

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

7:00 PM

December 24, 2017

CHRISTMAS EVE

*The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."
~ Luke 2:10-11*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Leader: Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!

People: **This is the night of the Holy Birth!**

Leader: Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

People: **Open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.**

Leader: Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

People: **Christ, our Savior, is born! Hallelujah! Amen.**

*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:

Lord of Light and Hope, our minutes and hours have been swallowed up in preparation for this night and for the coming day. We have been so caught up in the preparations for gatherings and gifting that we have pushed aside the wonder of what you have done for all Creation. Forgive us when we so easily get entangled in our own plans and forget to pay attention to the true event. Help us to relax and listen, instead of rush and shout. May the songs of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds, and the joy of the Holy Family become part of our preparations and our lives. Remind us again of your never-changing love for us. Prepare us to serve you by serving others. This night we offer this prayer of our hearts to you, gracious God. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Response: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* #129, v. 3

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: Friends, there is enough love in the heart of God to forgive us all, to grant us all a new beginning, to surround us and encourage us all to move forward this day.

People: **Let us believe the Good News of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Anthem: *Sussex Carol* arr. Flummerfelt

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.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Anthem: *Before the Marvel of This Night* Carl Schalk

Scripture: Micah 5:1-5a Ron Anderson

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #121
verses 1 and 2

Scripture: Isaiah 62:6-12 and Isaiah 7:13-14 Bobbie Ann Anderson

Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #88
verses 1 and 7

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-24 Clarence Bahs

Hymn: *Still, Still, Still* #124

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 John Moore

Anthem: *Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head* arr. Flummerfelt

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20 Robin Moore

Anthem: *What Is This Lovely Fragrance* arr. Flummerfelt

Scripture: John 1:1-14 Steve Newton

Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High* #113
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: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* #119

(During the offertory 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, if the weather is so that we can, 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

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Dee Allums Sharon Templeman
James Allums

Liturgist: Lisa Thompson

Readers: Ron Anderson Bobbie Ann Anderson
Clarence Bahs John Moore
Robin Moore

Serving Communion: Dee Allums Lisa Thompson
James Allums John Moore
Sharon Templeman

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.

MINISTERS: All the Members of the Congregation

CHURCH STAFF:	Pastor	Steve Newton
	Associate Pastor	Jennifer Marshall
	Director of Music	Deborah Dalton
	Organist	James Pitts
	Nursery Coordinator	Myra McNellie
	Presbyterian Women Moderator	Sue Atkins
	Treasurer	Sue Atkins
	Secretary	Sally Newton
	Children's Choir Director	Elise Gavin
	Handbell Choir Director	Myra McNellie
	Newsletter Editor	Sally Newton
	Sunday School Coordinator and Youth Leader	Johnny Brown

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - Noon, Monday – Friday
Church Office Phone: 936-564-0203 Fax: 936-564-0204
Website: www.westpreschurch.com
E-mail: wpc4u@suddenlinkmail.com
903 North Street; Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

TODAY'S FLOWERS

The garlands and wreaths were placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God by Peggy Wright in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Wright, Elizabeth Wright Rinker, Steele and Geneva Wright, Joe and Helen Wright, Tom Wright, Dick Wright, and Ray Rinker.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Nacogdoches, Texas



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December 24, 2017**

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