

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 22, 2024

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Stir up your power, O God, and come to set us free by the righteousness of your birth in our midst, by the light of your face shining upon us, and by becoming our brother, our friend, our salvation. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH Shanna Due

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Christmas Joy Offering Megan Davis

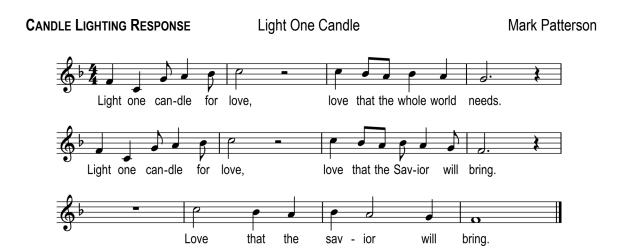
PRELUDE Of the Father's Love Begotten arr. Held

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE The Teague Family

^{*} Please rise in body or spirit.
The people's responses are in **bold type**.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: What is Love? We know that Love comes down with Jesus for God is Love, but we see so many things that make it feel like love is far away from this war stained world, far away from the urgent, desperate whispers of the sick and hurting, far away from all that we hope for. Yet love holds on, love brings us together with peace and joy, together where we hope for things yet seen, together where we comfort one another with peace, together where we celebrate even small victories. Love brings us in, welcomes us just as we are, and gives us space to shine our light. So we light the candle of Love, knowing that we do not wait alone in this Advent, but that we wait alongside the Love that already is found throughout the world



PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Like pregnant Mary, we feel something stir within us a sense of wonder at the starlit sky, a feeling of love for our families, a twinge of joy as we find the gift that expresses our deepest appreciation, a sudden stillness when we sense your divine Presence. O God, help us be attentive to the rise of hope within us, bidding us to action. Amen.

*Hymn no. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our sins to the One whose mercy endures from generation to generation.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

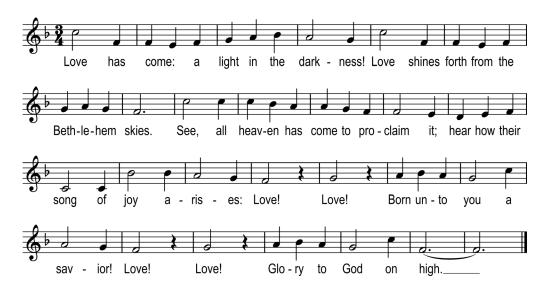
God of peace, who sent light into the world in the coming of Jesus Christ: We confess that we have not followed the light given to us. We have not searched for signs of your love, or trusted the goodness of your good news. We have failed to praise your Son's birth as we have refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires so we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

*A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER



*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.



(11:00) At this time any and all children through the 5th grade are invited to come forward for Sharing Faith with Children.

(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Laura Bechtler

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Astonishing God, send your Holy Spirit upon us as we await the coming of your Son. Fill us with good things that we may conceive your reign on earth and glorify you according to your Word; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Luke 1:46b–55 Shanna Due

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 80:1-7

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock!

All: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Leader: Stir up your might,

and come to save us!

All: Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

All: You have fed them with the bread of tears

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

Leader: You make us the scorn of our neighbors;

our enemies laugh among themselves.

All: Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SECOND LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14–20

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

My Soul Gives Glory to My God 99



This 20th-century paraphrase is based on the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46–55), commonly known by its opening Latin word, *Magnificat*. This song of praise offers clear reminders that God's purposes often lead to the reversal of human values, exalting the poor and dethroning the mighty.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn no. 99

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: From A Declaration of Faith (unison)

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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.

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ all over the world. Offering envelopes can be found inside the friendship register book. We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:

- · Place your offering into the plates as you exit the sanctuary.
- · Visit mywpc.org/offering or scan the QR code at the right to give online
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.



OFFERING TALK: Capital Reserve Gerry Ward

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

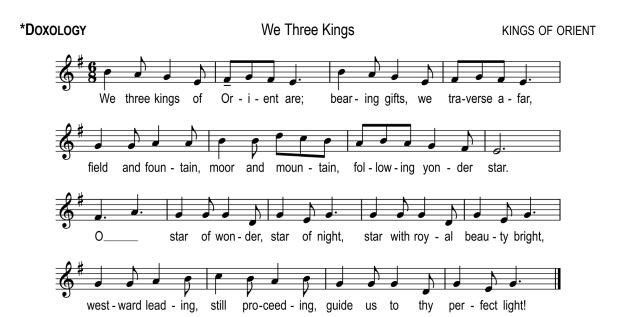
What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

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.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be born for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

*Invitation and the Lord's Day Greeting

Thank you for joining us in worship! Your participation with us today has been a blessing. If you are joining us online, please remember to "sign" our online friendship register:

- Click on the "Welcome to WPC! Click here to sign the Friendship Register" banner at the top of the website page
- Visit mywpc.org/friendship or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.

HYMN NO. 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Finale on "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Fay

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.



>> NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC ◆

This morning's prelude and postlude are arrangements of medieval carols. The tune for "Of The Father's Love Begotten" comes from the 13th century. It is arranged here by modern composer Wilbur Held. The tune for "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" is thought to have been composed by German mystic Heinrich Seuse about 1328. It was later featured in the final movement of Michael Praetorius' *Christmas Mass*. German organist and composer Paul Fey rewrote that instrumental version for organ. Praetorius lived from 1571–1621. Listen for the "early music" feel of this arrangement, with dance-like rhythms and percussive drum rolls.

The chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God by Dr. John M. Pitman III and Mrs. Mary Bissell Pittman, Second Lieutenant John M. Pittman IV, Annamaria Pittman, and Bert Pittman, in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. John M. Pittman Jr., Rev. F. W. Pittman, John M. Pittman Sr., Catherine P. Pittman, Mary Sue Pittman Aldrich, Mary L. Pittman, Ella Pittman Jones, and Lawrence C. Pittman.

>> THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ◆

PASTORS

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff Pam Hrncir, Associate Pastor

MUSIC MINISTRY

Chris Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries Norman Elton, Organist The WPC Chancel Choir

GREETERS

9:30 a.m. Jan Russell 11:00 a.m. Pat Underwood and Dick Hubbard

USHERS

9:30 a.m. Bob Bolstad, David Littell, and Rebecca Caprio 11:00 a.m. Rick Murray, Pat Murray, Megan Davis, and Rebecca Caprio

LITURGIST

Shanna Due

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Laura Bechtler

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Sarah Dulaney, Copper Perry, and Matt Slack

*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS

Bill and Janice McGuire

*WINDSORMEADE USHERS

Ray Whitney

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS

Roy Knox and John Schoenberger

^{*}Satellite campuses

>> WPC ELDERS, DEACONS AND STAFF <> €

SESSION: CLASSES OF 2025, 2026, 2027

Moderator: John E. Morgan Clerk of Session: Diane Schwarz

Administration: Faith Shartzer* (25), Sarah Houghland (25), Margie Newcomer (26), Larry Pulley (26) **Christian Education:** Sallie McLain* (25), Kelly Kirkpatrick (26), JD Due* (26), Kathryn Hall (27)

Christian Outreach: Jim Winthrop* (25), Joseph Kinard (27)

Communications: Ellen Peters (27)

Facilities: Dale Trowbridge* (25), Jerry Howell (26), Ric Cheston (27) Resources: Elaine McBeth (25), Jay Eaton (26), Marc Moyers (27)

Worship: Becky McKinley* (27) Endowment Committee:

Hank Vernon* (25), Jim Austin (26), Joseph Kinard (26), Martha Squire (27), Al Thomas* (25)

Nominating Committee: Class of 2024-25

Moderator: Jerry Howell*, Ric Cheston**, Roban Graham, Ellen D'Orsogna, Jay Hardy, Dave McLain, Bev Whitley

*Moderator **Second Chair

BOARD OF DEACONS: CLASSES OF 2025, 2026, 2027

Moderator: Copper Perry (25) Vice-Moderator: Eric Beckhusen (26)

Pastoral Advisor: Pam Hrncir, Associate Pastor

Secretary: Jo Ann Youhas (25)

Care Teams

Care Connections: Harold Herring (25), Jennifer LaDow (26), Suzanne Stuart (27)

Grief: Copper Perry (25), Bev Whitley (27)

Brookdale and Other Asst. Living: Robin Sabo (26)

Patriot's Colony: Sue Rennagel (25)

Williamsburg Landing: Doris Gilfillan(26), Carolyn Lodzieski (26)

WindsorMeade: Happy Simmons (25), Martha Burian (26)

Ministry Teams

Celebrations and Concerns: Sarah Horner (25), Laura Osman (27)

Christian Fellowship: Happy Simmons (25), Sue Rennagel (25), Sarah Dulaney (25), Jim Carey (27)

Flower Sharing: Laura Bechtler (25): Leigh Sutherland (26), Carol Thomas (26)

New Member: Deborah Rockafellow (25), Eric Beckhusen (26), Rodney Lawrence (27)

Memorial Receptions: Rebecca Caprio (26), Jo Ann Youhas (25), Karen Lauritzen (27), Julia Smith (27) **Memorial Services:** Ford Moseley (27), Jack Lassiter (27), Kathy Chambers (27), Dave Littell (25)

STAFF

Pastoral Staff: John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff; Pam Hrncir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care Program Staff: Melody Dillon, Director of Children and Family Ministries; Adrian Williams, Director of Youth, Campus, and Adult Ministries

Music Staff: Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries; Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music; Rebecca Elton, Carol Choir Director

Administrative Staff: Stephen Foster, Director of Finance and Administration; Vanessa Gamble, Church Secretary; Martha Reier, Administrative Assistant; Sherry Volk, Director of Communications; Barbara Walker, Accounting Assistant

Facility Staff: Elbert Fleming, Facility Manager; Hugh Jamerson, Sexton

Audio Booth: John Schoenberger, Technician

≈ CHILDREN'S STATEMENT ≪

Children are welcome at WPC! We have Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 a.m. and a nursery for children ages 3 and below during both services. We also have children's worship bags and sensory objects available to be borrowed while in the building. Please ask an usher if you need assistance in locating anything.

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in this house of worship. Parents, feel free to sit near the front where children can see, explain the parts of the service to them, and invite them to learn by watching and copying. And relax, God put the wiggle in children, so don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

≫ SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ≪

- **Stephen Ministers.** In need of one-on-one prayer? Please look for a Stephen Minister in the Fellowship Hall or the church foyer after the morning services. They will find a private place to talk and pray with you. Just look for the blue Stephen Ministry name tags.
- Monthly grief support group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in room 220 on the second level. During this meeting we check in with one another and occasionally watch videos about a specific grief topic. All are welcome to attend.

>> PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ◆ S

To share a joy or concern, please visit www.mywpc.org, select "Get Care" on the menu bar, then "Prayer Request" from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click "Send Request" on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will be shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office at (757) 229-4235 with your request. The Prayer Chain Coordinator is Jo Ann Youhas (handbellringer2@gmail.com). Please notify Jo Ann when you would like to remove your name from the prayer chain.

If you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request, please contact the Pastor-on-Call listed below for this week. To reach a Pastor during the week, please call the church office.

Sunday, December 22 - Saturday, December 28

Pastor John Morgan • jmorgan@mywpc.org • 757-907-7800

The WPC Family extends its deepest Christian sympathy and prayers to:

- The families of WPC who have lost beloved family members or friends recently.
- Vanessa Gamble, WPC Secretary, who is recovering from an accident.

Please pray for our sick and homebound:

- Denny Yeingst, Bob Siclari, Carol Sorensen, George Harris, Lee Beach, Clara Crumbly, Wolf Koenig, Nell Stowe, and Carole McNeel
- Lynne and Mike Savidis as Lynne recovers from neck surgery at home.

Please pray for those:

 Recovering from various surgeries and our sick and shut-ins who are at home or facility bound, who have family and friend concerns, affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, attending and serving in the school systems, serving our country in the military services and their families, affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel, Sudan, Lebanon and Ukraine.

➢ ANNOUNCEMENTS ←

- Christmas Joy Offering. Each year at Christmas time, we share in the special offering called "Christmas Joy." Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering provide life-giving assistance to pastors and church workers who are facing unexpected and critical financial need. It also funds schools that equip communities of color to pursue higher education and to grow in faith. In this season of hope, please prayerfully consider giving generously to this special offering. Envelopes will be available at December services. Checks may be made out to WPC with "Christmas Joy" on the memo line. You will also be able to give online at the WPC website. Thank you for your continued support of this caring mission.
- **Gift of Christmas 2024.** The Gift of Christmas is a wonderful way to experience the true spirit of Christmas giving by supporting one of the listed programs helping folks in need in our communities. When you donate to one of these programs you can receive an Angel Ornament and a card that you can give to the family member or friend you are honoring. Look for the 19 different helping programs and their details in the bulletin.

You can visit the Gift of Christmas table that will be set up in the parking lot entrance hallway each Sunday in December or call Karen Annoni* for more information.

- WPC is decorated! Please take a few minutes to walk to the Narthex to see the beautiful creche and live tree, if this is an area you do not usually see on Sunday. Also, please look in on Stevenson Hall to see the decorations there. This is the work of approximately twenty volunteers. (The candles are all on a timer, so please don't adjust them.)
- Our next New Member Orientation Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, February 23, immediately after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Come and enjoy great food and great conversation with members and staff as you get to know the people and ministries of WPC. If the Holy Spirit is nudging you to become a part of this church community, reach out to Pastor Pam (phr@mywpc.org) after the service.
- Harold McKeithen's I Love to Tell the Story sermon compilation has been reprinted, thanks to the
 continuing stewardship of WPC member and editor Wilford Kale. The book is available for \$15 through the
 church office.
- Volunteers are needed for WPC hosting of COFM Winter Homeless Shelter. WPC will be hosting the winter homeless shelter January 12–19, 2025. WPC will staff the shelter with our own members and friends on Sunday–Monday, January 12–13; Monday–Tuesday, January 13–14; and Saturday–Sunday, January 18–19 (partner churches will staff the remaining nights). We need volunteers for the following tasks and times for the three days:
 - Shift 1: Check in crew from 5:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 - Shift 2: Dinner crew from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m..
 - Shift 3: Overnight crew from 8:45 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
 - Shift 4: Breakfast crew from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

If you can help or have any questions, please contact Jim Winthrop* or Joe Avellar.*

- The Flower Calendar for 2025 has Three Openings. They are February 16, July 6, and November 30. The Master Flower Calendar for 2025 is in the back of Stevenson Hall. Please fill in the required information by the date of your choice. Please contact Ruth Cobb* if you require further information.
- The Flower Guild is grateful to members and friends of our congregation who generously donated poinsettias that beautify our church in this season of Advent. We are also thankful for the members who donated their time helping us decorate. Blessings of the season to all.
- Correction—Poinsettia pick-up: You may pick up your poinsettia after the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. After that, you may pick them up *until noon* on Dec. 28, OR after noon on Dec. 29. Please cross your name off the list that will be on the chancel steps and please leave the plastic saucers.
- Children age 4–5th grade are invited to join King's Kids Worship Dance this January! Kids are invited to join Melody and learn some fundamentals of dance, ways that dance can be an expression of worship, and prepare a dance together for Children's Sunday on March 16. This group will meet each Thursday from 5:30–6:00 pm (following Children's Choir) from January 9 to March 16 (excluding January 30). Registration is not required, but please reach out to Melody (mdillon@mywpc.org or 757-229-4235) with questions and to let her know you're coming!

*Contact information can be found in our online directory. You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.

More information about the events and announcements listed above can be found on our website at mywpc.org/news or on the church calendar at mywpc.org/calendar.

>> THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ◆

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Nursery open during both worship services 9:30 a.m. Sunday School / Christian Education Wing

9:30 a.m. In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access 11:00 a.m. In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Broadcast on FM 93.5 The Burg and AM 740 or

wmbgradio.com

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

1:00 p.m. Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

11:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Family Pageant8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day - Church Office Closed

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

>> CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ←

Join us for our Christmas Eve Services on December 24

11:00 a.m. – Family Pageant 8:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service 10:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service with Communion

≫ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ≪

December 29, 2024 • The First Sunday of Christmas

Join us for a Service of Lessons and Carols