

Westminster By-The-Sea Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Sumner
December 12, 2021

Gathering

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PRELUDE "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen" Young

INTROIT "Carol of the Advent"

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE Rob, Ashley, and Lauren Camp

SUNG RESPONSE (Unison)
"He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy. Hallelujah for evermore."

PRAYER RESPONSE (Unison)
O God who once filled the world with joy at the birth of a child; fill us with joy in the anticipation of that birth. Keep us joyful in waiting and watching, we pray. And grant us your peace. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Sumner

HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads" *Truro*
Lift up your heads ye mighty gates, behold the king of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord abide. Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

CALL TO PRAYER Deanna Minaberry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)
Almighty God, you love us, but we do not love you fully. You call, but we do not always listen. We often walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We often condone evil, hatred, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

Gloria

“Gloria! In Excelsis Deo! Gloria! In Excelsis Deo!”

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST LESSON – Exodus 3: 1-7; 13,14

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters.

But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am.”^[a] He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

SOLO

“Comfort Ye; Every Valley” from Messiah

Handel

Norton Christeson, Soloist

THE SECOND LESSON – Luke 1: 26-45

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.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” 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.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in

my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

ONE: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Share Hope”

Rev. Sumner

HYMN

“No Wind at the Window”

Columille

No wind at the window, no knock on the door; no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor; no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear; just an angel and a woman and voice in her ear.

“O Mary, O Mary, don’t hide from my face. Be glad that you’re favored and filled with God’s grace. The time for redeeming the world has begun, and you are requested to mother God’s Son.”

“This child must be born that the kingdom might come; salvation for many, destruction for some; both end and beginning, both message and sign; both victor and victim, both yours and divine.”

No payment was promised, no promises made; no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed. Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess, replied with conviction, “Tell God I say, Yes.”

PASTORAL 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.

RECEPTION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS

This congregation continues to need offerings to support the staff and missions we have. You may mail checks to us or have your checks mailed regularly from your bank at no cost to you. Otherwise, you may give by credit or debit card by going to www.wbts.org and clicking “Donate now.”

OFFERTORY

“In Dulci Jubilo”

Bach

SUNG RESPONSE

St Louis

“O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angel the great glad tiding tell
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sending

HYMN

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” Vs.1,2,4,5

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.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing: and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

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.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Swiss Noel" Daquin

Announcements

FLOWERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY:
Anonymous, for loved ones.

DONATION ENVELOPE BOXES for 2022 are available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall. If your box is not there, please write your name on the list at the table and our finance secretary Janet will be in contact with you soon.

JOIN THE CHURCH: If you would like to consider becoming a member or Affiliate Member of Westminster By-The-Sea Church, call or email the church office and Rev. Sumner will contact you. Office number: 386-767-8342 or wbtchurch@gmail.com.

Financial results thru 10/31/21

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Collections for the year	\$ 457,520	\$ 373,992
Expenditures for the year	\$ 457,520	\$ 439,305
Amount over (under) needs	\$ 0	\$ (65,313)