



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

In-Person and Online

Facebook Live | YouTube | www.westminstercharleston.org

Musicians:
Jenny Weiss, violin
Ben Weiss, viola
Charmaine LeClair, cello
Emma Kerr, horn

December 24, 2020

5:00 & 7:00 pm

Tonight's offering supports the Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, SC. Founded as a Presbyterian ministry in 1875, Thornwell is a joyful Christian community, offering hope and wholeness to children and families. Its goals are to provide loving homes for abused, abandoned, and neglected children, to offer an opportunity for healing by providing proper healthcare and mental health counseling for every Thornwell child, and to offer Thornwell's children hope for a successful future by providing educational support and teaching self-advocacy.

We make our gift to Thornwell in memory of Mrs. Ella Boyer, who provided loving care to the children of Westminster for over 25 years. Please make checks to *Westminster Presbyterian* and mark them *Thornwell Offering*; place them in the offering plates by the exits as you depart. You may also text *charlestonwpc* to 73256 or make an online gift at www.westminstercharleston.org. Select "Give Now" and the Thornwell Fund.

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PRELUDE

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime
I Wonder As I Wander
Still, Still, Still

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Kerr Family (5:00)
The Bednarczyk Family (7:00)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (from John 1)

One: The Word of the Lord
All: **Thanks be to God!**

◆CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him 'Emmanuel'- which means, 'God with us.'
All: **The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory. Alleluia!**

CAROL

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!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
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!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply; echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the glad tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SCRIPTURE

John 1: 1-5, 14

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

CAROL

What Child Is This

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 borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, 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!

◆AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM THE NICENE CREED (381)

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

◆CANDLE LIGHTING

After we light our candles, ushers will direct us out the side doors where we will gather on the sidewalks for the conclusion of the service.

◆CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

**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! 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

◆CAROL RESPONSE

Joy to the World

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

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

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

Please take your candle with you as you depart.

◆Please stand, if able

Thank you to those who gave poinsettias to the glory of God in memory and honor of loved ones. Poinsettias may be picked up following the 7:00 Christmas Eve service or the 11:00 worship service on December 27th.