives. AMEN**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Light

Seventh Lesson: John 1:1-5

The Darkness to the Light

Heidi Musser

Distribution of the Light

Please remember to dip the unlit candle into the flame of the lit candle. Please be careful of those around you with your lit candle.

*Hymn # 253

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

STILLE NACHT

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 a-far.

Heaven-ly hosts sing: "Alleluia;

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

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.

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