

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

7:00 PM

December 24, 2016

CHRISTMAS EVE

All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice and bow down, acknowledging your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Special Music: **Sussex Carol** arr. Catherine Bennett
How Far Is It to Bethlehem arr. Parker/Shaw

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.

People: **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Leader: Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to all on whom his favor rests.

People: **Let us worship God.**

*Hymn: **O Come, All Ye Faithful** #133

*Prayer of Adoration:

Leader: Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people.**

Leader: Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives.

People: **Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

Leader: Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal.

All: **Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him! Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified! Amen.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubts, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

Time for Silent Confession

Response: **Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us**

**Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Anthem: **Star Carol** John Rutter

Prayer for Illumination:

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, and in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture: **John 8:2-11**
Sermon: **Beautiful to God**

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Solo: **O Holy Night** Adolphe Adam
Larry Walker, tenor

Scripture: **Micah 5:1-5a**
Hymn: **O Little Town of Bethlehem** #121
(verses 1 and 2)

Scripture: **Isaiah 62:6-12 and Isaiah 7:13-14**
Hymn: **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** #88
(verses 1 and 7)

Scripture: **Matthew 1:18-24** #124
Anthem: **Still, Still, Still** arr. Norman Luboff

Scripture: **Luke 2:1-7**
Hymn: **Away in a Manger** #115

Scripture: **Luke 2:8-20**
Hymn: **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** #119
(verse 1)

Scripture: **John 1:1-14** #113
Hymn: **Angels We Have Heard on High**
(verses 1 and 2)

*Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Christmas Eve Offering
*Offertory hymn: **Joy to the World** #134
(During the hymn the congregation is asked to bring their Christmas offering and place it in the bucket in front of the organ)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

RESPONSE: **What Child Is This** #145
(verse 1)

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

INSTITUTION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

RESPONSE: **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly** #128
(verse 1)

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!**

RESPONSE: **The First Nowell** #147
(verse 6)

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

RESPONSE: **Once in Royal David's City** #140
(verse 4)

**And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.

PRESENTING AND TAKING THE ELEMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: **And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: And forget not all God's benefits

All: Eternal God, as you led your people in ages past, you direct our journey into the future. We give you thanks that you came to us in Jesus Christ, and we eagerly await his coming again that his rule may be complete and your righteousness reign over all the world. Then we will feast at his royal banquet, and sing his praises with the choirs of heaven. But until that day, send us into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighting the Christmas Candles

*Hymn: *Silent Night, Holy Night* #122

Following the first verse of Silent Night, the congregation is asked to gather in the courtyard with lit candles for the sending.

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."
3. 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.
4. 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.

*Benediction

Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

Westminster Presbyterian Church exists to declare God's love for all through Jesus Christ, to nurture and encourage spiritual growth, to maintain the integrity of divine worship, and to share the love and joy found in Christ by giving ourselves to our community and to the world.

THE INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP at Westminster Church is always open to persons who wish to join us in witness and service to Jesus Christ. If you are interested in church membership or desire more information about this congregation, please indicate on the Friendship Pad or speak to the pastor, or one of the elders following the service.

THE SESSION

Class of 2016

Sue Atkins
Claire Bray
Ray Taylor
Patricia Thompson
Mark Turner

Class of 2017

Ken Deppisch
Chris Kline
Bennie Kitchens
Lisa Thompson
Jean Williams

Class of 2018

Bobbie Ann Anderson
Clarence Bahs
Deborah Dalton
Kristi Hachtel
Michele Peck

MINISTERS: All the Members of the Congregation

CHURCH STAFF:	Pastor	Steve Newton
	Director of Music	Deborah Dalton
	Organist	James Pitts
	Director of Christian Education	Jean Williams
	Nursery Coordinator	Myra McNellie
	Presbyterian Women Moderator	Marilyn Tutwiler
	Treasurer	Sue Atkins
	Secretary	Sally Newton
	Children's Choir Director	Elise Gavin
	Handbell Choir Director	Myra McNellie
	Newsletter Editor	Sally Newton

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: James Allums Dee Allums

Readers: Ron Anderson John Moore Sharon Templeman
 Bobbie Ann Anderson Robin Moore

Serving Communion: Dee Allums James Allums
 Ron Anderson Sharon Templeman
 David Ball

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Nacogdoches, Texas



**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2016
7:00 PM**