

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.

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.wpccharleston.org. Select "Give Now" and the Thornwell Fund.

Join us for Christmas morning worship tomorrow at 11:00. Come as you are. It's a kid-friendly service. They can bring their favorite new toy if they like. *No Nursery or Children's Church.

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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2022

7:00 pm

PRELUDE In dulci Jubilo PAUL MANZ

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE The Dounian Family

SCRIPTURE from John 1

INTROIT I Wonder as I Wander JOHN JACOB NILES

Arranged for nine handbells by Robin Zemp for Shirley and Jim Seay. January 2022

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savoir did come for to die.

For poor on'ry people like you and like I...I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

♦CALL TO WORSHIP

One: During Advent, we lit the candle of Hope.

All: **Thank you, Lord, for the gift of hope that is stronger than despair.**

One: During Advent, we lit the candle of Peace.

All: **Thank you, Lord, for the gift of peace that outweighs uncertainty.**

One: During Advent, we lit the candle of Joy.

All: **Thank you, Lord, for the gift of joy that sustains us in the darkness.**

One: During Advent, we lit the candle of Love.

All: **Thank you, Lord, for the gift of love that calls us out of fear.**

One: Tonight we light the Christ Candle.

All: **Our waiting is over; the Son of God has come among us.**

One: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

All: **O Come, let us adore him!**

♦CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

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!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

◆CHRISTMAS PRAYER

◆CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

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 gladsome 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

Luke 2:1-20

◆CAROL

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 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!

◆CAROL RESPONSE

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

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.

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,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

◆POSTLUDE

Voluntary on an Old French Carol

LEON ROQUES

Please extinguish your candles and place them in the baskets in the narthex as you depart.

◆Please stand, if able

Worship Leaders: Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Lissa Long, Pastor; Robin Zemp, Music.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI License #2778901

Ushers are Mary McAbee, George McAbee, Carole Russell, Tom Livingston.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

◆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

Lights will be dimmed, and the pastors will light the candle of the first person in each pew. Once your candle is lit, please pass the light to the person beside you. We sing Silent Night, Holy Night as we light our candles.

◆CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

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.

◆BENEDICTION

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-5

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter
Sanctuary Choir

GWYNETH WALKER

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor can earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable warm sufficed
our Lord God Almighty, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the evening air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a tender kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him. I would give my heart.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Light and Life to All He Brings

◆CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

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!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
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!"