

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Joliet, Illinois

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship and Communion

December 24, 2020

(YouTube Watch Party - 5:00 P.M.)

PRELUDE

“Still, Still, Still”

Durene Cartelli

***GATHERING HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!

(Refrain)

CALL TO WORSHIP

John 1:1-4, 14

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Mark Ballard

We rejoice in God’s steadfast presence in our lives, and in God’s unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth – born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago.

Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Nicole Crowder

Glorious God, we thank you for giving us the gift of Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, where there is hatred, give love, where there is sadness, give joy, where there is discord, give peace. Come Lord Jesus, be light for our darkness, for the hour of your birth is near. Come, Lord Jesus, be born in our hearts through faith. Glory to you in the highest, O God. Glory in the highest! Amen!

THE PROPHECY

Isaiah 9:1-7

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Dale and Linda Evans

Accompanied by Durene Cartelli

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

HYMN OF PRAISE

“The First Nowell”

The first Nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep, On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.

(Refrain)

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.

(Refrain)

A CHRISTMAS STORY

“The Christmas Pageant”

Matt Robinson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Dale Evans

HYMN

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven’s all gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation to Christ’s Table of Communion and Pardon
The Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration
Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

A CONCLUDING THANKSGIVING AND RE-COMMITMENT PRAYER

Empower us by your Spirit, O God, to be Christ's presence in the world even as Jesus was God-with-us. Give us courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, and to love with his love. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

PASSING THE LIGHT FROM THE CHRIST CANDLE

ANTHEM FOR LIGHT

"Silent Night"

Linda Jaskoviak

Accompanied by Kevin McGolgan

POSTLUDE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

BENEDICTION



If you have donated a poinsettia for the Sanctuary this Advent Season you may pick them up after worship this Sunday, December 27. Thank You.

Many Thanks to our Worship Team:

Paul Kraus - Music Director

Durene Cartelli - Organist

Audio Visual Production - Rob and Sarah Arbuthnot

Liturgists - Mark Ballard, Nicole Crowder, Dale Evans

Special Music - Linda Jaskoviak and Kevin McGolgan

Linda and Dale Evans