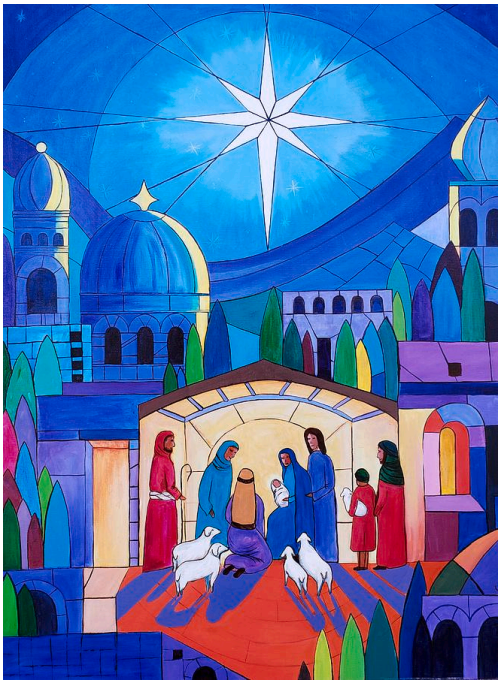

# Presbyterian Church of Western Springs

Friday, December 24, 2021 | 4 P.M.

# Christmas Eve

## Gathering Together in God's Name

**Prelude** — **Silent Night with Clair de lune** — by Franz Gruber & Claude Debussy
*Stephanie Coates, piano* — arr. by Tom Fettke

**Gathering & Greeting** — The Rev. Erik P. Khoobyarian

♦ **Call to Worship**

*On this night of wonder,*
**we gather with expectation and excitement for the birth of Christ.**
*On this night of wonder,*
**we worship God with our hearts, our souls, our words, and our songs.**
*On this night of wonder, may we be filled with God's abundant love and God's wonder-full goodness!*

♦ **Opening Hymn #133** — **O Come, All Ye Faithful** *(insert)* — ADESTE FIDELES

♦ **Lighting the Christ Candle** — The Gertsmeier Family

*We light the Christ candle to symbolize God's promise fulfilled.*
*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. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favor rests.*
**Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

♦ **Sung Response** — **O Come, All Ye Faithful** *(refrain)*

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

**Christmas Prayer & 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.**

**Special Music** — **Still a Bach Christmas** — arr. by Jay Althouse
*Shannon Sullivan, soloist*

♦ Indicates congregation standing, if able.

## Proclaiming the Word of God

*A proclamation of the Good News of Christmas in the form of*
*a pageant based on* The First Christmas *by Marcia Williams.*
*Adapted and directed by Laurie Merrifield and*
*featuring the youngest gospel-proclaimers of this church.*

### Procession

**Hymn #112** **On Christmas Night All Christians Sing** (verses 1 & 4) SUSSEX CAROL

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God in highest heaven;
peace on earth and goodwill. Amen!"

### Good News

**Carol #123** **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** (verse 1) CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

### Looking for a Room

**Carol #121** **O Little Town of Bethlehem** (verse 1) ST. LOUIS

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.

### Preparing a Space

**Carol #124** **Still, Still, Still** (verse 1) STILL, STILL, STILL

Still, still, still, he sleeps his night so chill!
The virgin's tender arms enfolding, warm and safe the child are holding.
Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.

### Jesus is Born!

**Carol #115** **Away in a Manger** (verses 1-2) MUELLER

Away in a manger; no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright 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.

## Shepherds Hear A Message & Bring Good News

**Carol #113** **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!

## A Bright Star Leads the Wise Ones

**Carol #151** **We Three Kings of Orient Are** (verse 1) GLORIA

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!

## The Wise Ones Bring Gifts

**Carol #151** **We Three Kings of Orient Are** (verse 2) GLORIA

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!

## Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

**Carol #132** **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice** (verse 1) IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

## Sharing the Good News!

**Carol #136** **Go, Tell It on the Mountain** (refrain) GO TELL IT

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

## Responding to God's Word

### Christmas Joy Offering

*This evening we will be joining with other congregations in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in collecting the Christmas Joy Offering which provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and funds for developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.*

*Contributions can be made in the baskets in the rear of the church and in the narthex and can be made online at https://presbyws.org/donate/.*

**Special Music** **Angels Watching Over Me** traditional spiritual
*Abby Gertsmeier, soloist* arr. by Joel Raney

## Go in God's Name

♦ **Passing the Light of Christ**

♦ **Hymn #122** **Silent Night, Holy Night!** STILLE NACHT

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.

♦ **Hymn #134** **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.

♦ **Charge & Benediction**

♦ **Postlude** Go, Tell It on the Mountain traditional spiritual
*Paul Banovic, tenor saxophone* arr. by Robert Sterling

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THANK YOU *to all of our volunteers who made this service possible tonight!*
THANK YOU *to Laurie Merrifield and Mindy McMahon for their coordination of the pageant and to all of our wonderful children who participated in sharing the message with us today!*
*We also thank our musicians listed throughout this bulletin and Bradley Kirby who led us in singing.*
THANK YOU TO *our Tech Team for their work on audio and video production.*

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This service is being streamed live and recorded for publication. Please sit in the balcony or the back pews if you wish to be out of camera view.

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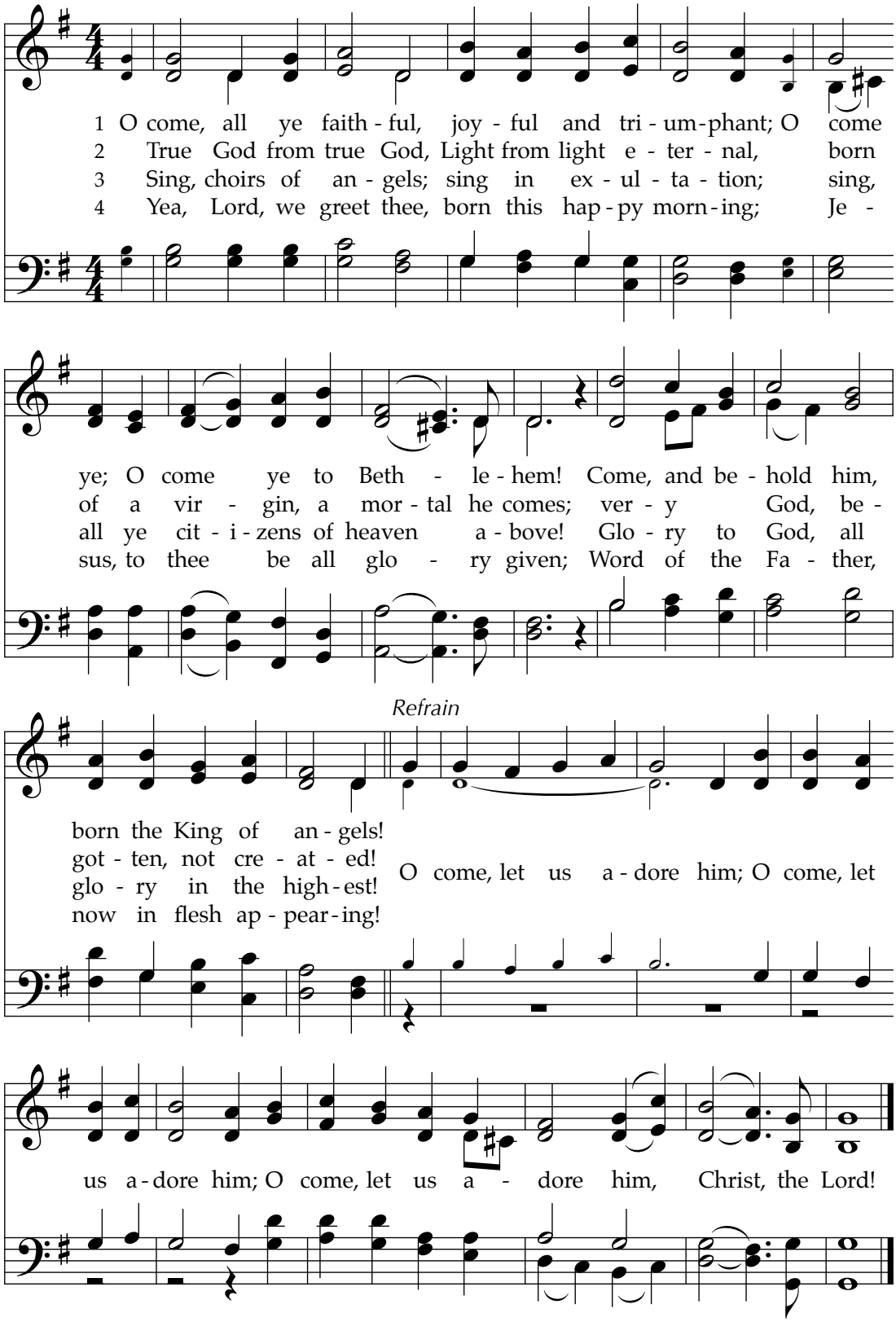
# O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

# Poinsettia Dedications

Anonymous ..... In gratitude for our church leaders & volunteers

Dorothy Andersen ..... In memory of Harlan Andersen

Bozek & Jones Families ..... We celebrate the joyous birth of Stella Jones Sinele

Phyllis DiFrancesco ..... In loving memory of Evelyn Meyer

Sue Eck ..... With everlasting peace and love

Mary Ellen Fencl & Family ..... In loving memory of Bob Fencl
In loving memory of Brian Neal
In loving memory of Azike

Maureen Fencl & Family ..... In loving memory of Bob Fencl
In loving memory of Brian Neal

Howard & Mary Jo Habenicht ..... In memory of Jan Habenicht

David & Laurie Hovious-Petersen ..... To Erik in gratitude for friendship and hope during a trying year

Kay & Tom Kelly ..... To our families: embrace hope, joy, love & peace throughout Christmas and into the New Year

Jo Ann & Milt Khoobyarian ..... In honor of Erik & PCWS Book Club

Walt & Sue Kovalick ..... In memory of our parents & dear friends

Kevin McDermott ..... Donna S. Bast

McMahon Family ..... Tis the season, with love for family and friends near and far

Amy Seus ..... In loving memory of Paul Seus

Herb & Joyce Smyers ..... In memory of our parents

Donna Strunk ..... In memory of Henry Strunk

Sullivan Family ..... In loving memory of our dads & grandpas, Robert Sullivan & George Williams

Caryle Wilkie ..... In honor of Peter Wilkie

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