

Responding to God's Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Sending of God's Word

*CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

#134

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Mary, Did You Know?* Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene (arr. Dennis Alexander)

Our Lord Jesus said "*it is more blessed to give than to receive*" and one of the ways we do this is by giving our tithes and our offerings to support the ministry and mission of the church. At this time, we are not passing a shared offering plate, but there is a place for you to leave your tithes and offerings in the Narthex.

Birthdays this week: Erin Kersten-Jordan 12/27, Abbie Kidd 12/28, Wendy Patten 12/28, Mary Pat Kersten 12/29, Paisley Irvin 12/30, Sue Martichuski 12/30, George Miller 12/30, Shirley Schaaf 12/31

The Church office will be closed on Monday, December 27, 2021 and January 3, 2022 in recognition of Christmas and the New Year.



Westminster Presbyterian Church
Eugene, Oregon
December 26, 2021

Gathering Around God's Word

PRELUDE

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

WELCOME

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

The grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest!

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

Glory to God in the highest!

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest!

To us is born in the city of David
a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest!

And the Word became flesh
and lived among us.

Glory to God in the highest!

Christ is born! Give him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!
Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!
O earth, sing to the Lord!
O you, nations, praise him in joy,
for he has been glorified! **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful

#133

CALL TO CONFESSION

The grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all and teaching us to renounce what is evil in this world. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted the good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen. *(prayers continue in silence)*

SUNG RESPONSE

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs.4)

#123

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ our Savior gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from our sin and claim us as his people. We are forgiven, be at peace.

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

New Testament Reading: John 1:1-14

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #123

What Child Is This #145

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #119

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice #132

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.