

ORDER OF WORSHIP

* Please stand as you are able.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MINUTE FOR MISSION • DAN & ELIZABETH TURK

* CALL TO WORSHIP

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.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

RESPONSE • *Light One Candle* (Hymnal 85, Verse 3)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Mighty God, make us worthy of the challenge of the gospel. Prune away all that is fruitless and burn away all that is false until nothing is left but the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN 140 • *Once in Royal David's City (verses 1 & 2)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet You. You call us to repent, but we turn away from You. You wait patiently for us, but we fail to watch and wait for You. Forgive us, God of grace. Embrace us with tender mercy so that we may be at one with You when all Your glory is revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

RESPONSE • *While We Are Waiting, Come* (Hymn 92, verse 1)

While we are waiting, come;

While we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,

While we are waiting, come.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Emmanuel did not come into this world to condemn, but to save.

God does not come to imprison us, but to set us free.

Through this abundant love, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

* RESPONSE • *Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High* (GTG Hymnal 23)

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Festival of Lessons and Carols

WELCOME (APOPKA HIGH SCHOOL)

THE 1ST LESSON - Isaiah 11: 1-3a; 4a; 6-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of His roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what His eyes see, or decide by what His ears hear; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

CAROL (CHANCEL CHOIR) • *Wait for the Lord*

THE 2nd Lesson - Luke 1: 26-35; 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN 104 • *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (verses 1 & 3, Choir & Congregation)*

THE 3RD LESSON—LUKE 2:1; 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL (APOPKA HS) • *O Come All Ye Faithful*

THE 4TH Lesson - Luke 2:8-1

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock, by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you

good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, raising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

CAROL (CHANCEL CHOIR) • *Before the Marvel of This Night*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY (COMBINED CHOIRS) • *The Christmastide*

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE • *Doxology* to the tune of “Veni Emmanuel”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures here below,

Praise God above, ye Heav'nly Host,

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION 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.

CAROL (CHANCEL CHOIR AND APOPKA HS) • *The First Noel*

THE 5TH LESSON—MATTHEW 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed His star at its rising, and have come to pay Him homage."

They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, His mother; and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

HYMN 151 • *We Three Kings (verses 1 & 5, Choir & Congregation)*

THE 6TH LESSON—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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE 6TH LESSON—JOHN 1:1-14 (CONTINUED)

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 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.

CAROL (WPPC CHANCEL CHOIR) • *Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child*

* BENEDICTION

“When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.”

POSTLUDE • *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* - Young

SERVING TODAY

OFFICIATING MINISTER: The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor

LITURGIST: Jayne Leach

ADVENT LIGHTERS: Meg Thomas & Ethan Thomas

MUSICIANS: Justin Chase, Director of Music
Penny Walsh, Organ
Chancel Choir
Apopka High School

AUDIO/VISUAL: Carole Reece, Doug Reece, Nelson Roe & Carissa Taylor

WORSHIP MATTERS

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Steve & Cathy House in honor their upcoming wedding anniversary on 12/30.

MUSIC

Our CCLI License number is 11184426; OneLicense.net number is 725233;
Our CVLI License number is 505405959.

WORSHIP AIDS

Assistive hearing devices are available from an audio/visual technician at the rear of the sanctuary.

WELCOME

We are so glad you are here to worship with us today! Worship services are also available online. Sermons can be found at www.winppc.org/sermons.

COMING UP AT WPPC

- ◆ Basilica Choir Holiday Music this afternoon at 3pm
- ◆ Living Nativity 6:30-8pm on December 22nd
- ◆ Blue Christmas at 4pm on December 23rd
- ◆ Christmas Eve—10:30am (Traditional); 5pm (Family); 7pm (Candlelight)

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken TODAY. This is one of the four annual PC(USA) Special Offerings taken every year. Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to an Advent Offering. Fifty percent of receipts from this offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses/families. The other 50 percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Please give generously to those who serve the church: past, present and future. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAY

Our Preschool Director, Nicole Fye, has a beautiful Christmas display at her house. If you would like to drive by and see it, her address is 407 Eagle Circle, Casselberry, FL 32707.

BLUE CHRISTMAS—DECEMBER 23RD

This is a time to remember and cherish the ones we love. We bring them home again to be with us at Christmas. Please join us on December 23rd at 4pm in the Chapel, where we will recognize our loss of friends, family, and our aloneness in this season.

WHITE SOCKS

Please bring **NEW WHITE SOCKS** and deposit them in the marked containers in the front office. We will be accepting the socks through the end of December. The Hannah Circle will be folding and packing them for the January Meal. The recipients of these socks are the people that come to the Coalition for the Homeless for an evening meal, or they are residents in the program. Our church has been doing this drive for over 20 years and have dispensed literally thousands of pairs of socks. It’s hard to describe the joy and thanks that is expressed for these simple gifts.

RELATIONSHIPS IN ACTION—SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:15 AM IN ROOM 301

12/24: No Class—Merry Christmas!

Staff

The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor	Carolyn Achenbach, Director of Operations/Accountant
The Rev. Dr. James A. Capps, Sr Adult Min. Coordinator	Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant
Justin Chase, Director of Music	Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant
Penny Walsh, Organist	La’Shai Huff-Bichet, Children’s Ministry Coordinator
Sandra Shafer, Pianist	Wendy Stafford, Health Care Coordinator
Scott Beck, Director of Handbells	Nicole Fye, Director of Preschool Programs
	Adam Davies, Sexton



Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 17, 2023
LESSONS & CAROLS

