

Westminster By-The-Sea Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Sumner
December 19, 2021

Gathering

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PRELUDE "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" Bell Choir

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE Jim, Kim, Spencer, and Emma Csabi

SUNG RESPONSE

"He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love. Hallelujah for evermore."

PRAYER RESPONSE (Unison)

O God, we love because you first loved us. Help us to spread love to the world as we spread the news of the anticipated celebration of Jesus' birth. Keep us loving as we watch and wait; and grant us your peace. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Sumner

HYMN "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" *Es ist ein' ros*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming to faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior when half-spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us and lightens every load.

CALL TO PRAYER Rodney Bookhardt

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God: we are glad that you chose to always be with us. We confess that we do not know how to welcome your presence in our lives. Sometimes hope seems elusive and we get busy with the season. Sometimes we give brusque retorts to others during the strain of this holiday season. Please forgive us and help us to hope to be forgiven by others. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

Gloria

Gloria! In excelsis Deo! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 61: 1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

ANTHEM

“Comfort, Comfort”

Quartet

THE SECOND LESSON - Luke 4: 16-21

When [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

SERMON

“Proclaim Hope”

Rev. Sumner

HYMN

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

Tif in veldele

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the king of glory.

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming; tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining.

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 "Season of Praise" Quartet

SUNG RESPONSE "What Child is This?" *Greensleeves*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN "Once in Royal David's City" *Irby*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew.
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Marpurg

Announcements

FLOWERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY:

John & Barbara Tenant, in loving memory of their mothers, Helen M. M Kessler and Esther Louise Tennant.

CHRISTMAS EVE we will hold an in-person service at 7 pm and an online service on YouTube by searching WBTS Church.

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)

TO SUPPORT Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Tornado Relief, Address checks to:

Presbyterian Church (USA)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Or by calling: 1-800-728-7728 to give by credit card.

You can also text "PDA" to 20222 to give \$25 to our General Relief account.