



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024 • 11:00 A.M.

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Living God, on this holy night we gather—to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

## THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

### PRELUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Good King Wenceslas

Silent Night

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

The Little Drummer Boy

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Sarah Lowekamp, flute

Annie Beckhusen Challener, piano

Lilly Shay, violin

Gabe Beckhusen Challener, piano

Haley Elton, flute

Josh Bechtler, snare drum

Jackson Elton, organ

### PASTORAL GREETING

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\* Please rise in body or spirit.

The people's responses are in **bold type**.

**INTROIT**

Still, Still, Still

arr. Bechtler

Carol Choir and Junior Choir

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Pastors John Morgan and Pam Hrnrcir

Today we light the Christ Candle, for God is with us! Hope is with us, Peace is with us, Joy is with us, and Love is with us, for God is here and God is in everything including in you. You are a blessing, it is what God said. If you hear nothing else, hear this: you are a blessing. For our creating God breathed life into your being and made you a creator too. In lighting the Christ candle, we recognize that God came to be like us, to be human, to face our struggles and for that reason God knows us fully and loves us just as we are, each and every one. And God does not hear our rebuttles of this fact, we are a blessing. On this Christmas Eve may we breathe that in.

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Still, Still, Still

STILL, STILL, STILL



The musical notation is written on three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing.

Joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy! The  
God of love has left his throne, made this humble world his own,  
joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy!

**PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)**

Loving God, we offer our thanks for the gift of love born to us on this most joyous night. Like the shepherds, let us approach the manger with wonder and awe. Like the magi, let us come with grateful hearts. And let us open our hearts to receive the good news of which the angels sang. On this most holy night, we offer our prayers for peace in our world. Help us to make peace possible as we follow in the footsteps of the maker of peace who came to us as a babe in Bethlehem. Amen.

# CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*Each scene will include a narration, a reading,  
and children's pantomime, and will end with congregational song.*

## **Scene 1**

### **Welcome to the Story**

**HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*Please remain seated*

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!  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

## **Scene 2**

### **Mary Receives God's Good News**

**HYMN**

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

*Please remain seated*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming,  
by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

### **Scene 3**

#### **Joseph Receives God's Peace**

**HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*Please remain seated*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

### **Scene 4**

#### **Joseph and Mary Travel to Bethlehem**

**HYMN**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*Please remain seated*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

*(Hymn continues on next page)*

For Christ is born of Mary  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

### **Scene 5**

#### **The Innkeeper Takes Mercy on the Couple**

**HYMN**

Away in a Manger  
*Please remain seated*

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

## **Scene 6**

### **The Shepherds are Blessed**

**HYMN**

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

*Please remain seated*

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay 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)

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

## **Scene 7**

### **Wise Men Seek God's Gift**

**HYMN**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

*Please remain seated*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

**Scene 8**  
**God's Light Leads All**

**\*HYMN**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*Please stand*

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing. (Repeat)

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all our songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy. (Repeat)

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. (Repeat)

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love. (Repeat)

**MESSAGE**

*Christmas on the Road*

Rev. John E. Morgan

**HYMN NO. 97**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

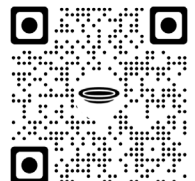
ABERYSTWYTH

*Congregation left side—please sing the lines that begin with “Watchman”*  
*Congregation right side—please sing the lines that begin with “Traveler”*

**OFFERING**

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us share God's love with our neighbors 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 any of the following ways:

- Place your offering in the plates as you exit the sanctuary.
- Give online at [mywpc.org/offering](http://mywpc.org/offering) or scan the QR code at the right.
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.



**OFFERTORY ANTHEM****Bethlehem Night**  
Carol and Junior Choirs

Terry D. Taylor

On this night a King is born  
In a cattle shed.  
Swaddling clothes will keep him warm  
In his manger bed.

Shepherds, watching flocks by night  
In the fields nearby,  
See an angel in great light!  
Glory fills the sky!

What a wonder, what a story,  
What a joyful sight!  
Can this be another ordinary  
Bethlehem night?

Hear the angel share the news,  
Tidings of great joy:  
“Now a Savior comes to you,  
In this baby boy.”

What a wonder, what a story,  
What a joyful sight!  
Love has come, our God is with us,  
On this Bethlehem night.

**\*DOXOLOGY****What Child Is This**

GREENSLEEVES



So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come one and all to own him.



The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**



# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

**Leader:** God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. In Christ was life and the life was the light of all people.

**People:** **The light shines in the darkness; and the darkness has never been able to put it out. That was the true light, which enlightens everyone that comes into the world. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; those who follow me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.”**

## LIGHTING OUR CANDLES

*Please turn your candle on*

## HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

*Please remain seated*

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 afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!”

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.

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!

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Harmon

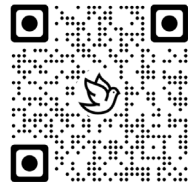
## ❧ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ❧

The chancel flowers are given today 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.

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## ❧ A FEW NOTES ❧

**If you are joining us online**, please let us know through our  
online friendship register at [mywpc.org/friendship](http://mywpc.org/friendship).



**Children are welcome at WPC!** We 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. And relax—God put the wiggle in children, so don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

⌘ **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY** ⌘

**PASTORS**

John E. Morgan, Pastor  
Pam Hrcir, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Rebecca Elton, Pageant Director and Director of Carol Choir  
Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music  
Carol and Junior Choirs  
Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Sarah Lowekamp, flute; Gabe Challener, piano; Lilly Shay, violin;  
Haley Elton, flute; Josh Bechtler, snare drum;  
Annie Challener, French horn; Jackson Elton, organ

**GREETER**

Katie Jones

**USHERS**

Gary Davis, Jodie Davis, Megan Davis, Audrey Davis, and Rebecca Caprio

**AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIAN**

John Schoenberger

# Merry Christmas

*Welcome to Williamsburg Presbyterian Church!*

*Thank you for joining us in worship.*

*Your presence with us this morning is a blessing.*



**Williamsburg Presbyterian Church**

215 Richmond Rd | Williamsburg, VA | [mywpc.org](http://mywpc.org) | 757.229.4235