

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

\* Please stand as you are able.

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### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE • *I Wonder As I Wander* - arr. Gramann

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Keep watch! For the One who brings peace is coming.

**We wait in anticipation for Christ.**

We wait for God's revealing of joy. Remain alert!

**Love is coming to dwell among us. Hope draws near.**

### LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

RESPONSE • ***Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*** (Hymnal 85, Verse 4)

### PRAYER OF ADORATION

**Loving Shepherd, as we draw closer to the feast of Christmas, remind us again how to heed Your will. Help us to hear when You call. Help us to follow where You lead. Help us to trust Your rod and staff. Hold us closely in Your care as we anticipate the coming gift of Christ. Amen.**

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

### CALL TO CONFESSION

In our waiting and preparation, we come to rest, again, at the foot of the cross. Even in this season of anticipation, we see the fullness of God's promised redemption in the waters of baptism. As those who are fully known and redeemed, we confess our sin before God and one another.

RESPONSE • ***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Hymnal 347, verse 4)***

**At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, Lord most high!"**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ's coming is certain. God's promise is true. Trust in the transformational power of God's forgiveness and receive the gift of God's love. In Jesus Christ 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*

*Ding Dong! Merrily on High* - arr. Dobrinski

### READING #1 - DAN MEADORS

I am the watchman. From ancient times I have gazed into the night seeking the assuring light of the morning. Walking the ramparts of the city wall, I ring out the warning when danger threatens. In the still of the night, it is the sound of my voice that offers peace in the shadows. Each hour I cry, "All is Well," until the silver stars of evening surrender to the golden warmth of dawn. I am the watchman. From ancient times I have gazed into the Scripture seeking the assuring promises of God. Protecting the fortress of faith I shout, "Sleepers awake! Prepare the way of the Lord." "All is Well! All is Well! The Son is coming soon!"

*Prepare Ye the Way (with Shout to the North)*

### READING #2 - MEG BALDWIN

Day after day I stand on the watchtower. Every night I stay at my post and wait. When will the sorrow of my people end? The children of Adam are crushed under the weight of sin. They have forgotten that they are a gift of light from heaven. They cry to me, "Watchman, what is left of the night?" Morning is coming. "Take hearth and keep the watch," I tell them. "See, a Redeemer approaches. The dust of his chariot paints the horizon with the colors of hope and promise." The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. On those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light will dawn. A Savior will come and will shine with the brightness of His Father's face. He will be the very Light of Light, the Bright and Morningstar. He will be the Son of God!

*O Savior of Our Fallen Race*

### READING #3 - LYNNE MCKNIGHT

A righteous ruler is coming. The government will rest upon His shoulders and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. The dazzling light of heaven will shine in the hearts of the people and the Word of the Lord will be revealed. God will dwell with His creation and the whole world will be filled with His glory. His kingdom of light will be firmly established and will never end! This is the promise of God.

*Promises of Isaiah*

### CALL TO OFFERING

### READING #4 - JAYNE LEACH

Listen to my words, people of promise. Be filled with the spirit of hope, for God Himself shall give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son. And shall call His name Immanuel – "God With Us!" In a small village

this maiden will deliver her Child And He will be the ruler of heaven and earth. This will be a great miracle – The sacred moment the world has longed and prayed for. This gentle young woman will hold the future in her arms and cradle the very Son of God close to her heart.

*Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)*

\* 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.**

### READING #5 - DAWN SUMRALL

Sleepers, Awake! Arise and shine for your light is come! The Glory of the Lord is now made known to you. Legions of angels are proclaiming the news of peace and goodwill to all creation. The hills and valleys that once rang with the sounds of war and conflict all echo with praise and thanksgiving. Sleepers Awake! Follow all seekers of light to Bethlehem and worship the newborn King. Let the wonder take you! Let the miracle surround you. Sleepers Awake! Give yourself to praise!

*Here I Am to Worship (with "O Come, All Ye Faithful")*

### READING #6 - MEG BALL THOMAS

Rejoice! Jesus the Light of the World has come. Behold, a brilliant star rises to light the way! The night is ablaze with the glory of heaven. Let the hungry come, for they will find the bread of life. Let the thirsty come, for they will find streams of living water. Let the weak come, for they will find the Mighty One of Israel. Let the poor come, for they will find treasure more precious than gold. Let the simple come, for they will find wisdom and knowledge. Let the wise come, for they will find the heart of God. Let all seekers come, for they will find rest from their wanderings. Let all the people come and worship. Come and find the One who is born King of kings and Lord of lords!

*One King*

READING #7 - LESLIE GALLAGHER

Hear the word of the Lord...I have set my watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day or night. All you that make mention of the Lord, keep not silent. Announce good tidings, proclaim liberty, and declare the dawn of salvation. Christ is born! Bethlehem's stable has become the palace of the King of kings! Let the entire world rejoice and make known the wonders of His Love!

*Light of the Stable*

READING #8 - SANDRA SHAFER

I am the watchman. From ancient times I have gazed into the night seeking the assuring light of the morning. I walked the ramparts of the city wall. I shouted into the silence when danger threatened. Now...all that has changed. Jesus, the Light of the World was born. Jesus, the Teacher lived. Jesus, the Redeemer died. Jesus, the Savior, rose from the grave, and Jesus, the King, will come again. I know that my Redeemer lives and on the earth one day will stand in all His glory. We will need no candle, for Christ, Himself, will be our Light. All is Well! All is Well!

*All Is Well*

HYMN 136 • *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE • *Joy to the World* - Raney



**SERVING TODAY**

**OFFICIATING MINISTER:** The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor  
**LITURGIST:** Gary Henderson  
**ADVENT LIGHTERS:** Frank & Wendy Jamison  
**MUSICIANS:** Justin Chase, Director of Music  
Penny Walsh, organ  
Scott Beck, Director of Handbells  
Holly Small, piano; Daniel Gonzalez, clarinet  
Leslie Gallagher, soloist; Lauren Langa, soloist  
Sandra Shafer, soloist  
**AUDIO/VISUAL:** Carole Reece, Doug Reece, Nelson Roe & Carissa Taylor

**WORSHIP MATTERS**

**FLOWERS**  
The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Ron & Carol Thompson.  
**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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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](http://www.winppc.org/sermons).

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**  
Our sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Rene Cuthill, who passed December 18th. Please keep her family in your prayers. A service will be held on Tuesday, January 14 at 2pm. A reception will follow the service in Fellowship Hall.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—JANUARY 5TH**  
A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, January 5. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the new class of Elders and Deacons.

**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 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. It's hard to describe the joy and thanks that is expressed for these simple gifts!

**Staff**

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



Winter Park  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 22, 2024  
LESSONS & CAROLS

