Receiving,
Living,
and
Sharing
the Grace given to us

Presbyterian Church of Western Springs
Sunday Worship
December 24, 2025 | 11 P.M.

Christmas Eve

GATHERING

PRELUDE — Ukranian Bell Carol — arr. by Tom Roed

GATHERING & GREETING

INTROIT — The First Noel — Brass Ensemble

♦ OPENING HYMN #133 — O Come, All Ye Faithful (vv. 1, 3) — ADESTE FIDELES

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & CONFESSION — John 1

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 overtake 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.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. **Amen.**

♦ HYMN #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!

♦ PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

PROCLAIMING

ANTHEM — O Holy Light — Mary McDonald

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Word made flesh, speak to us now. Open our hearts to receive you. By your Spirit, help us see your light shining in the darkness. Amen.

♦ *Everyone is invited to rise as able and speak the **bold** print in unison*

LESSONS AND CAROLS — Luke 2:1-7

#121 O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv. 1, 2, 4)

Luke 2:8-15

#147 The First Nowell (vv. 1-4)

Luke 2:16-20

#136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Matthew 2:1-12

#151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

SERMON — A Different Angle

RESPONDING

♦ HYMN OF RESPONSE #134 — Joy to the World — ANTIOCH

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

CHRISTMAS JOY

OFFERING — Twas in the Moon of Wintertime — arr. by Anthony Giamanco

Loose coins supports the Hunger Fund

♦ DOXOLOGY — Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow — #606 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

♦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION & 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

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST — 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 they 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.

Away in a Manger — 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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

♦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go into this Christmas night with fresh eyes. **We go to see the light shining in darkness.**
Go and share the good news of Emmanuel, God with us. **We go to bear witness to the Word made flesh.**
May the God who spoke light into being live in our hearts.
May the Word who became flesh fill us with grace and truth.
May the Light that shines in the darkness guide us home. **Merry Christmas!**

POSTLUDE — He is Born, the Divine Christ Child — arr. by Keith Christopher

Mission Statement

You are most welcome here.

We invite you to share in our faith journey as we walk and grow together.

We are committed to encouraging one another along the way as we seek to experience, express, and extend God's unconditional love.

Online Giving

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 25 & 26 - *MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

STAY CONNECTED WITH US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND OUR WEBSITE

THANK YOU *to all for serving this Christmas Eve:*
Pastor Dan Robertson / Robert Moynihan – Parish Associate / Stephanie Coates – Director of Music
Amber Clark – Director of Children & Family Ministry / Chancel Choir / Tricia Koning & Mike Lobash – Trumpet / Jim Koning – Horn
Henry Lobash – Trombone / Andrew Carlisle, Natalie Carlisle, Mark Dold & Henry Lobash - Liturgists / Ron Blough, Sam Blough &
Steve Blough – Ushers / Steve Blough & Candice Mares - Deacons of the Day / Jim Koning - Sound Operator / Video Operator
The Carlisle Family – Advent Lighters / Kay & Tom Kelly, Matt & Mary Booth – Luminaria / Kathy Wennerstrum - Christmas Joy

Assisted listening devices are available for worship; please ask an usher for assistance.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-713281 and CCLI (license numbers 1117008 and 20337417).

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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EARTHRISE

Notes:

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal,* 1906

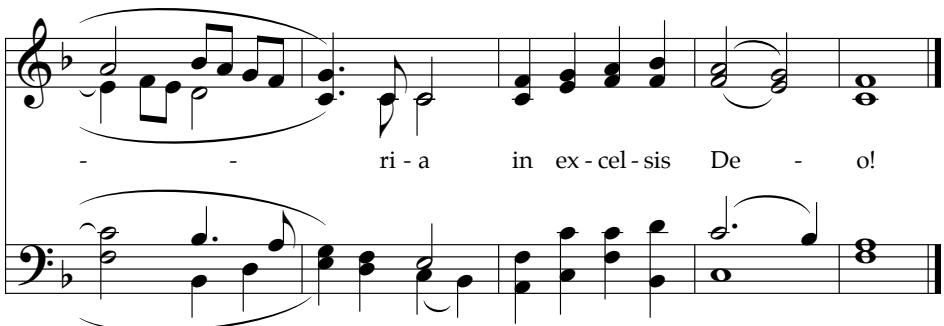
ADESTE FIDELES
Irregular

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.
MUSIC: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937
Music © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr.
(admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)

GLORIA
7.7.7.7 with refrain


- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868
MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

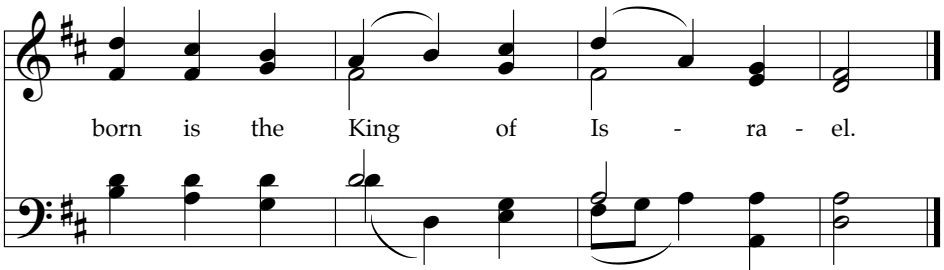
ST. LOUIS
8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6
(alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)

147 The First Nowell

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus* / *né*) as well to "news" (*nova* / *nouvelle*).

TEXT: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols,* 2nd ed., 1823, alt.
MUSIC: English carol; Sandys' *Christmas Carols,* 1833

THE FIRST NOWELL
Irregular



5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and
frankincense.
Refrain

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Refrain

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987
Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT
7.6.7.6 with refrain

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1–12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

TEXT and MUSIC: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1857, alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT
8.8.8.6 with refrain

134 Joy to the World

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4–9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH
CM with repeat
(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

**Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM